

Burlington Northern Skykomish Site Investigation Update



Extension of Site Investigation Deadlines Proposed Petroleum Recovery Trench Details Available

This fact sheet has been prepared by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) to update you on the on-going environmental investigation at the Burlington Northern Railroad (BNRR) Maintenance and Fueling Facility in Skykomish, Washington. We also want to make sure you're aware of opportunities to give us your input during the course of this project.

Reminder

As you may remember, in September of 1993, Ecology and BNRR entered an agreement for an environmental study at and around BNRR's former maintenance and fueling facility in the town of Skykomish. The study, called a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, is intended to determine the type and extent of contamination present and to evaluate potential cleanup solutions. Under the agreement, the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study was to be completed within one and one half years, or 18 months.

Deadline Extension Proposed

As we reported in the last Site Investigation Update, BNRR and Ecology are considering an interim cleanup action for the Skykomish site. The interim action would involve installing a trench along West River Drive. The trench will be used to intercept petroleum migrating from the site before it reaches the Skykomish River.

BNRR has requested an extension of the deadline for the completion of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Report so that information and data obtained during the installation and operation of the petroleum recovery trench can be used in the evaluation of final cleanup solutions for the site. The RI/FS report was originally scheduled to be complete early this year. If BNRR's deadline extension is granted, the report will be complete six months after the installation of the petroleum recovery trench (the trench is tentatively scheduled to be installed in August 1995).

When complete, the RI/FS report will contain the findings of the site study and will describe in detail the nature and extent of the contamination at the site. The report will also present the results of the evaluation of a variety of potential cleanup solutions for the site. When the report is complete, you will be notified and will have an opportunity to give us your comments. This will be an important time for you to give us your feedback because the final cleanup of the site will be based on the findings in this report.

We Want to Hear From You Now

Before Ecology can approve the deadline extension, we need to hear from you. You are invited and encouraged to comment on the extension proposal from February 15 to March 17 (see the box on the right for

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February 1995

Send Written Comments to:

Barbara Trejo
Department of Ecology
3190 160th Avenue S.E.
Bellevue, WA 98008
(206) 649-7206

Review Documents at:

Skykomish Branch
King County Library
100 5th Street
Skykomish, WA 98285
(206) 677-2660

Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
3190 160th Avenue S.E.
Bellevue, WA 98008
Attn: Judy Fisher
(206) 649-7239

Need More Information?

Call Marianne Deppman
Ecology's Public Involvement
Specialist at: (206) 649-7254
or leave a message at:
1-800-458-0920

*If you have special
accommodation needs, call
Marianne at the number above or
at (206) 649-4269 (TDD)*

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where to send written comments).

Ecology and BNRR Want Your Input on the Petroleum Recovery Trench Details

BNRR recently submitted the "Prefinal Design Details" for the proposed petroleum recovery trench along West River Drive. Before finalizing the details, Ecology and BNRR want to make sure the community has an opportunity to look over the plans, ask questions and provide feedback. A copy of the detail document is available at the Skykomish Library and at the City Clerk's office. Please take time to look over the document. Ecology and BNRR will host an open house "scoping" meeting on March 1st at the Skykomish City Hall to answer your questions and record your feedback on the design plans.

Open House/Scoping Meeting

Time: Wednesday, March 1st
5:30 to 8:30 pm
Place: Skykomish City Hall
119 4th Street North
Skykomish, WA 98288

Please note: at this time we are in a "scoping" phase for the recovery trench. This is not considered a "formal" comment period. When the final design document is complete, you will have an opportunity to submit formal comments.

Actual installation of the trench is planned for August, when area groundwater is usually at its lowest point. During the installation, every effort will be made to minimize noise and other disruptions to the community.

Excavation Information

Petroleum from the BNRR site was encountered recently by a contractor working on a septic system upgrade near the Skykomish School. The excavation for the system upgrade occurred during a time when groundwater was especially high. Petroleum was found between 8 to 10 feet below ground surface in both the soil and the groundwater. BNRR hired a contractor to dispose of the water containing petroleum and to contain the soil. BNRR will assist the property owner during the remainder of the system upgrade.

