



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY**

Northwest Region Office  
PO Box 330316, Shoreline, WA 98133-9716 • 206-594-0000

January 6, 2025

BNSF Railway  
ATTN: Thomas O'Hotzke  
4515 Kansas Avenue  
Kansas City, Kansas 66106

Re: Water Quality Certification Order No. **23327** for the BNSF Railway Bridge 0050-0037.8  
Swing Span Fender Replacement, Snohomish County, Washington

Dear Thomas O'Hotzke:

On 3/12/2024, BNSF Railway submitted a request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) under the federal Clean Water Act for the BNSF Railway Bridge 0050-0037.8 Swing Span Fender Replacement, Snohomish County, Washington.

On behalf of the state of Washington, the Department of Ecology certifies with conditions that the work described in the Water Quality Certification Request and supplemental documents complies with applicable provisions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act, as amended, and applicable state laws. **This certification is subject to the enclosed Water Quality Certification Order (WQC Order).**

Please ensure that anyone doing work under this WQC Order has read, is familiar with, and is able to follow all of the provisions within the attached WQC Order.

If you have any questions about this decision, please contact Austin Schmalz at (425) 301-6989. The enclosed WQC Order may be appealed by following the procedures described within.

Sincerely,

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Joe Burcar, Section Manager  
Northwest Region Office  
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

Enclosure (1)

By certified mail: 9171 9690 0935 0233 1811 08

BNSF Railway Bridge 0050-0037.8 Swing Span Fender Replacement  
WQC Order No. 23327, Aquatics ID No. 134133  
January 6, 2025  
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Sent via e-mail: [thomas.ohotzke@BNSF.com](mailto:thomas.ohotzke@BNSF.com)

E-cc: Danny McCreynolds, U.S. Coast Guard  
Scott Swarts, Jacobs  
Ariel Bordenave, Jacobs  
Erin Hanlon Brown, Ecology  
Austin Schmalz, Ecology  
[ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov)

**In The Matter of Granting a Water Quality  
Certification with Conditions to BNSF Railway  
pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 (FWPCA § 401), RCW 90.48.120,  
RCW 90.48.260 and Chapter 173-201A WAC**

BNSF Railway  
Attn: Thomas O'Hotzke  
4515 Kansas Avenue  
Kansas City, Kansas 66106

<b>WQC Order No.</b>	23327
<b>Site Location</b>	BNSF Railway Bridge 0050-0037.8 Swing Span Fender Replacement located within Steamboat Slough, near Marysville, Snohomish County, Washington.

BNSF Railway submitted a request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) under the federal Clean Water Act to the Department of Ecology (Ecology) for the BNSF Railway Bridge 0050-0037.8 Swing Span Fender Replacement project, Snohomish County, Washington. The required processing dates are listed below:

- On 1/22/2024 the BNSF Railway submitted a pre-filing meeting request.
- On 3/12/2024, Ecology received a request for Clean Water Section 401 Water Quality Certification.
- Ecology's "Reasonable Period of Time" for this project has been established as 3/12/2025.
- On 4/22/2024, Ecology issued a public notice for the project.

On 1/30/2024, the U.S. Coast Guard sent an email notification to Ecology that they are reviewing the project for authorization as an amendment to a 1925 U.S. Coast Guard bridge permit. This project proposes to replace the existing timber fender system of the bridge with a modern system composed of steel pipe piles and composite beams and extend the new fender fully around the swing span when in the open position. Approximately 119 existing wooden piles will be removed. The new fender will be approximately 310 feet long and composed of 44, 16-inch-diameter steel pipe piles and nine panels. Each panel will be approximately 39.8 feet long and range from 12 to 13 feet tall. Each panel will be prefabricated and include interconnected sleeves that will fit over the piles. The composite material used for the beams/bumper consists of recycled High-Density Polyethylene and fiberglass. The outer edge of each panel will include composite planks, which forms the outer wall that would encounter vessels when they strike the fender.

The project site is located at the railway bridge across Steamboat Slough that is parallel to the west of the SR-529 bridge, Snohomish County, Washington, Section 32-33, Township 30 N., Range 5 E., within Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 7, the Snohomish WRIA.

