



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY**

**Central Region Office**  
1250 West Alder St., Union Gap, WA 98903-0009 • 509-575-2490

December 28, 2022

**Sent via email and hard copy**

Shane DeGross  
BNSF Railway Company  
605 Puyallup Avenue  
Tacoma, WA 98421

**RE: Ecology request for information related to historical activities at the Appleyard facility**

- **Site name:** BNSF Appleyard
- **Property address:** 1951 Malaga Alcoa Highway, Wenatchee
- **Facility/Site ID:** 62593291
- **Cleanup Site ID:** 16714

Dear Shane DeGross:

This is a follow up request for information from the Department of Ecology (Ecology) related to the letter that we issued on September 22, 2022, regarding the Appleyard facility.

The Model Toxics Control Act, RCW 70A.30, grants authority to the Department of Ecology (Ecology) to exercise certain powers. RCW 70A.305.030 states that the department may investigate or provide for investigating for any releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances.

To reiterate, Ecology does not currently possess any records of investigations that were conducted to assess whether petroleum spills or other releases of hazardous substances that may have occurred in association with any above ground storage tanks (ASTs), underground storage tanks (USTs) or any process areas at this facility. Site assessment is a standard industry practice to evaluate whether a release of hazardous substances has occurred and is typically performed during decommissioning of certain structures. A high likelihood of historical release exists based on investigations at other railway facilities in Washington where similar activities occurred and thus, site assessment is warranted.

We are also asking for any other facility records that may have bearing on these historical activities. These records may include, but are not limited to, documents such as authorization for expenditures (A.F.E.s) that are related to the former structures that may have been sources of hazardous substances.

We have good cause to believe that releases of hazardous substances occurred, based on the types of activities that occurred at the facility, as referenced in our September 22nd letter. Publicly available historical photographs and diagrams show that this facility had infrastructure that was associated with former petroleum refueling and locomotive maintenance activities. Some of the relevant former structures are listed below:

- 12" sewer pipe that discharges to the former shoreline
- 15" sewer pipe that discharges to river
- Triple 5' x 8' concrete box culvert that discharges to the river
- Steam and oil lines, oil discharge
- Diesel oil pump house
- 15,000-gal lube oil tank & pump house
- 25,000-gal tank (diesel)
- 10,000-barrel oil storage tank
- 65,000-gal oil service tank
- Diesel pump shelter
- Powerhouse
- Transformers and transformers on pole
- Oil pipes
- Oil house
- Oil trap at electric locomotive repair shop (4 sets of tracks)

Thus, Ecology is requesting, at a minimum, the following additional information:

- Documents including written records, photographs, diagrams regarding the identification, nature, and quantity of materials which have been or were generated, treated, stored, or disposed of at the facility.
- Records that pertain to any activities performed to assess whether a release or releases have occurred at the facility. These documents should describe the nature and extent of a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance at or from the facility.

If not already untaken, further investigation is warranted for the reasons described above and since two surface water bodies and their associated sediments may likely have been impacted.

Shane DeGross  
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Please respond back with your acknowledgement of receipt of this letter and a timeline of how long it will take to respond to Ecology's inquiry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Valerie Bound" followed by a small mark that appears to be "for".

John Mefford, LHG  
Cleanup Project Manager/Hydrogeologist  
Toxics Cleanup Program  
Central Regional Office

Enclosure: Yakama Nation Fisheries Letter RE: Request for Site Assessment Information

cc: Rose Longoria, Yakama Nation Fisheries