



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Northwest Regional Office • 3190 160th Avenue SE • Bellevue, Washington 98008-5452 • (425) 649-7000

October 21, 2002

Dear Reviewer:

Re: State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Determination of Significance
BNSF Former Maintenance and Fueling Facility, Skykomish, Washington

As required under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), please find enclosed a *Determination of Significance* and request for comment on the scope of an *Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS) for cleanup of the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) Former Maintenance and Fueling Facility in Skykomish, Washington.

BNSF is currently preparing a Feasibility Study of alternative cleanup actions which may be undertaken at the site. The selected cleanup actions will protect human health and the environment from contaminants released by historical rail yard operations. The cleanup actions will be done pursuant to the Model Toxics Control Act (the State cleanup law).

An EIS has been determined to be necessary at this site by the Washington State Department of Ecology because it is likely that implementation of the required cleanup actions will have adverse impacts for the community and the environment. An EIS is required even though the overall cleanup will have beneficial results. The impacts, and proposed means of minimizing them, must be identified in the EIS. The EIS will be integrated with the Feasibility Study.

Ecology is accepting comments between **October 28, 2002 and November 26, 2002** on the scope of the EIS and possible cleanup alternatives including mitigation measures, significant adverse impacts, document format, scoping process, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. Comments will be incorporated into a draft EIS/ Feasibility Study which the public will have an opportunity to comment on at a later date.

Thank you for your time in reviewing this information. If you have any questions regarding this project or the SEPA comment process, please call me at (425) 649-7209.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louise Bardy".

Louise Bardy
Project Manager



DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF EIS

Proponent: The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF)

Description of proposal: The proposed action is cleanup of the BNSF Skykomish site in accordance with a Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) adopted by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology). The CAP will contain the final decision regarding cleanup of the BNSF Former Maintenance and Fueling Facility, Skykomish, WA, pursuant to Chapter 70.105D RCW, the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)

Description of site: The BNSF facility was historically used to fuel and maintain locomotives, provide electricity for electric railroad engines, store snow removal equipment, and as a base of operations for local track repair and maintenance. Currently, the facility is limited to the latter two activities and is owned and operated by BNSF. The site encompasses an area of approximately 40 acres located in the Town of Skykomish, King County, Washington, and includes the BNSF rail yard and surrounding properties impacted by historic activities from the former facility. The general site layout and BNSF property boundary are shown on Figure 1. Railroad Avenue separates the railroad property from the main commercial district of the town. Maloney Creek flows from the south and west of the site and a former channel lies in the southern portion of the BNSF property. Maloney Creek flows to the South Fork of the Skykomish River.

Diesel and Bunker C fuel spilled during former operations has migrated from the rail yard under the Town of Skykomish, and is discharging to the Skykomish River. Since 1993, BNSF has conducted investigations and interim cleanup actions at the site under agreed orders with Ecology. A detailed operations history of the rail yard, a description of conditions at the Site, and a description of the interim cleanup actions are provided in reports prepared by BNSF pursuant to the agreed orders, including the draft Remedial Investigation Report (January 1996), Interim Action Basis of Design for LNAPL Barrier System (2001), the Supplemental Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Work Plan (November 2001), the draft Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report (July 2002), and the Boom Maintenance Technical Memorandum (August 2002) and Phase 2 of the LNAPL Barrier System (September 2002).

Location of proposal: Town of Skykomish, King County, Washington

Lead agency: Washington State Department of Ecology

EIS required The lead agency has determined that this proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c) and will be prepared and integrated with other cleanup documents. The EIS will satisfy State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requirements as they relate to actions taken under MTCA for cleanup of the site. The draft

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And Request for Comments of Scope of EIS**

EIS will be integrated with the Feasibility Study (FS) for the site which discusses alternative cleanup actions that will address contamination at the site. A Remedial Investigation and other reports have been prepared and are currently available for review at the official repositories for the site. When available, the draft EIS/FS will be placed in the repositories. The repositories are located at: Skykomish Public Library, 100 Fifth Street, Skykomish, Washington (open Monday 2-6 pm; Tuesday and Thursday 2-8 pm; and Friday 2-6 pm), and Ecology's Northwest Regional Office at 3190 160th Avenue SE, Bellevue, Washington (call 425-649-7190 for an appointment).

The lead agency has identified the following areas for discussion in the EIS: Direct and indirect, cumulative and short-term and long-term impacts on:

- The impacts on health, safety and welfare of the public in the Town of Skykomish, including noise, aesthetics, air quality, odor, vibrations and exposure to hazardous substances;
- The impacts on fish and wildlife in the Skykomish River and surrounding region, including any endangered species;
- The impacts on the built environment, including roads, schools, utilities, dwellings and businesses; and
- The impacts on natural resources, including soil, ground water, surface water, sediment, and air.

This EIS will be integrated with the Feasibility Study for the site, which will identify and compare alternative means of cleaning up petroleum and metals contamination associated with the BNSF Former Maintenance and Fueling Facility in Skykomish, Washington.