**Authorities**

In exercising authority under 33 U.S.C. §1341, 40 CFR Part 121, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260, and Chapter 173-201A, Ecology has reviewed this WQC request pursuant to the following:

1. Conformance with applicable water quality-based, technology-based, and toxic or pretreatment effluent limitations as provided under 33 U.S.C. §§1311, 1312, 1313, 1316, and 1317.
2. Conformance with the state water quality standards contained in Chapter 173-201A WAC and authorized by 33 U.S.C. §1313 and by Chapter 90.48 RCW, and with other applicable state laws; and
3. Conformance with the provision of using all known, available and reasonable methods to prevent and control pollution of state waters as required by RCW 90.48.010.
4. Conformance with Washington’s prohibition on discharges that cause or tend to cause pollution of waters of the state of Washington. RCW 90.48.080.
5. The Project Proponent of the project authorized is responsible for obtaining all other permits, licenses, and certifications that may be required by federal, state, local or tribal authorities.

With this Water Quality Certification Order (WQC Order), Ecology is granting with conditions BNSF Railway’s request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the BNSF Railway Bridge 0050-0037.8 Swing Span Fender Replacement project, Steamboat Slough located in Snohomish County. Ecology has determined that the proposed discharges will comply with all applicable state water quality and other appropriate requirements of State law, provided the project is conducted in accordance with the WQC request that Ecology received on 3/12/2024, the supporting documents referenced in Table 1 below, **and the conditions of this WQC Order.**

**Table 1** Supporting Documents

Date Received	Document Type	Title and Date	Author
3/12/2024	Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA) Form	JARPA, signed 12/27/2023	Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.
3/12/2024	Drawings	Drawings, January 2018, 2019, 2023, 2024	Advanced American Construction, Inc.

BNSF Railway Bridge 0050-0037.8 Swing Span Fender Replacement

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3/12/2024	Drawings	Original Drawings and Plans, 1906, 1925, and 1963	Great Northern Railway, Cascade Division
3/12/2024	Federal Permit	Existing USCG Bridge Permit Amendment, Proposed modification of the BNSF Railroad Bridge Across Steamboat Slough, Mile 1.0, near Marysville, Washington, P (1-15-13), 9/11/2015	U.S. Coast Guard Thirteenth District
3/12/2024	Application	USCG Bridge Permit Amendment Application, BNSF Railway Bridge 37.8 Swing Span Fender Replacement Project, Snohomish River, Everett, Washington, dated 1/23/2024	Jacobs
3/12/2024	Report	Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report for the BNSF Railway Bridge 0050-0037.8 Swing Span Fender Replacement Project, WISAARD Project Number 2024-01-00708, dated 3/7/2024	Jacobs
4/3/2024	Water Quality Monitoring and Protection Plan	Water Quality Monitoring and Protection Plan, BNSF Railway Bridge 0050-0037.8 Swing Span Fender Replacement Project, Steamboat Slough Crossing, Snohomish County, Washington, dated 4/3/2024	Jacobs

5/6/2024	Letter	Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation Report for the BNSF Railway Bridge 0050-0037.8 Swing Span Fender Replacement Project	Washington Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
7/23/2024	Biological Evaluation	BNSF Bridge 0050-0037.8 Swing Span Fender Replacement (NWS-2023-0096551), signed 7/23/2024	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
10/4/2024	Letter	Public Notice, BNSF Railway Company, Bridge 0050-0037.8 Swing Span Fender Replacement Project, Snohomish River – Steamboat Slough, Snohomish County, dated 10/3/2024	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Issuance of this Section 401 Water Quality Certification for this proposal does not authorize BNSF Railway to exceed applicable state water quality standards (Chapter 173-201A WAC), ground water quality standards (Chapter 173-200 WAC) or sediment quality standards (Chapter 173-204 WAC) or other appropriate requirements of State law. Furthermore, nothing in this Section 401 Water Quality Certification absolves the BNSF Railway from liability for contamination and any subsequent cleanup of surface waters, ground waters, or sediments resulting from project construction or operations.

**Water Quality Certification Conditions**

The following conditions will be incorporated into the federal permit and strictly adhered to by the BNSF Railway. Specific condition justifications and citations are provided below.

