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**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Colorado Dems warn against another Utah oil expansion  
**Date:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 12:36:17 PM  
**Attachments:** [bennet-neguse-letter-to-blm-on-potential-wildcat-loadout-expansion-project.pdf](#)

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**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Colorado Dems warn against another Utah oil expansion

FYSA. I imagine the letter to the Director will get routed to us in DTS for a response.

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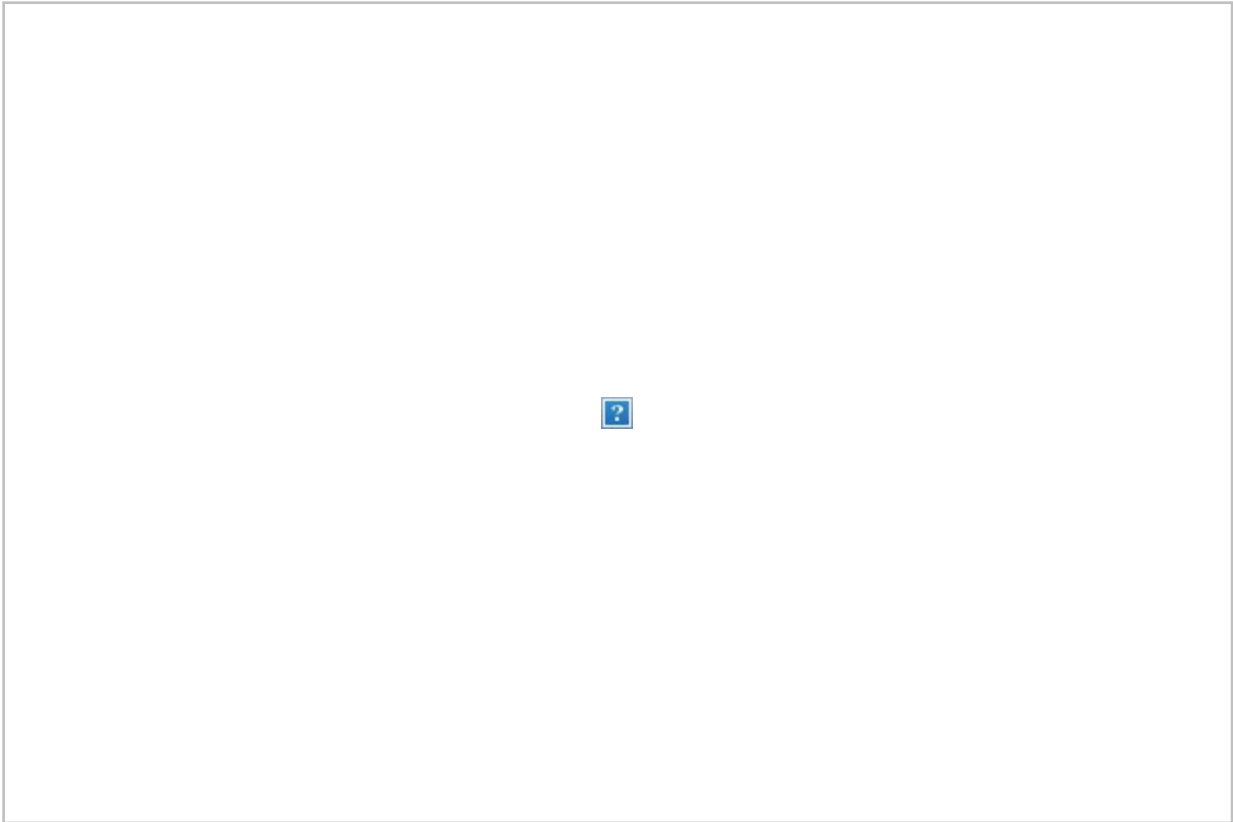
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# Colorado Dems warn against another Utah oil expansion

By Jennifer Yachnin

09/07/2023 06:41 AM EDT



Rep. Joe Neguse (D-Colo.) joined Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) in a letter to the Bureau of Land Management. | Francis Chung/POLITICO

Colorado lawmakers are again raising alarms over a project that aims to expand shipments of Uinta Basin crude oil, warning of potentially "disastrous" spills and urging the Bureau of Land Management to conduct a "robust" environmental review.

Democratic Sen. Michael Bennet and Rep. Joe Neguse on Thursday pressed BLM to carefully weigh a proposed expansion of the Wildcat Loadout facility near Price, Utah, that transfers crude oil from oil tanker trucks to rail cars.

An [amendment to the project's](#) current BLM permit would allow it to increase shipments by more than 200 percent, from 30,000 barrels per day to 100,000 barrels daily.

The facility, which transports Uinta Basin crude oil, is owned by the Nevada firm Coal Energy Group 2 LLC.

In [a letter to BLM](#) Director Tracy Stone-Manning, Bennet and Neguse asserted the expansion would mean as much as 1 billion gallons of additional waxy crude oil being shipped on railroads that parallel more than 100 miles of the Colorado River.

"A train derailment that spills oil in the Colorado River's headwaters would be disastrous to our state's water supplies, wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreation assets, and the broader Colorado River Basin," the lawmakers wrote, referring to the 40 million individuals across seven states who rely on the river for water.

"In addition," they said, "an accident on the train line further increases wildfire risk at a time when the West already faces historically dry conditions."

The lawmakers pressed BLM to conduct a thorough environmental impact statement, rather than a " cursory environmental assessment."

Bennet and Neguse noted that a federal appeals court last month ordered the Surface Transportation Board [to restart its own review](#) of the proposed Uinta Basin Railway, an 88-mile line to carry waxy crude oil out of the Uinta Basin.

The lawmakers [raised similar concerns](#) about that project, including the failure of an environmental review to consider environmental impacts to Colorado.

"In light of the court's decision, the BLM should not repeat the STB's mistakes, and instead conduct a robust environmental review," the lawmakers wrote.

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<https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2023/09/07/colorado-dems-warn-against-another-utah-oil-expansion-00114357>

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