In order to protect your health and safety and to protect yourself from potential liability, if you are planning to upgrade your septic system or for any other reason excavate soil to a depth of more than five feet on your property, Ecology and BNRR recommend that you follow the guidelines below:

- Obtain the proper permits from King County
- Notify both Ecology and BNRR before you begin work.

Ecology Contact:
Barbara Trejo, Site Manager
Phone: (206) 649-7206

BNRR Contact:
Dave Seep, Project Manager
Phone: (913) 661-7015

- If hiring a contractor, make sure the company is qualified to work with hazardous materials.

Maintenance and Fueling Facility History

The Burlington Northern Railroad Maintenance and Fueling Facility in Skykomish was originally owned and operated by the Great Northern Railroad (GNR).

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GNR owned the property from the late 1890s until 1970 when GNR merged with four other railroads and became Burlington Northern Railroad (BNRR).

Over the more than 80 years the facility was in full operation, it's primary function was to refuel and maintain locomotives and to store snow removal equipment. The facility also supplied electricity to trains during the time the Stevens Pass route was electrified.

Fuel for the trains, including diesel and bunker oil, was stored in underground storage tanks at

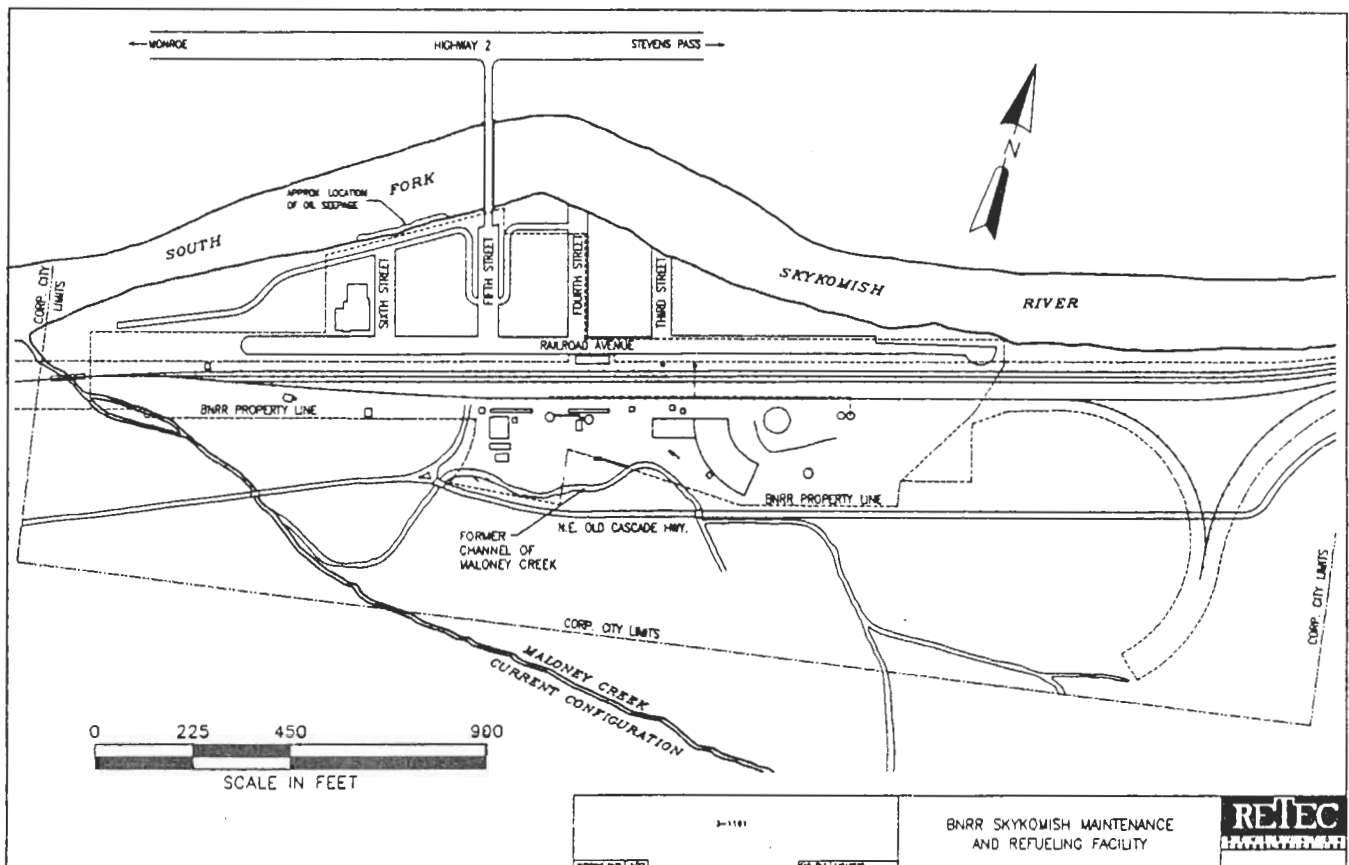
the site until 1974 when BNRR discontinued most fuel handling activities at its Skykomish facility.