**A. General Conditions**

1. In this WQC Order, the term “Project Proponent” shall mean the BNSF Railway and its agents, assignees, and contractors.
  - Justification - Ecology needs to identify that conditions of this WQC Order apply to anyone conducting work on behalf of the Project Proponent to ensure compliance with the water quality standards and other applicable state laws.

- Citation - 40 CFR 121.1(j), Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.080, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260, Chapter 173-200 WAC, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
2. All submittals required by this WQC Order shall be sent to Ecology's Headquarters Office, Attn: Federal Permit Manager, via e-mail to [fednotification@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:fednotification@ecy.wa.gov) and cc to [Austin.Schmalz@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Austin.Schmalz@ecy.wa.gov). The submittals shall be identified with WQC Order No. 23327 and include the Project Proponent's name, project name, project contact, and the contact phone number.
    - Justification - Ecology needs to identify where information and submittals are to be submitted to be in compliance with the requirements of this WQC Order.
    - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
  3. Work authorized by this WQC Order is limited to the work described in the WQC request package received by Ecology on 3/12/2024 and the supporting documentation identified in Table 1.
    - Justification - Ecology has the authority to prevent and control pollution of state waters. By authorizing a discharge into a water of the state, through a WQC, Ecology is certifying the project as proposed will not negatively impact water quality. Therefore, it is imperative the project is conducted as it was presented during the review process. Any deviations from information within the WQC Request package and this WQC Order must be disclosed prior to the initiation of the planned work, and may require a new WQC request.
    - Citation - 40 CFR 121.5, 40 CFR 121.10, 40 CFR 121.11, Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260, Chapter 173-200 WAC, Chapter 173-201A WAC, Chapter 173-204 WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
  4. The Project Proponent shall keep copies of this WQC Order on the job site and readily available for reference by Ecology personnel, the construction superintendent, construction managers and lead workers, and state and local government inspectors.
    - Justification - All parties (including on-site contractors) must be aware of and comply with the WQC Order for the protection of water quality.
    - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
  5. The Project Proponent shall provide access to the project site and any mitigation sites upon request by Ecology personnel for site inspections, monitoring, and/or necessary data collection, to ensure that conditions of this WQC Order are being met.

- Justification - Ecology must be able to investigate and inspect construction sites and facilities for compliance with all state rules and laws.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.090, RCW 90.48.120, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
6. The Project Proponent shall ensure that all project engineers, contractors, and other workers at the project site with authority to direct work have read and understand relevant conditions of this WQC Order and all permits, approvals, and documents referenced in this WQC Order. The Project Proponent shall provide Ecology a signed statement (see Attachment A for an example) before construction begins.
- Justification - Ecology needs to ensure that anyone conducting work at the project, on behalf of the Project Proponent, are aware of and understand the required conditions of this WQC Order to ensure compliance with the water quality standards and other applicable state laws.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
7. This WQC Order does not authorize direct, indirect, permanent, or temporary impacts to waters of the state or related aquatic resources, except as specifically provided for in conditions of this WQC Order.
- Justification - Ecology has the authority to prevent and control pollution of state waters, and to protect designated uses. By authorizing a discharge into a water of the state, through a water quality certification, Ecology is certifying the project as proposed will not negatively impact state water quality and will comply with the state's water quality requirements. Therefore, it is imperative the project is conducted as it was presented during the review process, and as conditioned herein.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.120, Chapter 173-200 WAC, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300(2)(e)(i), WAC 173-201A-310, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
8. Failure of any person or entity to comply with the WQC Order may result in the issuance of civil penalties or other actions, whether administrative or judicial, to enforce the state's water quality standards and the conditions of this WQC Order.



- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses. Ecology has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. Civil penalties and other enforcement actions are the primary means of securing compliance with water quality requirements.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.037, RCW 90.48.080, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.140, RCW 90.48.142, RCW 90.48.144, and WAC 173-225-010.
9. The Project Proponent shall provide Ecology documentation for review before undertaking any major changes to the proposed project that could significantly and adversely affect water quality, other than those project changes required by this WQC Order.
- Justification - Ecology has independent authority to enforce our 401 certification conditions issued through this WQC Order pursuant to RCW 90.48, and has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. In order to ensure the project will comply with water quality standards in the event of any major changes, Ecology must be able to review the scope of work involved in the construction and operation of the project, otherwise all work must stop and a new 401 certification pre-filing meeting, followed by a new WQC request (after requisite 30-days) is required.
  - Citation - 40 CFR 121.1(k) and (n), 40 CFR 121.3, 40 CFR 121.5, 40 CFR 121.11, Chapter 90.48 RCW, and Chapter 173-201 WAC.
10. The Project Proponent shall send (per A.2.) a copy of the final Federal permit via e-mail to [fednotification@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:fednotification@ecy.wa.gov) and cc to Federal Permit Manager prior to the starting of any work authorized by this WQC Order. If the Federal Agency determines the proposed project does not require a Federal permit, the Project Proponent shall immediately inform Ecology.
- Justification - This condition is needed to ensure that the federal permit has been issued and all the conditions of the WQC Order have been included into the federal permit.
  - Citation - 40 CFR 121.10, 40 CFR 121.11, and Chapter 90.48 RCW.
11. To transfer this WQC Order to a new owner or operator the Project Proponent shall:
- a. Complete a Request for Transfer of Order with a specific transfer date of the WQC Order's obligations, coverage, and liability and submit it to Ecology per condition A.2. Link to form: <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/ECY070695.html>;
  - b. Provide a copy of this WQC Order to the new owner or operator; and

- c. The transfer is not considered valid until the Project Proponent receives written notification from Ecology that the transfer has been approved.
  - Justification – Ecology has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. Ecology needs to ensure that anyone conducting work at the project, including any new owners or operators, are aware of and understand the required conditions of this WQC Order to ensure compliance with the water quality standards and other applicable state laws.
  - Citation – 40 CFR 121.5, Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.

## **B. Notification Requirements**

1. The following notifications shall be made via phone or e-mail (e-mail is preferred) to Ecology's Federal Permit Manager via e-mail to [fednotification@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:fednotification@ecy.wa.gov) and cc to [Austin.Schmalz@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Austin.Schmalz@ecy.wa.gov). Notifications shall be identified with WQC Order No. 23327 and include the Project Proponent name, project name, project location, project contact and the phone number.
  - a. Immediately following a violation of state water quality standards or when the project is out of compliance with any conditions of this WQC Order;
  - b. At least ten (10) days prior to all pre-construction meetings;
  - c. At least ten (10) days prior to conducting initial in-water work activities; and
  - d. Within seven (7) days of completion of each in-water work activity.
    - Justification - Ecology has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. Ecology must be aware of when a project starts and ends and whether there are any issues. This allows Ecology to evaluate compliance with the state water quality requirements.
    - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.120, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, Chapter 173-204 WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
2. In addition to the phone or e-mail notification required under B.1.a. above, the Project Proponent shall submit a detailed written report to Ecology within five (5) days that describes the nature of the event, corrective action taken and/or planned, steps to be taken to prevent a recurrence, results of any samples taken, and any other pertinent information.

- Justification - Ecology has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. This condition is intended to assure the Project Proponent remains in full compliance with state water quality requirements for the duration of the project.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.120, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
3. If the project construction is not completed within 13 months of issuance of this WQC Order, the Project Proponent shall submit per Condition A2 a written construction status report and submit status reports every 12 months until construction and mitigation are completed.
- Justification - Ecology has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. Ecology must be aware of when a project starts and ends and whether there are any issues. This allows Ecology to evaluate compliance with the state water quality requirements.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.120, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, Chapter 173-204 WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.

### C. Timing

1. This WQC Order is not effective until the U.S. Coast Guard issues a bridge permit for this project and will remain valid for the duration of the associated Coast Guard permit for the project.
- Justification – Certifications are required for any license or permit that authorizes an activity that may result in a discharge or fill material into waters. This WQC Order is not valid until the Federal agency issues a permit. Additionally, Ecology needs to be able to specify how long the WQC Order will be in effect.
  - Citation – Chapter 90.48 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
2. The following in-water work windows apply to the project:
- All activities within the wetted perimeter of Steamboat Slough may be conducted between July 15<sup>th</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>, and between January 1<sup>st</sup> and February 15<sup>th</sup>, of any year.
  - Justification - This condition is reaffirming the project will take place during a time period that will not harm fish or other aquatic species.
  - Citation - Chapter 77.55 RCW, Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300, WAC 173-201A-330, WAC 173-225-010, and Chapter 220-660 WAC.

