



# INITIAL INVESTIGATION FIELD REPORT

ERTS # 623585  
 County Whatcom  
 Parcel #  
 FS ID # 11335 CSID# 11698

## SITE INFORMATION

<b>Site Name</b> (e.g., Co. name over door): BNSF Switchyard - Bellingham Station	<b>Site Address</b> (including City and Zip+4): 1250 D St, Bellingham, WA 98225	<b>Site Phone:</b> (206)625-6501 ( ) -
<b>Site Contact and Title</b> (if any): Bruce Sheppard, Mgr Env Affairs Jennifer Anderson, Mgr Env. Ops	<b>Site Contact Address</b> (including City and Zip+4) if any: 2454 Occidental Ave S Ste 1A Seattle, WA 98134	<b>Site Contact Phone:</b> (206)625-6035 (206)625-6034
<b>Site Owner:</b> Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad	<b>Site Owner Address</b> (including City and Zip+4): 2650 Lou Menk Drive Fort Worth, TX 76131-2830	<b>Site Owner Phone:</b> (800)795-2673 ( ) -
<b>Site Owner Contact</b> (if any): David C. Clark, P.E. Director Env. Remediation	<b>Site Owner Contact Address</b> (including City and Zip+4) if any: David.Clark@bnsf.com	<b>Owner Contact Phone:</b> (785)435-2210 ( ) -
<b>Previous/Additional Site Owner(s):</b> City of Bellingham	<b>Previous/Additional Site Owner(s) Address</b> (including City and Zip+4): 210 Lottie Street, Bellingham, WA 98225	<b>Phone:</b> (360)778-8000 ( ) -
<b>Alternate Site Names:</b> Bellingham Switchyard	<b>Comments:</b>	<b>Is property &gt; 10 acres?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Location:** Quarter-Quarter: SE/NE Section: 25 Township: 38N Range: 02E

**Latitude:** 48.753958

**Longitude:** 122.487139

## INSPECTION INFORMATION

<b>Inspection Date:</b> 3/4/2011	<b>Time:</b> 1:45 <input type="checkbox"/> am <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> pm	<b>Entry Notice:</b> Announced <input type="checkbox"/> Unannounced <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Photographs?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Weather:</b> Clear <input type="checkbox"/> Rain <input type="checkbox"/> Temperature: ° F	
<b>Samples?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Wind Direction:</b>	<b>Wind Speed:</b>

## RECOMMENDATION

<b>No Further Action</b> (due to):	<b>ISIS ACTIONS</b> (check all that apply):
Release or threatened release does not pose a threat <input type="checkbox"/>	Site Hazard Assessment (MTCA List) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No release or threatened release <input type="checkbox"/>	LUST List <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational mailing <input type="checkbox"/>	RCU (Reported Cleaned up) <input type="checkbox"/>
Refer to program/agency ( ) <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments: Heavy contamination of soil and apparent free product in the switchyard likely due to spills of lube oil, fuel oil, green liquid
Independent cleanup action completed (i.e., remediated) <input type="checkbox"/>	

## COMPLAINT (Brief summary of ERTS):

Apparent Petroleum sheen flowing from BNSF switchyard to storm drain on east side of Roeder Ave. between C and E streets. Heavy contamination of switchyard soils and standing water was observed. Carl Anderson of ECY Spills unit collected samples in November 2010, and March 2011. Lab reports indicated that both samples were lube oil.

## SITE STATUS (Brief summary of site condition(s) after investigation):

WCHD investigated the site on 3/4/2011. Heavily contaminated soil and standing green liquid was present in the switchyard. Some absorbent materials were in place between some of the tracks covering areas of polluted soil. There was a minor remedial action in progress to manage a more current release of apparent lube oil to the Roeder Ave. storm drain. Farallon Consulting, LLC, provided two Technical Memorandum documents describing immediate oil spill response efforts, dated 1/3/2011 and 4/7/2011. These documents did not address

the heavy contamination present in the switchyard. The soil appeared nearly saturated with black lube oil, and the soil jiggled underfoot out side the tracks, where black oil welled up to the surface.