Currently the BNRR facility is used as a base of operations for track maintenance and snow removal crews.

Need More Information?

If you have questions, please call Ecology's Public Involvement Specialist, Marianne Deppman, at (206) 649-7254 or leave a message for her at 1-800-826-7716.

Study Area Map



The following is a list of the organizations and individuals present at this open house as well as contact names and phone numbers, please feel free to ask questions:

Organization: Department of Ecology (Ecology)
Role: Ensures site investigation and cleanup meet state requirements
Contacts: Site Manager: Barbara Trejo
Phone: (206) 649-7206
Public Involvement: Marianne Deppman
Phone: (206) 649-7254 or 1-800-826-7716

Organization: Burlington Northern Railroad (BNRR)
Role: Responsible for conducting investigation and cleanup of the Skykomish site
Contact: Project Manager: Dave Seep
Phone: (913) 661-7015

Organization: RETEC
Role: Environmental consultant employed by BNRR to carry out field work for investigation and cleanup
Contact: Halah Voges
Phone: (206) 624-9349

Organization: Seattle King County Department of Health
Role: Assisting communities with waste water disposal systems (septic systems)
Contacts: Ken Elliott, can answer questions about upgrades and repairs
Phone: (206) 296-9739
Elaine Cummins, Public Health Educator
Phone: (206) 296-9756

Thank you for your participation and interest in this project

Burlington Northern - Skykomish
March 1, 1995
Open House "Scoping Meeting" Summary Sheet

Burlington Northern Railroad and the Department of Ecology are currently considering an interim cleanup action for the Skykomish site. This interim action would involve installing a trench along West River Drive (see attached map). The trench would be used to intercept petroleum floating on the groundwater before it reaches the River. The attached map shows the approximate area beneath the site where floating petroleum is located.

If approved, information and data obtained during the installation and operation of the trench will be used in the evaluation of final cleanup solutions for the site as a whole. We are here tonight because BNRR and Ecology want to make sure the community has an opportunity to look over the plans for the trench, ask questions and provide feedback. A copy of the preliminary design details is available to review at tonight's meeting. Copies are also available at the Skykomish Library and at City Hall.

The following is an overview of the preliminary trench design:

- Installation of the trench is planned for August, when area groundwater is usually at its lowest point. During the installation, every effort will be made to minimize noise and other disruptions to the community.
- The trench installation will require excavating soil to a depth of approximately 11 to 15 feet. The trench will be installed in sections. Each section will be backfilled before excavation begins on the subsequent sections.
- An impermeable fabric will be placed along the river side of the trench and petroleum recovery equipment will be placed in vertical sumps installed in the trench. The fabric will prevent the floating petroleum from moving into the river and the recovery equipment will pick up the petroleum which collects along the impermeable fabric.
- Once the fabric and sumps are installed, the trench will be backfilled. Soil which cannot be put back into the trench will be stored in a protected area at the Burlington Northern site. The recovered petroleum will be pumped to collection drums which will be located near the trench. The drums will be installed in small, locked sheds near the trench.

If you are aware of any problems that may result because of the trench installation and operation, please let us know (tell us tonight, call us or write us a note). The information you provide us will help ensure a successful project.