

Health Impact Assessment for Rail Yards

The California Environmental Protection Agency - Air Resources Board (CARB) has developed a Rail Yard Emission Reduction program with the cooperation of the two Class I railroads in California. The emission reduction plan includes several efforts and has formal agreements with the Union Pacific and BNSF Railways to reduce locomotive emissions near rail yards and development regulations to address on and off road vehicles at the yards. The Railroad Rail Yard Agreements can be found at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/railyard/ryagreement/ryagreement.htm>

As part of this program, CARB undertook Health Risk Assessments for each of the California rail yards, conducted an assessment of air contaminants, and developed mitigation programs. This is the most extensive program of its kind in the country.

Links to the Rail yard Health Risk Assessments can be found in Table 1:

TABLE 1: HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT FOR CALIFORNIA RAIL YARDS

Railroad and City Railyard	Study Link
BNSF – Barstow	http://www.arb.ca.gov/railyard/hra/bnsf_barstow_final.pdf
UP – Colton	http://www.arb.ca.gov/railyard/hra/up_coi_hra.pdf
BNSF - Commerce Railyards	http://www.arb.ca.gov/railyard/hra/4com_hra.pdf
BNSF – Commerce Eastern	http://www.arb.ca.gov/railyard/hra/bnsf_eastern_hra.pdf
UP - ICTF and Dolores	http://www.arb.ca.gov/railyard/hra/up_ictf_hra.pdf
UP Industry Railyard	http://www.arb.ca.gov/railyard/hra/up_coi_hra.pdf
BNSFHobart Railyard	http://www.arb.ca.gov/railyard/hra/bnsf_hobart_hra.pdf
UP Los Angeles	http://www.arb.ca.gov/railyard/hra/up_latc_hra.pdf
UP – Mira Loma	http://www.arb.ca.gov/railyard/hra/up_miraloma_hra.pdf
UP – Oakland	http://www.arb.ca.gov/railyard/hra/up_oak_hra.pdf
BNSF - Richmond	http://www.arb.ca.gov/railyard/hra/bnsf_richmond_hra.pdf
UP – Roseville	http://www.arb.ca.gov/diesel/documents/rstudy.htm
BNSF – San Bernadino	http://www.arb.ca.gov/railyard/hra/bnsf_sb_final.pdf
BNSF – San Diego	http://www.arb.ca.gov/railyard/hra/bnsf_sd_final.pdf
BNSF – Sheila Mechanical Facility	http://www.arb.ca.gov/railyard/hra/bnsf_sheila_hra.pdf
UP – Stockton	http://www.arb.ca.gov/railyard/hra/up_stockton_hra.pdf
BNSF Stockton	http://www.arb.ca.gov/railyard/hra/bnsf_stockton_hra.pdf
BNSF Watson	http://www.arb.ca.gov/railyard/hra/bnsf_watson_hra.pdf

Health Risk Assessments were also conducted in areas near the ports of West Oakland, Los Angeles and Long Beach, and San Diego. The final Emission Reduction Plan for Ports and Goods Movement, approved in 2006 can be found at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/planning/gmerp/gmerp.htm#arbplan>.

As a consequence of the California review, the city of Spokane Washington undertook a health impact study of its two rail yards. The report (completed in June 2010) can be found at http://www.spokanecleanair.org/documents/Study_Reports/BNSF%20Spokane%20Railyard%20Health%20Study.pdf.