

Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company – Skykomish Site

Sampling Report Available and Public Meeting Planned for August 5th



Sampling Report Available

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has reviewed the results from sampling completed this past winter for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) Former Maintenance and Fueling Facility site in Skykomish, Washington. This sampling supplemented previous efforts and will help determine the full extent of contamination at the site.

The results are available in a report called the Draft Supplemental Remedial Investigation which documents and explains this data. This report can be reviewed at the locations listed in the box to the right.

Ecology is holding a community meeting on August 5, 2002, at the Skykomish Community Center in Skykomish from 6:00 – 8:00 PM to discuss the sampling results.

Sampling Results

The sampling evaluated impacts to soils and groundwater throughout the town (on and off the rail yard) and in surface water and sediments in both the Skykomish River and the former channel of Maloney Creek.

Petroleum

The main contaminant of concern is petroleum in the form of diesel and Bunker C oil. This petroleum is very old (often referred to as “weathered”) and is present in several forms: as a free or liquid phase floating on the groundwater (often referred to as

LNAPL); as a residual product that saturates the soil pore spaces and smears onto the soil particles; and as a dissolved hydrocarbon in the groundwater.

Petroleum hydrocarbons were found in soils on and off the rail yard at various depths, but generally below 4 feet. It is predominantly located on the rail yard and north of there (toward the river) between 4th, 5th, and 6th streets.

Sediments in the Skykomish River and old Maloney Creek show petroleum contamination. Several sediment samples in seep areas along the river failed the bioassay testing.

PCBs

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were not found on or off the rail yard in this sampling event. Previous sampling indicated minor PCB detections on the rail yard near the old transformer plant with one sample exceeding the state standards.

Lead & Arsenic

Lead levels above state standards were found in surface soils on the rail yard and seven locations north of the rail yard. Arsenic was found in several areas on the rail yard and one adjacent location.

PAHs

Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were found in soils with heavy oil contamination and typically at depth.

July/August 2002

Public Meeting:

August 5, 2002
Skykomish Community Center
114 West Railroad Ave., Skykomish
6:00 – 8:00 PM

For Technical Questions:

Louise Bardy, Site Manager
WA Department of Ecology
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008
(425) 649-7209
lbar461@ecy.wa.gov

For other questions or to be added to the mailing list:

Rebekah Padgett
WA Department of Ecology
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008
(425) 649-7257
rp461@ecy.wa.gov

The report can be reviewed at the following locations:

Skykomish Public Library
100 5th Avenue North, Skykomish
(360) 677-2660
Weekdays only

For weekends:
Contact Michael Moore
(360) 677-2410

WA Department of Ecology
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue WA 98008
Call for an appointment
Phone: (425) 649-7190

Ecology's Web Site:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/cleanup.html>

For special accommodation needs or language translation assistance, call (425) 649-7257, or (425) 649-4259 (TDD). Ecology is an equal opportunity and affirmative action agency.

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Next Steps

The sampling results will be used by Ecology and BNSF to develop cleanup options for the site. A report outlining and evaluating a range of cleanup options appropriate for this site (called a Feasibility Study) will be produced in early Winter 2002/2003. In February 2003, Ecology will ask for your comments on the Draft Supplemental Remedial Investigation and the Feasibility Study reports. Following this comment period, a Cleanup Action Plan will be prepared.

Public Participation Grant Activities

The Skykomish Environmental Coalition's (SEC's) independent consultants are currently reviewing the Draft Supplemental Remedial Investigation report and will provide comments to the SEC, Ecology, and BNSF. Their explanations of the report will be used by the SEC to provide education to the community of Skykomish and to encourage your involvement.

SEC is planning education and information events and activities for later this summer and fall, including a community questionnaire. For more information about SEC activities, contact Michael Moore at (360) 677-2410.

How Can You Be Involved?

Ecology encourages you to stay informed and involved in the cleanup. By attending Ecology and SEC community meetings, reading related documents as they become available, and becoming familiar with the cleanup process, you will be able to provide Ecology and BNSF with valuable local input and knowledge that will be helpful in finding solutions for the Skykomish community.

As the cleanup progresses, refer to the schedule of projected 2002-2003 cleanup events; this schedule was sent out with the May 2002 fact sheet, is posted on bulletin boards throughout town, and is available by contacting Rebekah Padgett at 425/649-7257.

Come to the August 5th meeting to learn more about the results of the environmental sampling that was completed this past winter and about upcoming cleanup events. Ecology will be holding meetings in Skykomish this fall to ensure that you have opportunities to learn about potential cleanup options, as well as to provide your ideas and share any concerns that you may have about the cleanup.



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