#### **D. Water Quality Monitoring and Criteria**

1. This WQC Order does not authorize the Project Proponent to exceed applicable water quality standards beyond the limits established in Chapter 173-201A WAC, except as authorized by this WQC Order.
  - Justification - This condition ensures compliance with water quality standards to protect surface waters of the state. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
2. For in-water activities within marine waters turbidity shall not exceed 5 NTU over background when the background is 50 NTU or less; or a 10 percent increase in turbidity when the background turbidity is more than 50 NTU.
  - Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution and prevent exceedances of the water quality standards that protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
3. This WQC Order does not authorize the Project Proponent to exceed applicable turbidity standards beyond the limits established in Chapter 173-201A WAC as set forth below, unless otherwise authorized in this WQC Order:

Temporary area of mixing for turbidity established within the state water quality standards for marine waters (WAC 173-201A-210) is as follows:

01. For estuaries or marine waters, the point of compliance for a temporary area of mixing shall be at a radius of one hundred fifty feet from the activity causing the turbidity exceedance.
  - Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution and prevent exceedances of the water quality standards that protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.

4. The Project Proponent shall conduct water quality monitoring as described in the approved Water Quality Monitoring and Protection Plan, identified in Table 1 (hereafter referred to as the WQMP).
  - Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution and prevent exceedances of the water quality standards that protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - RCW 90.48, RCW 90.48.030, Chapter 173-201A WAC, 173-201A-300-330 and WAC 173-225-010.
5. If water quality exceedances for turbidity are observed outside the point of compliance, work shall cease immediately and the Project Proponent or the contractor shall assess the cause of the water quality problem and take immediate action to stop, contain, and correct the problem and prevent further water quality turbidity exceedances.
  - Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution and prevent exceedances of the water quality standards that protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
6. Visible turbidity anywhere beyond the temporary area of mixing (point of compliance) from the activity, shall be considered an exceedance of the standard.
  - Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution and prevent exceedances of the water quality standards that protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
7. Monitoring results shall be submitted monthly to Ecology's Federal Permit Manager, per condition A.2.
  - Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution and prevent exceedances of the water quality standards that protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.

8. Ecology may ask or could use its discretionary authority to require the Project Proponent to provide mitigation and/or additional monitoring if the monitoring results indicate that the water quality standards have not been met.
  - Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution and ensure that aquatic life and beneficial uses are protected.
  - Citation - RCW 90.48, RCW 90.48.010, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, RCW 90.48.120, Chapter 173-201A WAC, 173-201A-300-330 WAC, and Chapter 173-204 WAC.

## **E. Construction**

### **General Conditions**

1. All work in and near waters of the state shall be conducted to minimize turbidity, erosion, and other water quality impacts. Construction stormwater, sediment, and erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) suitable to prevent exceedances of state water quality standards shall be in place before starting maintenance and shall be maintained throughout the duration of the activity.
  - Justification - Disturbed areas without appropriate BMPs and construction methods can discharge excess sediment to waters of the state and degrade water quality. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, Chapter 90.48.030 RCW, Chapter 90.48.080 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, Chapter 173-201A-300-330 WAC, Chapter 173-204-120 WAC, and Chapter 173-225-010 WAC.
2. No stockpiling or staging of materials shall occur at or below the OHWM of any waterbody.
  - Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
3. No petroleum products, fresh concrete, lime or concrete, chemicals, or other toxic or deleterious materials shall be allowed to enter waters of the state.

- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
4. All construction debris, excess sediment, and other solid waste material shall be properly managed and disposed of in an upland disposal site approved by the appropriate regulatory authority.
- Justification - Ecology must be assured that the Project Proponent is managing and disposing of material to protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
5. All equipment being used below the ordinary high water mark shall utilize biodegradable hydraulic fluid.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.

### **Equipment and Maintenance**

6. Equipment used for this project shall be free of external petroleum-based products while used around the waters of the state.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
7. Fuel hoses, oil drums, oil or fuel transfer valves and fittings, etc., shall be checked regularly for drips or leaks, and shall be maintained and stored properly to prevent spills into state waters.

- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, Chapter 173-200, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
8. Turbidity curtains shall be properly deployed and maintained in order to minimize turbidity and re-suspension of sediment.
- Justification - This condition ensures containment and limits movement of sediment that could cause water quality exceedances. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
9. Barges shall not be allowed to ground-out during in-water construction.
- Justification - This condition is necessary to protect shallow water habitat and prevent suspension of sediment. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, Chapter 173-201A WAC, 173-201A-300-330 WAC, and Chapter 173-204 WAC.
10. Barges shall be kept free of material that could be blown into water.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
11. No return water is allowed to discharge from the barge(s) into waters of the state.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.



- Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
12. Vessels shall be operated with minimal propulsion power and in adequate water depth to avoid prop scour damage to the seabed and marine or estuarine vegetation habitats.
- Justification - This condition is necessary to protect shallow water habitat and prevent suspension of sediment. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, Chapter 173-201A WAC, 173-201A-300-330 WAC, and Chapter 173-204 WAC.

### **Removal of Creosote Piles**

13. Pile removal, handling, and disposal shall follow the EPA Region 10 Best Management Practices for Piling Removal and Placement in Washington State, dated February 18, 2016.
- Justification- Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citations- Chapter 77.55 RCW, Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300, WAC 173-201A-330, WAC 173-225-010, and Chapter 220-660 WAC.
14. Piles removed from the substrate shall be moved immediately from the water onto a barge or onto upland.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
15. The pile shall not be shaken, hosed off, left hanging to drip or any other action intended to clean or remove adhering material from the pile over waters of the state.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.

- Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
16. If pile removal fails, the pile stub must be cut at least 2 ft. below mudline, and the location (latitude and longitude) of all cut piling shall be reported to Ecology within 2 months of removal of all piles.
- Justification- This condition is necessary because pile stubs can release associated creosote if exposed, and stubs at the surface can result in localized erosion that leads to further exposure of the stubs. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citations- Chapter 77.55 RCW, Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300, WAC 173-201A-330, WAC 173-225-010, and Chapter 220-660 WAC.
17. During pile removal, containment booms and absorbent sausage booms shall be placed around the perimeter of the in-water work area and upland storage area, if used, to capture wood debris, oil, and other materials from being released into waters of the state.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
18. All excavated piles and debris that is collected shall be disposed upland in an approved disposal site.
- Justification - Ecology must be assured that the Project Proponent is managing and disposing of piles and debris to protect water quality and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
19. The work surface on the barge deck shall include containment for piles and any liquid or sediment removed during pulling of the piling.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.

- Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
20. Sediments spilled on work surfaces shall be contained and disposed of with the pile debris at an approved upland disposal site.
- Justification - Ecology must be assured that the Project Proponent is managing and disposing of sediment to protect water quality and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
21. Water left in the containment on the barge shall not be discharged into waters of the state.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.

#### **F. Emergency/Contingency Measures**

1. The Project Proponent shall develop and implement a spill prevention and containment plan for all aspects of this project.
- Justification - Ecology must ensure that the Project Proponent has a plan to prevent pollution from entering waterways. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, Chapter 90.56.280 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, WAC 173-225-010, and WAC 173-303-145.
2. The Project Proponent shall have adequate and appropriate spill response and cleanup materials available on site to respond to any release of petroleum products or any other material into waters of the state.

- Justification - Ecology must have assurance that the Project Proponent has the material readily available in WQC Order to address any spills that might occur to protect waters of the state. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, RCW 90.56.280, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, WAC 173-225-010, and WAC 173-303-145.
3. Fuel hoses, oil drums, oil or fuel transfer valves and fittings, etc., shall be checked regularly for drips or leaks, and shall be maintained and stored properly to prevent spills into state waters.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, RCW 90.56.280, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, WAC 173-225-010, and WAC 173-303-145.
4. Work causing distressed or dying fish and discharges of oil, fuel, or chemicals into state waters or onto land with a potential for entry into state waters is prohibited. If such work, conditions, or discharges occur, the Project Proponent shall notify Ecology's Federal Permit Manager, per condition A2, and immediately take the following actions:
- a. Cease operations at the location of the non-compliance.
  - b. Assess the cause of the water quality problem and take appropriate measures to correct the problem and prevent further environmental damage.
  - c. In the event of a discharge of oil, fuel, or chemicals into state waters, or onto land with a potential for entry into state waters, containment and cleanup efforts shall begin immediately and be completed as soon as possible, taking precedence over normal work. Cleanup shall include proper disposal of any spilled material and used cleanup materials.
  - d. Immediately notify Ecology's Regional Spill Response Office and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife with the nature and details of the problem, any actions taken to correct the problem, and any proposed changes in operation to prevent further problems.

