



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Northwest Regional Office • 3190 160th Avenue SE • Bellevue, Washington 98008-5452 • (425) 649-7000

August 11, 2005

Mr. Bruce Sheppard
BNSF Railway Company
2454 Occidental Avenue South
Suite 1A
Seattle, WA 98034

Dear Mr. Sheppard:

Re: Completion of the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study for the BNSF Railway Company Former Maintenance and Fueling Facility, Skykomish, WA; Preparation of Cleanup Action Plan Outline

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) has completed its review of the draft Remedial Investigation (RI) dated January 1996, the Supplemental Remedial Investigation (SRI) dated June 3, 2003 and the draft Feasibility Study (FS) dated March 15, 2005 prepared by The Retec Group, Inc. on behalf of BNSF Railway Company (BNSF). These documents were submitted as part of the *Work to be Performed* in Section IV of Agreed Order No. DE 91TC-N213 between Ecology and BNSF. These documents have undergone several revisions over a period of years and have undergone a formal public comment period. Thank you for your work to prepare and finalize these important documents.

Although Ecology does not necessarily agree with all of the statements, assertions, and conclusions made in these documents, it has been determined that they contain enough information to select a final cleanup remedy for the site. Ecology considers the RI, SRI and FS documents to be final. BNSF should submit a cleanup action plan (CAP) outline for Ecology review and approval within 30 days of the date of this letter per requirements in the Agreed Order.

Ecology does expect that BNSF will continue to clarify aspects of the studies when questions arise during Ecology's remedy selection process, and to continue presently ongoing work. Ongoing work includes, but is not limited to:

- Estimation of the volume of oil, in gallons, represented by the amount of contamination on site. Ecology appreciates your work on this question and looks forward to receiving Retec's report on it on August 15th.
- Levee cleanup design work.
- Public involvement activities.

- Ground water monitoring is ongoing and will continue as Ecology and BNSF agreed in the *Groundwater Monitoring Plan* dated May 12, 2005
- We understand BNSF will be performing dioxin sampling during the ground water monitoring round scheduled to begin the week of August 22nd, and that mobilization of a drill rig for additional sampling at the site is scheduled for August 29th.

Ecology is looking forward to working with you to develop the cleanup action plan for the site.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please call me at (425) 649-7209.

Sincerely,

David L. South for

Louise Bardy

Louise Bardy
Site Manager
Toxics Cleanup Program