



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Central Region Office

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

February 27, 2024

Sent via email

Allan Gebhard
Barr Engineering
4300 Market Point Drive, Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55435

Re: Path Forward for the following Site:

- **Site Name:** Boise Cascade Mill
- **Site Address:** 805 N 7th Street, Yakima
- **Facility Site No.:** 450
- **Cleanup Site ID No.:** 12095
- **Agreed Order No.:** DE 13959

Dear Allan Gebhard:

With this letter, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) is rescinding our December 12, 2023 letter and replacing it with this letter, which clarifies the description of the Site and identifies the next steps. To be clear, Ecology is not amending the Agreed Order (Order) to include the two parcels located on the east side of Interstate 82 (nor the other parcels to the north of the two parcels that Barr is currently assessing in the data gaps effort).

Ecology does not believe it is necessary to amend the Agreed Order (Order) to specifically add additional parcels to the definition of the Site. Note that the Site is not defined by parcel boundaries, but instead by the extent of contamination.

Section IV.A of the Order states: *"The Site is referred to as "Yakima Mill Site," also known as "Boise Cascade Mill Site," and is generally located at or near 805 North 7th Street, Yakima, Washington. Based upon factors currently known to Ecology, the Site is generally depicted in the Site Diagram (Exhibit A). The Site is further defined by the extent of contamination caused by releases of hazardous substances at the Site, which, based on facts known as of the effective date of this Order, is exclusive of any area 1) where municipal solid waste has come to be located, or 2) which is affected by a release or threatened release of hazardous substances from municipal solid waste."*

Allan Gebhard
Barr Engineering
February 27, 2024
Page 2

Ecology has sufficient evidence to suspect the Site extends to parcels on the east side of Interstate 82 that have not previously been investigated.

As stated in previous correspondence, Ecology believes the known presence of log yard waste from historical Boise Cascade Mill operations on the parcels in question warrants an environmental investigation to determine whether there is a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance to the environment. We maintain this position regarding the need for an environmental investigation.

Due to the extenuating circumstances of the construction of the East-West Corridor through areas with suspected contamination related to the Site (parcel numbers 191318-41002 and 191318-11002), Ecology expects the current landowner, Yakima County (County), to prepare a work plan for an environmental investigation. Ecology will review the work plan and, together with the Yakama Nation, will provide any comments or concerns. This work plan will only include the parcels associated with the East-West Corridor (parcel numbers 191318-41002 and 191318-11002). Additional areas of suspected contamination will be assessed by Barr as part of a separate data-gap investigation.

Ecology's hope is that any environmental investigation and/or cleanup can occur this calendar year. See below for an estimated time frame and additional details:

March 2024 – *The County will provide a work plan to Ecology for an assessment of the two parcels.*

March 2024 – *Ecology will engage with the Yakama Nation during its review of the work plan. Ecology's expectation is that any work proposed will comply with MTCA requirements for an assessment of the woody debris and other potential contaminants above MTCA cleanup levels on the two parcels.*

Spring/Summer 2024 – *Ecology will work closely with the Yakama Nation prior to work plan approval. No work will commence prior to work plan approval.*

Summer/Fall 2024 – *The County will complete the assessment as outlined in the approved work plan. The County anticipates removing any woody debris and other contaminants above MTCA cleanup levels from the two parcels.*

Note that Yakima County's investigation and/or cleanup work will be completed under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

Allan Gebhard
Barr Engineering
February 27, 2024
Page 3

We sincerely appreciate the cooperation and collaboration efforts made to move this site forward. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact John Zinza by phone at 509-225-0304 or email at John.Zinza@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Rhonda Luke
Project Coordinator
Toxics Cleanup Program
Central Regional Office

cc: R. Elena Ramirez Groszowski, Yakama Nation Fisheries, Superfund Section
Bill Preston, City of Yakima
Brett Sheffield, Yakima County