**Investigator:** Bill Angel

**Date Submitted:** 5/4/11

**Description:** In response to ERTS 623585, on 3/4/2011 at 1:45 PM, Bill Angel and Charles Sullivan of WCHD investigated the railroad switchyard located just west of the BNSF railway station at 1250 D street, Bellingham, WA. An oil spill response action was underway by BNSF consultant Farallon Consulting, LLC, and a contractor. Carl Anderson of ECY Spills, had earlier that day collected samples of the contaminated media. Heavily contaminated soil was observed in the switchyard, especially between the two western most of the four sets of tracks. Standing green liquid was observed between the tracks of the western most tracks. The soil appeared nearly saturated with black lube oil, and the soil jiggled underfoot out side the tracks, where black oil welled up to the surface. Oil spill responses by Farallon Consulting did not address the apparently long-term pollution issues that have caused releases to the storm water system. Apparently, petroleum and other chemicals present in the contaminated soils of the switchyard discharge to the surface water through cracks in the roadway curbing and pavement.

<p>Description of past practices likely to be responsible for contamination: long term issue of spills of lube oil and/or fuel oil, and other green liquids on the switchyard tracks due to maintenance or malfunction, without periodic clean up of the bulk of the contamination.</p>
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Spill	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LUST	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pesticide disposal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tank	<input type="checkbox"/>
Landfill	<input type="checkbox"/>	Improper handling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Drums	<input type="checkbox"/>	Improper disposal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other – Describe:	<input type="checkbox"/>		

No ☒

Yes ☐

4013 Railroad Switching and Terminal Establishments  
488210 Switching services, railroad

AFFECTED MEDIA	CONTAMINANTS (#1-19: See contaminants key below) Enter letter designating status of contaminant: C = Confirmed (above MTCA Method A); S = Suspected; R = Remediated; B = Below MTCA Method A																		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Ground Water		S	S				S		S										
Surface Water		S	S				S		S										
Drinking Water																			
Soil		S	S				C		S										
Sediment																			
Air																			
1 Base/neutral/acid organics				8 Phenolic compounds				15 Conventional contaminants, organic											
2 Halogenated organic compounds				9 Non-halogenated solvents				16 Conventional contaminants, inorganic											
3 Metals - Priority pollutants				10 Dioxin				17 Asbestos											
4 Metals - Other				11 Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)				18 Arsenic											
5 Polychlorinated biPhenyls (PCBs)				12 Reactive wastes				19 Methyl Tert-Butyl Ether (MTBE)											
6 Pesticides				13 Corrosive wastes															
7 Petroleum products				14 Radioactive wastes															

## SITE INFORMATION

Soil type backfill gravel	Slope <1 %
Site vegetation/cover present:	
Forest <input type="checkbox"/>	Pasture/open field <input type="checkbox"/>
Bare soil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wetlands <input type="checkbox"/>
Brush <input type="checkbox"/>	Pavement <input type="checkbox"/>
Landscaped <input type="checkbox"/>	Surface water <input type="checkbox"/>
Other – Describe:	

Are there any drinking water systems affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Municipal, private, or both? (Circle)		
How many people are estimated to be affected?		
Is there a potential for a release or threatened release to affect a drinking water source?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there monitoring wells in the vicinity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there dry wells in the vicinity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## CONTAMINANT PATHWAYS AND TARGETS

