Funding Mechanism

British Columbia Spill Preparedness and Response Symposium



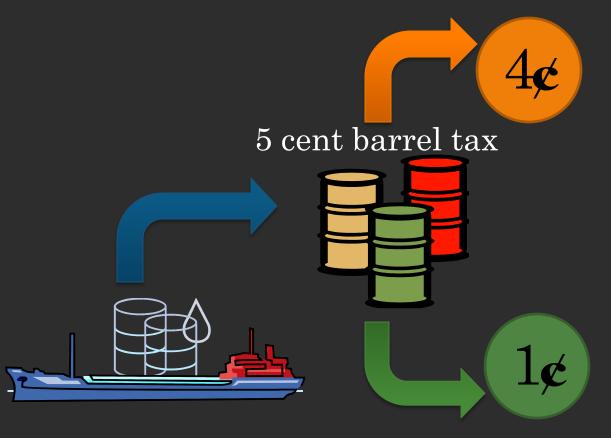
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Spill Prevention, Preparedness & Response Program



History of the Funding for Oil Spill Program

• In the wake of the 1988 Nestucca fuel barge spill in Washington and the catastrophic 1989 Exxon Valdez tanker spill in Alaska, the 1991 Washington Legislature created two dedicated accounts to fund the Department of Ecology's oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response activities.

Oil Spill Administrative Tax



Oil Spill Prevention Account (OSPA)

Funds routine oil spill prevention and preparedness work.

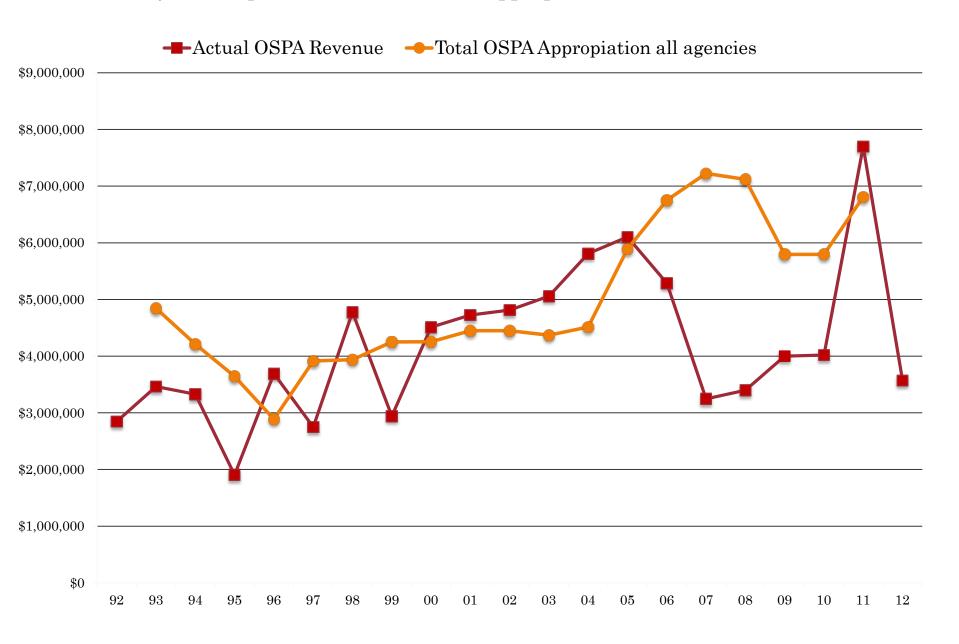
Oil Spill Response Account (OSRA)

This account pays for oil spill response and cleanup when state costs exceed \$50,000.

Use for Oil Spill Prevention Account

- Facility and vessel inspections
- Oil transfer monitoring
- Contingency plan reviews
- Spill readiness drills
- Natural resource damages assessment on spills to water

