

Burlington Northern Skykomish Site



Site Investigation Update

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 August of 1993, Ecology and BNRR entered an agreement for the study of contamination at and around BNRR's 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.

Study Update

Since the agreement was signed last year, BNRR's consultant RETEC has been conducting the field work for the study. To date, the field work has included:

- installing numerous wells to test and monitor the groundwater in the area
- collecting soil, sediment and ground and surface water samples from within the study area
- analyzing and compiling data from the sampling and other field work

Preliminary findings have confirmed that petroleum is floating on the groundwater under certain areas of the site and that petroleum from the site appears to occasionally seep into the Skykomish River.

RETEC recently collected the fourth round of quarterly groundwater samples from the wells at the site. This concludes the sampling requirements specified in the workplan for the Remedial Investigation. RETEC will now begin the process of compiling all of the sampling data and preparing the Remedial Investigation Report. This report is expected to be finalized by the Spring of 1995.

Once the sampling data is analyzed, and the nature and extent of contamination at the site can be more accurately characterized, RETEC will begin the process of evaluating possible cleanup alternatives for the site. The findings of this evaluation will be presented in a Feasibility Study.

You will be notified and will have an opportunity to give input on both the Remedial Investigation Report and the Feasibility Study. You will also be asked to give us your input on the final cleanup plan for the site before cleanup begins.

Interim Cleanup Action

In order to stop the petroleum from seeping into the River, BNRR is proposing to conduct an interim cleanup action before a final cleanup plan is developed for the entire site. BNRR's proposal is currently in

Continued on Page 2

December 1994

Ecology's Site Manager is:

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

Review Documents at:

Skykomish Library
119 4th Avenue North
Skykomish, WA 98288

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

More Information?

Call Marianne Deppman,
Ecology's Public Involvement
Specialist at:
(206) 649-7254 or leave a
message at: 1-800-826-7716

*If you have special accommodation
needs call Marianne Deppman at
the number above or (206)
649-4259 (TDD)*

Ecology is an affirmative action
and equal opportunity employer

Continued From Page 1

the design phase. The details of the proposal are expected to be complete in early 1995. When the final design document is available, and before field work begins, you will be notified and will have an opportunity to give us your input.

If approved, BNRR's proposal will involve the installation of a trench along West River Drive. The trench would be used to intercept and collect the petroleum as it moves toward the river. After the trench is excavated and the collection system is put in place, the trench would be backfilled to the current topography of the area. Once collected in the trench, the petroleum would then be pumped out of the trench and into storage containers. The storage containers would be housed in a small shed on the site. BNRR is proposing to begin work on the interim action in August of 1995, when groundwater in the area is usually at its lowest point.

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). 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, provide electricity for electric engines operating between Wenatchee and Skykomish and to store snow removal equipment.

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.

Study Area Map

(Study Area boundaries: Skykomish River to the north, Northeast Old Cascade Highway to the

south, Maloney Creek to the west and Skykomish City Limits to the east)