- e. Immediately notify the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802, for actual spills to water only.
  - Justification - This condition is necessary to prevent oil and hazardous materials spills from causing environmental damage and to ensure compliance with water quality requirements. The sooner a spill is reported, the quicker it can be addressed, resulting in less harm. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, RCW 90.56.280, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, WAC 173-225-010, and WAC 173-303-145.
5. Notify Ecology's Regional Spill Response Office immediately if chemical containers (e.g. drums) are discovered on-site or any conditions present indicating disposal or burial of chemicals on-site that may impact surface water or ground water.
  - Justification - Oil and hazardous materials spills cause environmental damage. The sooner a spill is reported, the quicker it can be addressed, resulting in less harm. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
  - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, RCW 90.56.280, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, WAC 173-225-010, and WAC 173-303-145.

## Your right to appeal

You have a right to appeal this Order to the Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) within 30 days of the date of receipt. The appeal process is governed by Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC. "Date of receipt" is defined in RCW 43.21B.001(2).

To appeal, you must do all of the following within 30 days of the date of receipt of this Order:

- File your notice of appeal and a copy of this Order with the PCHB (see filing information below). "Filing" means actual receipt by the PCHB during regular business hours as defined in WAC 371-08-305 and -335. "Notice of appeal" is defined in WAC 371-08-340.
- Serve a copy of your notice of appeal and this Order on the Department of Ecology by mail, in person, or by email (see addresses below).

You must also comply with other applicable requirements in Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC.

## Address and Location Information

### Filing with the PCHB

For the most current information regarding filing with the PCHB, visit: <https://eluh0.wa.gov/> or call: 360-664-9160.

### Service on Ecology

#### Street Addresses:

Department of Ecology  
Attn: Appeals Processing Desk  
300 Desmond Drive SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

#### Mailing Addresses:

Department of Ecology  
Attn: Appeals Processing Desk  
PO Box 47608  
Olympia, WA 98504-7608

#### E-Mail Address:

[ecologyappeals@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ecologyappeals@ecy.wa.gov)

## Americans with Disabilities Act Information

### Accommodation Requests

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-6831 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

## Contact Information

Please direct all questions about this WQC Order to:

Austin Schmalz  
Department of Ecology  
(425) 301-6989  
[Austin.Schmalz@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Austin.Schmalz@ecy.wa.gov)

## More Information

- **Pollution Control Hearings Board Website**  
<https://elaho.wa.gov>
- **Chapter 43.21B RCW - Environmental and Land Use Hearings Office – Pollution Control Hearings Board**  
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=43.21B>
- **Chapter 371-08 WAC – Practice and Procedure**  
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=371-08>
- **Chapter 34.05 RCW – Administrative Procedure Act**  
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=34.05>
- **Chapter 90.48 RCW – Water Pollution Control**  
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=90.48>
- **Chapter 173.204 WAC – Sediment Management Standards**  
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-204>
- **Chapter 173-200 WAC – Water Quality Standards for Ground Waters of the State of Washington**  
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-200>
- **Chapter 173-201A WAC – Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington**  
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-201A>

## Signature

Dated this 6 day of January 2025 at the Department of Ecology, Shoreline, Washington.



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Joe Burcar, Section Manager  
Northwest Region Office  
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

**Attachment A**

**Statement of Understanding  
Water Quality Certification Conditions**

BNSF Railway Bridge 0050-0037.8 Swing Span Fender Replacement

Water Quality Certification WQC Order No. 23327

As the Project Proponent for BNSF Railway Bridge 0050-0037.8 Swing Span Fender Replacement project, I have read and understand the conditions of Washington State Department of Ecology WQC Order No. 23327, and any permits, plans, documents, and approvals referenced in the WQC Order. I have and will continue to ensure that all project engineers, contractors, and other workers at the project site with authority to direct work have read and understand the conditions of this WQC Order and any permits, plans, documents, and approvals referenced in the WQC Order.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Company