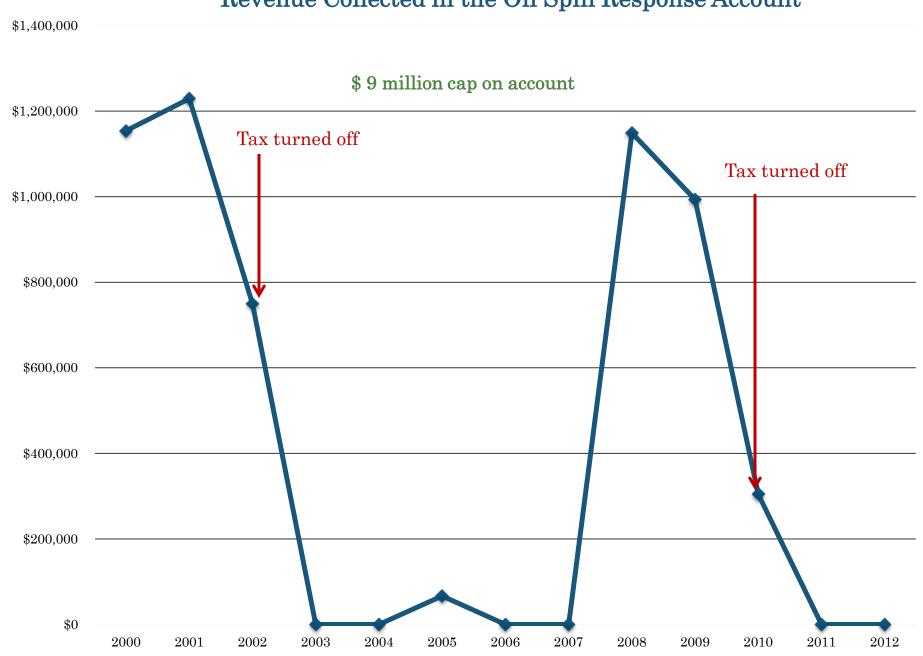
History of Oil Spill Prevention Account Appropriations and Revenue

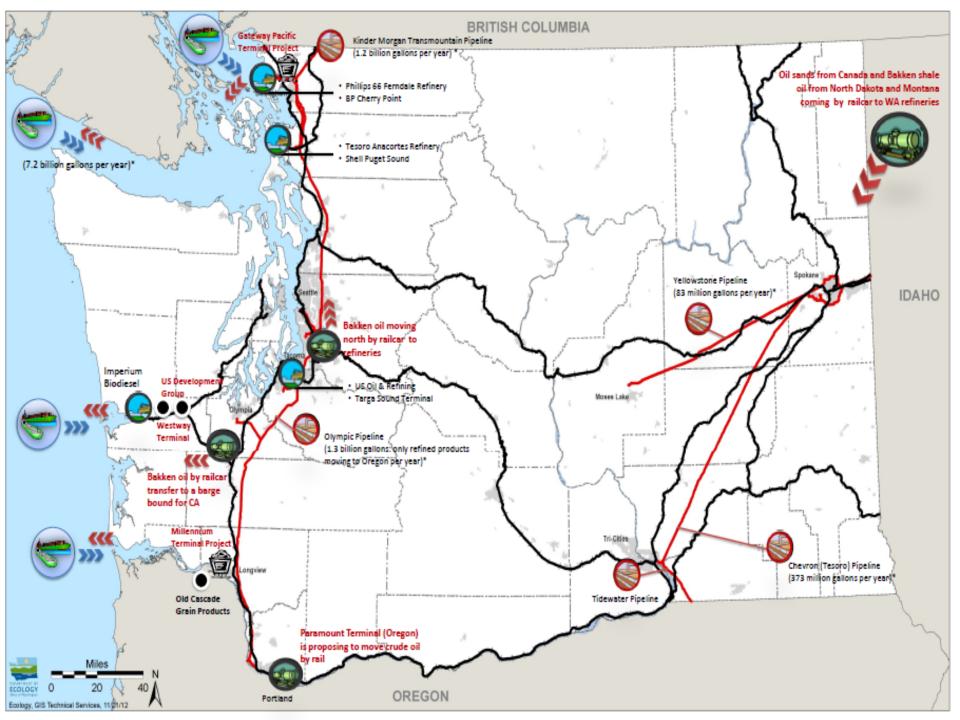


Use for Oil Spill Response Account

- Has a cap of \$9 million
- Used exclusively for costs associated with responses to oil spills to water that are likely to exceed \$50,000
- Ecology uses the OSRA to pay for:
 - Natural resource damage assessments (NRDA)
 - Response costs including containment, clean up and disposal costs, wildlife rescue, contracts, and equipment costs during large oil spill incidents
- Ecology seeks reimbursement for all response costs from the oil spiller.
- All state response costs that are recovered (excluding penalties or NRDA assessments) are deposited back into the OSRA

Revenue Collected in the Oil Spill Response Account





Implication of Change in Oil Movement

- Potential decline in revenue to support Spills Program work
 - Crude coming into our refineries by ship are taxed
 - Crude coming by rail and pipeline are not taxed
- Lack of prevention and response preparedness planning mainly as a result of regulatory authority for rail
- Oil property characteristics mainly an issue with "sinking" oil which poses challenges for safety of responders and current response cleanup technology
- Gaps in incident response framework between rail companies and the state adopted incident command system

Challenges of this Model

- Tax is a volume-based commodity tax unaffected by the price of oil. Therefore revenues have not increased with the price of oil
- Tax does not have a mechanism to adjust for inflation
- Tax has never been adequate to cover program costs
- Tax does not reflect equitability amongst industry sectors
- Tax structure is not flexible to adjust to changing risk picture



Thank you.

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