Chicago Greens

**Press Release** July 5, 2016 **http://www.illinoisgreens.org/**

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Protest: Wednesday, 4:00 PM, 200 West Adams

Program: Wednesday, 7:00 PM, 37 S. Ashland

Field Trip by Bus: Saturday, 10:00 AM, Halsted and Cermak

Eco-Groups Protest at Office of Federal Railroad Administration

Over High Risks of Crude Oil Tank Car Trains

Various environmental organizations will be demonstrating, outside the regional office of the Federal Railroad Administration, concerning the high risks of accidents posed by crude oil tank cars, onWednesday, July 6th, at 4:00 PM, 200 W. Adams, Chicago. On this date three years ago a terrible tank car accident took place in Ontario, Canada, followed by 13 more across the United States, including one in Illinois. Other events are planned by groups across the country.

As many as 40 crude oil trains, carrying a million or more gallons of the flammable liquid involved in several recent fiery derailments, roll through the Chicago area weekly.

The groups maintain that the rail lines built more than a century ago were not configured for the volume and this type of freight. Chicago handles one-fourth of the nation's freight rail traffic. The groups are particularly concerned each of the tank cars can spend up to 10 hours or longer traversing the Chicago region, and switched at any one of the numerous yards. The Chicago area rail network is considered to soon reach saturation.

While the Federal Railroad Administration is implementing new tank car design regulations, and operating rules, it is felt that Chicago area poses unique problems which these actions will not solve.

Later on the same date, at 7:00 PM, there will be a program, open to the public, with a panel discussion on “Rail Safety” by the Rail Workers United, at the UE Hall, 37 S. Ashland, Chicago.

On Saturday, July 9th, at 10:00 AM, there will be a field trip by bus, open to the public, to view some of the more active railroad lines through Chicago that carry hugh loads of explosive oil on them.

These events are being hosted by SSTAND, Railroad Workers United, Frack Free Illinois, CHI-OIL-By-Rail, Chicago Greens, Southeast Environmental Task Force, and Chicago Southeast Side Coalition to Ban Petcoke.