

Following is an excerpt from the official transcript of the Benicia Planning Commission meeting of 9/11/14, in which Mr. John Hill, Vice President, General Manager of Valero Benicia Refinery, confirms that **Valero has refined Bakken crude brought in by barge**. Excerpted from the official record ([http://www.ci.benicia.ca.us/vertical/Sites/%7B3436CBED-6A58-4FEF-BFDF-5F9331215932%7D/uploads/PC\\_Transcript\\_091114\\_Full.pdf](http://www.ci.benicia.ca.us/vertical/Sites/%7B3436CBED-6A58-4FEF-BFDF-5F9331215932%7D/uploads/PC_Transcript_091114_Full.pdf)) by Roger Straw, editor of The Benicia Independent.

**PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING  
FOR THE CITY OF BENICIA**

**HELD ON 9-11-14**

AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION OF DVD TRANSCRIBED ON: OCTOBER 3, 2014

BY: Valerie E. Rasmussen, CSR 8900, Registered Professional Reporter, Nevada CCR 756, CCRR

[Excerpt, pp. 65-68, **highlighted text added**]

**MR. HILL:** Chairman, Commissioners. My name's John Hill. I'm the Vice President, General Manager, of the Valero Benicia Refinery.

I'm very proud of our employees, the operation, and our company Valero Energy.

I appreciate the Commission's time in evaluating the Draft EIR associated with our Crude-By-Rail Project.

I want to thank the Benicia City staff for preparing the Draft EIR. We, Valero, believe the Draft EIR is a very comprehensive document, and with your questions answered, a worthy document of certification.

Safety is the core of our business. Every day our professional staff of over 700 employees, safely operates, maintains, and works to improve our ability to safely, environmentally, and sufficiently manage our operation.

Our safety commitment is recognized around the state, and well-documented in the Draft EIR. We have further acknowledged uprail concerns over railcar design, and as such, are committed to using the newer design 1232 railcars for crude delivery to our refinery.

Valero's working with UP and the City of Benicia's Fire Department, and have been involved in uprail community outreach to discuss emergency preparedness.

The Draft EIR evaluated emissions associated with this project. The City's evaluation determined reductions in overall emissions. These reductions are significant. And with the certification of the Draft EIR, those reductions are closer to being realized.

The Draft EIR contains references to various crudes as potential feedstocks to be carried by rail. Many of these crudes, including Bakken, have been safely processed at our facility by our professional and committed staff, many of which are on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. As mentioned at the last meeting, Art Gray -- it was late -- watching us right now on TV.

The Draft EIR references additional jobs. These 120 construction jobs for approximately six months, and 20 full-time jobs associated with the building and ongoing operation of these new, proposed facilities. These jobs are real, and will positively impact the new employees' lives and our community. You might note that recently we posted openings for 50 -- 15 entry-level positions, and in five days had over 1100 applicants for those 15 positions. This is an example of our excellent reputation as a responsible employer.

Our employees work hard. They are generous. They volunteer and give back to the community improving other's lives.

We are a responsible operator, and value our 45-year relationship with the community.

We are looking forward to completion of the public comment period on the Draft EIR and moving forward with the permitting process of our Crude-By-Rail Project.

Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER DEAN:** Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER YOUNG:** Question. I've got a question, sir. Did you say that you're currently processing Bakken oil?

**MR. HILL:** I said we have -- we have processed Bakken oil in the past.

**COMMISSIONER YOUNG:** And how was that delivered to the refinery?

**MR. HILL:** It came in by barge.

**COMMISSIONER YOUNG:** By barge? Okay, thank you.