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## I Think the Proposed Coast Island Berth is part of a Scheme that could Ship Oil by Rail

I have been studying Prince Rupert Oil Train Terminal plans and developments for Ridley Island in the Skeena estuary. This first of three articles points to the physical preparations needed to ship oil by rail. Later I will show that the major players are talking oil, not just potash, and how their current actions could be designed to avoid a full environmental assessment.

**Oil unit train loading facilities** have been built in Alberta and CN has spent more than \$400 million there “based on long-term traffic volume guarantees negotiated with shippers Suncor Energy Inc., OPTI Canada Inc., and Nexen Inc.”

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**Upgrades to rail** CN has extended or constructed 26 sidings to handle 12,000-foot trains between Edmonton and

Prince Rupert and invested more than \$150 million on that corridor.

**New locomotives** CN bought 225 high horsepower locomotives mentioning the need in northern BC and Alberta

**Rail Road Utility Corridor** The recently completed \$110 million RRUC is designed to unload very long unit trains.

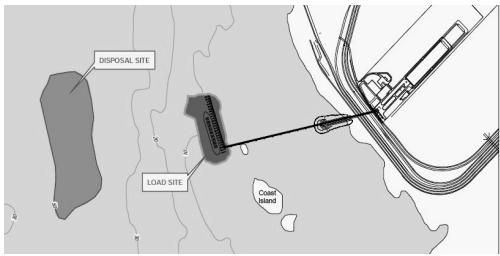
**Tank Farm** The port’s 2020 vision statement includes a 100 acre oil tank farm and there is 100 acre reserve land on Ridley.

**Anchorage** Sixteen new anchorages in the outer harbour are being added (double prior).

**Security** Ridley Island is locked out of bounds.

**Unloading Facilities** CN has mentioned direct rail car to ship methods.

**New Berth** The permit to start dredging for a Coast Islands berth might be issued this week. Why was no human health risk assessment done - of either oil spills or of dredging and dumping known toxins right in the harbour mouth? Who has such power? There is no decision and little hope for potash shipment. CN has an agreement with the proponent - What is it?



This berth would be connected to the RRUC. The port’s land use plan says “*the use of (Coast Islands) for potential liquid bulk (oil included) products is deemed to offer the best value to the Port.*”

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