Union Pacific Oil Train Derailment and Cleanup

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A Union Pacific oil train derailed on June 3, 2016, near Mosier, Oregon. Sixteen tanker cars carrying Bakken crude oil derailed. It was determined that one tanker car ignited during the derailment and two adjacent tanker cars caught fire. Three tanker cars released oil during the derailment. An estimated 47,000 gallons of crude oil were spilled. One of the cars sheared off the cover of a manhole to a sewer line leading to a nearby wastewater treatment plant. Much of the oil and firefighting water was thereby directed to the wastewater treatment plant. Initial activities involved extinguishing the fire, emptying oil from the derailed cars and removing them, removing oil and oily water from the treatment plant and restoring the plant to service. Petroleum-contaminated soil was excavated from beneath and adjacent to the tracks. Subsequent activities have focused on treatment of contaminated groundwater with biosparging.