

# Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company– Skykomish

## Cleanup Update



### Barrier Wall Installed

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) installed a barrier wall this summer as an interim action to help stop petroleum (floating product only or LNAPL) that has been seeping from upland areas on the railyard, under the town of Skykomish, and into the Skykomish River. This interim action is part of the site cleanup effort from activities at the former Maintenance and Fueling Facility, which is being overseen by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology).

The slurry wall (a mixture of bentonite and cement) extends from about 1 foot below the ground surface to at least 3 feet below the lowest observed water level (about 15 feet deep); it was constructed west from the Skykomish Bridge along West River Road (see figure).

Four “wing walls” also were installed along the wall for the purpose of allowing petroleum to pool in the corners where extraction and monitoring wells are installed. Within 6 to 12 months, a product recovery system will be installed that will automate the petroleum extraction.

In addition to installation of the barrier wall, four 2-inch-diameter piezometers were installed along the wall so that groundwater levels can be monitored for any mounding effects. Four new monitoring wells and four new recovery wells also are being installed. West River Road and the sidewalk were repaired to original conditions. Additionally, restoration of the schoolyard included placement of new

sod, as well as installation of a fence and backstop.

### Recent Activity

The public was given the opportunity to comment on several documents from May 1 to May 31, 2001, related to the Interim Action. One formal, verbal comment was received at the May 10 public hearing, and 156 written comments were received from a total of 14 individuals or groups/organizations. Based on these public comments, revisions were made to the *Interim Action Basis of Design for LNAPL Barrier System* (known as the BOD report) and Public Participation Plan, as well as the Agreed Order for Interim Action and SEPA checklist. A 50-page Responsiveness Summary (available for review at the information repositories listed on page one or by request) was distributed to the public. An overview was presented at the July 19 public meeting, attended by approximately 50 people, as was the construction schedule for the barrier wall.

### Next Steps

While data collection to date has provided much information about the extent of contamination, “data gaps” still remain that must be filled in order to determine the full extent of contamination at the site. These data gaps, which will be collected this fall, are based on technical considerations and historic eyewitness accounts and they include additional soil, groundwater, and sediment sampling, including the former Maloney Creek Channel area. In order for this work to be completed, Ecology will

## October 2001

### FACT SHEET

Ecology Northwest Regional Office  
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### INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Documents can be reviewed at the following locations:

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

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

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

### PUBLIC MEETING:

October 9, 2001  
Skykomish Community Center  
114 West Railroad Avenue  
6:00-8:00PM

For special accommodation needs or language translation assistance, call Rebekah Padgett, Ecology's Public Information Specialist at (425) 649-7257, or (425) 649-4259 (TDD).

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amend the schedule in the original Agreed Order. Notice of this amended schedule will be published in the Site Register. Ecology plans to hold an informal public meeting with the citizens of Skykomish on October 9 to present the amended schedule and the data gap work planned for this fall. The Supplemental Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Workplan, including the amended schedule and data gap sampling locations, will be available for public review at the information repositories listed on page one. There will not be a responsiveness summary to this informal meeting. The amended schedule also lays out the anticipated milestone for completing the final cleanup for the site, though it may be further adjusted.

After the remaining data are collected as outlined in the amended schedule, a report (called a Supplemental RI/FS) consisting of three volumes will be written to include a summary of the investigation work, as well as an evaluation of the cleanup alternatives for the site.

## Final Cleanup

Once the Feasibility Study report is finalized, Ecology will propose a final cleanup remedy for the site (called a Cleanup Action Plan). This plan will be based on information provided in the Remedial Investigation report (1990) and the Supplemental RI data gap report (2002). The Cleanup Action Plan and Consent Decree (a legal document to implement the plan) will then be available for public review and comment.

## How Can You Be Involved?

Ecology and BNSF are committed to providing the Skykomish community the best possible information. As the environmental investigations continue, new information will be provided to the community through flyers, mailings, and public meetings.

Public involvement is not just about Ecology providing information to the community, however. Instead, Ecology encourages you to attend community meetings, read related documents as they become available, and become familiar with the cleanup process. As cleanup at this site moves forward, your local input and knowledge will be helpful in finding solutions that will work in the Skykomish community.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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