Scoping. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS to be integrated with the FS and cleanup process. You may comment on possible alternatives (see below), mitigation/restoration measures, probable significant adverse impacts, document format, scoping process, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. **Site cleanup alternatives may include one or more of the following:**

- a. Excavation of hazardous substances from the rail yard or from surrounding areas or the Skykomish River;
- b. Treatment of hazardous substances at the rail yard;
- c. Treatment of hazardous substances in-situ (in the subsurface) on and/or off the rail yard;
- d. Transportation of hazardous substances to off-site facilities for treatment or disposal;
- e. Containment of hazardous substances in soil or groundwater at the rail yard, surrounding areas or the Skykomish River;
- f. Recovery of oil from the soils, groundwater or from the Skykomish River; and

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- g. Institutional controls, such as limitation on the use of property or groundwater, that prohibit or deter activities which interfere with the final remedial action or expose the public or environment to hazardous substances contained on the site.

Comments must be received by November 26, 2002. Comments should be addressed to:


Louise Bardy
BNSF Skykomish SEPA
Washington State Department of Ecology
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

E-mail: lbar461@ecy.wa.gov, subject line BNSF Skykomish SEPA

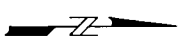
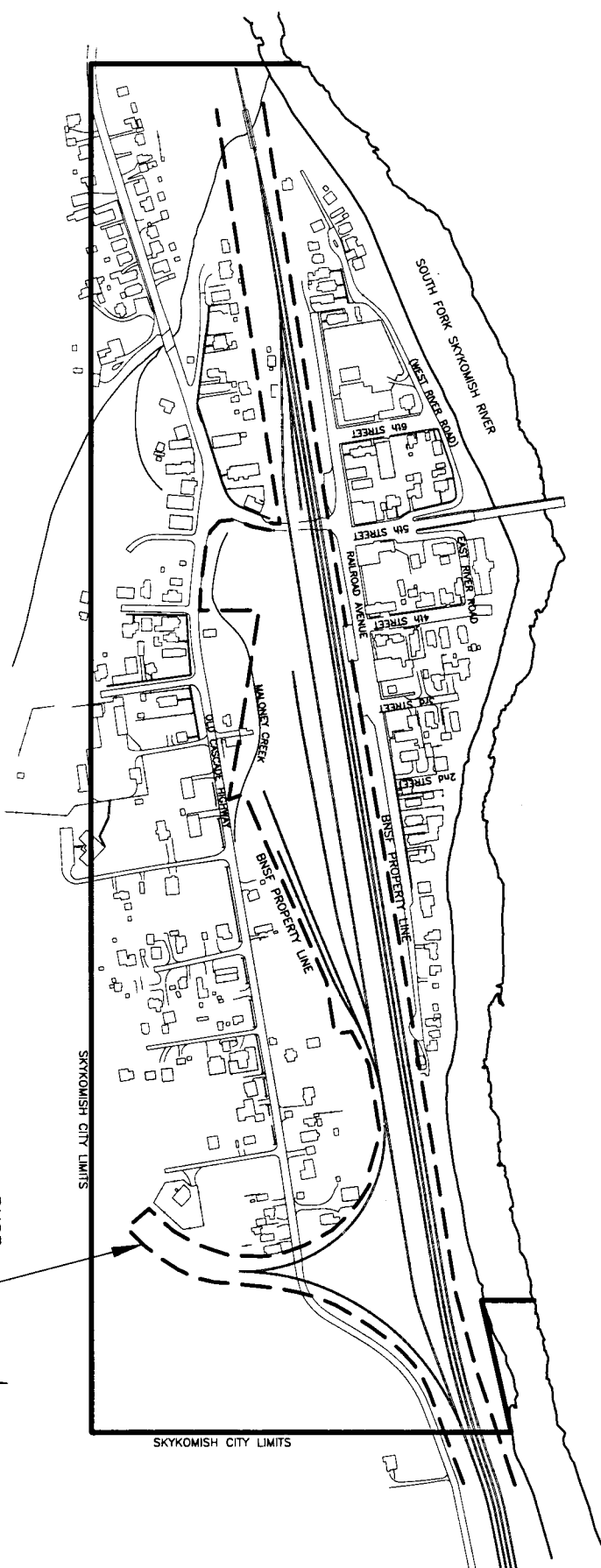
For additional information, contact Public Involvement Specialist Rebekah Padgett at (425) 649-7257.

Responsible official: Steven M. Alexander
Position/title: Section Manager, NWRO, Toxics Cleanup Program
Address: Washington State Department of Ecology
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

Date: 10-21-02 Signature



Steven M. Alexander



BNSF
PROPERTY
BOUNDARY

SKYKOMISH CITY LIMITS

SKYKOMISH CITY LIMITS

BNSF SKYKOMISH, WASHINGTON

BN050-04018-439

SITE LOCATION