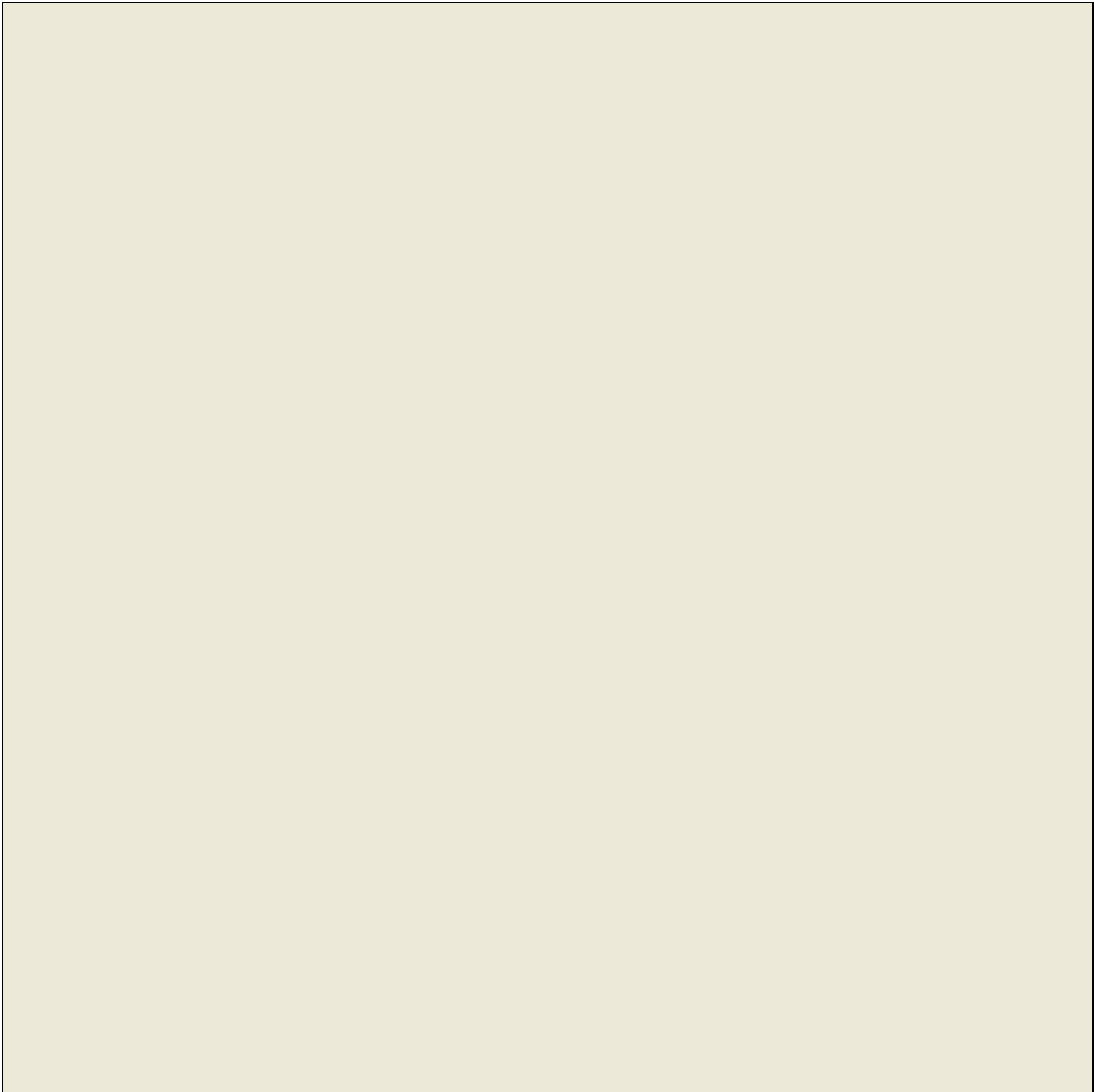
	Ingestion	Inhalation	Contact
Ground Water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Surface Water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Drinking Water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soil	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sediment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>


Targets Possible:	Residential <input type="checkbox"/>
Human, adult <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Human, children <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sensitive environments (See WARM Scoring Manual for definition): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, describe:	
The property is located two blocks from the Whatcom Waterway and Bellingham Bay. Storm water flows directly to the Whatcom Waterway.	

General Comments: The soil appeared nearly saturated with black lube oil, especially between the tracks, and the soil jiggled underfoot out side the tracks, and black oil welled up to the surface. The oil sheen in the water flowing to the storm drain on Roeder Ave. appeared to seep from the roadway fill dirt, through cracks in the curbing and pavement onto the roadway.
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**SITE MAP/DIAGRAM**

Site Name BNSF Switchyard - Bellingham Station



 <b>North</b>	Approximate scale: see atached photos inch =        feet
ERTS Number 623585	County Whatcom
Inspector Bill Angel	Date 3/4/11

ERTS 623585  
BNSF Switchyard - Bellingham  
Initial Investigation photos  
3/4/11



BNSF Switch yard facing SE, along Roeder Av



Apparent free product in soil between tracks.



Petroleum seeping thru cracked paving to road.



Facing NW, heavily polluted tracks.