

UPDATED August 10, 2005

BNSF Skykomish Cleanup Site

Supplemental Public Participation Plan

July 2005 to December 2005

Prepared by
Washington State Department of Ecology
With
BNSF Railway Company
Skykomish Environmental Coalition
The Town of Skykomish

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	3
Overview	3
Roles and responsibilities	4
Goals	4
Audience	4
Organization of the plan	5
Contacts	5
2. Public Participation Tools.....	6
Processes	6
Town	6
School.....	7
Information repositories.....	8
Activities	9
Communications	11
Community events	12
3. Public Participation Goals/Tools	13
4. Schedule	14

BNSF Skykomish Cleanup Site Supplemental Public Participation Plan

1. Introduction

Overview

The former railway maintenance and fueling facility in the east King County town of Skykomish is owned and operated by the BNSF Railway Company (BNSF). Historical activities since the facility opened in the late 1890s included refueling and maintaining locomotives and operating an electrical substation for electric engines. These activities resulted in the release of petroleum and heavy metals to the surrounding environment. BNSF is conducting a cleanup of the contamination at the site under the oversight of Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology).

Ecology is currently reviewing a revised draft of the feasibility study, dated March 2005. The feasibility study, when combined with evaluations Ecology is performing, contains sufficient information for Ecology to select cleanup actions for the site. The cleanup that Ecology chooses may be similar to an alternative in the feasibility study and may also include additional components developed by Ecology.

During the summer of 2005, Ecology will continue to gather information through additional studies and from the community. Ecology will make cleanup decisions and write the Draft Cleanup Action Plan in the fall of 2005. Public comment on the Draft Cleanup Action Plan and supporting documents is scheduled for January and February 2006. Concurrent with writing cleanup decisions for the site as a whole, Ecology and BNSF are preparing the detailed plans to clean up the oil under the levee and in the river sediments. Public comment on the detailed plans for the work on the levee is also scheduled for January and February 2006.

This supplemental public participation plan covers the activities that Ecology, BNSF, the Skykomish Environmental Council (SEC), and the Town of Skykomish (Town) will use to engage the Skykomish community as cleanup decisions are being developed. It describes the ways community members can stay informed about cleanup activities and provide opinions regarding cleanup plans as they are being formed. Ecology has developed this plan with BNSF, the SEC and the Town. The SEC is engaged with the cleanup through a public participation grant from Ecology. The Town is creating a vision of what Skykomish may look like after cleanup is completed.

This plan is intended to be a guiding document for the participants, supplementing the Interim Public Participation Plan of 2001. It describes in more detail the activities that will take place from July 2005 through December 2005. A formal public participation plan will be prepared for the cleanup phase of the site according to legal requirements

and presented to the public for comment along with the Draft Cleanup Action Plan and Consent Decree in January and February 2006.

Roles and responsibilities

Public participation activities for the cleanup are coordinated among Ecology, BNSF, SEC, and the Town. In general, each participant has a unique mission and role. Ecology provides regulatory oversight and conducts some public involvement activities. BNSF pays for the cleanup, conducts technical studies of the site and many of the public involvement activities. SEC is funded by a public participation grant from Ecology to educate the community so that people can comment effectively on cleanup plans during the public comment periods. The Town has been provided funds by Ecology to conduct a visioning process for the community to engage citizens in deciding what the town will look like after cleanup, so that the town can accomplish some of its goals as the cleanup is conducted.

Goals

Even though the participants to this plan have differing roles and responsibilities, they hold some common goals for this interim plan.

- Provide information and engage in dialogue for the purpose of educating people so that they can contribute to the cleanup decisions in a meaningful and timely way.
- Receive comments on cleanup issues and respond to the needs and concerns of the affected community as related to the cleanup.
- Facilitate communication among participants to this plan and coordination of activities under this plan.

Audience

Following is a list of the groups of people considered in the preparation of this plan. This plan focuses on the people who are most affected by the outcome of cleanup decisions. Information regarding the cleanup is provided to the broader public through the same mailings and press releases intended for the following groups.

- Individuals directly affected by contamination and cleanup
- Skykomish businesses
- Skykomish School board and staff
- Skykomish School students and families
- Skykomish community not directly affected by cleanup activities
- Sky Valley community
- US Forest Service
- Fire Station
- County, state and federal agencies
- Civic groups
- Visitors and tourists

Organization of the plan

This supplemental plan provides an overview of the status of the cleanup and a general process and timeline for the remainder of the cleanup planning process. Roles, responsibilities, and goals of the participants are summarized.

The participants to this plan are committed to an open dialogue with the community to ensure that interested people can receive information and provide opinions while cleanup decisions are being made. This plan identifies ways in which that dialogue can take place. This plan describes the use of the tools of processes, activities, events, and communications to reach the goals listed above. This plan provides a schedule of the planned activities from July 2005 through December 2005.

Contacts

Participants to this plan are available to talk with community members regarding activities they are conducting. Please contact Ecology for general comments on this plan.

- **Ecology**
Susan Lee, 425-649-4486

- **Envirolssues for BNSF Railway Company**
Angie Thomson-Bulldis, 206-269-5041

- **Skykomish Environmental Coalition (SEC)**
Michael Moore, 360-677-2410

- **Town of Skykomish**
Chris Yates, 360-677-2388

2. Public Participation Tools

Processes

- **Town**

Visioning

The Town of Skykomish has hired the firm of Berryman & Henigar and the University of Washington's Northwest Center for Livable Communities to facilitate Vision 2010, a project that provides the community with the opportunity to state its vision for the town. The information from Vision 2010 will be used by Ecology to write cleanup plans that successfully clean up the petroleum and, wherever possible, help the town reach their goals at the same time.

The Town has organized a committee of interested community members to work with the visioning facilitators. Bob Mackner is chairperson of the visioning committee.

Vision 2010 began in May 2005, and will conclude at the end of August 2005.

Activities to be used during the visioning process are:

- Gather information that describes the town, its history, its setting, and current conditions.
- Photograph key areas of the town to be used with community dialogues and illustrations of visions.
- Interview community elders and leaders to obtain oral histories.
- Meetings with the visioning committee to explain the visioning process and to make sure the facilitators accurately understand the vision of the community.
- Meetings with the general community to obtain information from individuals on the vision for their town and to compile and refine the information for the purpose of preparing reports and making drawings of the vision for various parts of town.
- Meetings with the general community to present the reports and drawings in draft and final form.
- Distribute draft and final reports.

Information from visioning will be included in the designs by BNSF consulting the visioning while drawing up designs, including the ideas which are part of cleanup and cost no more than other options, and providing a list of the ideas that are not part of cleanup and not incorporated directly. The list will include an estimate of the cost of the idea, some suggestions on accessing funds, and if possible, where the idea can be incorporated into cleanup to complete it.

Town council meetings

The town will also use their regularly scheduled council meetings to discuss and respond to the cleanup issues with one voice.

- Either the Town or Ecology/BNSF will initiate a discussion (including plans or work to date, known constraints, questions needing answers) of the issues that need decisions. The discussion will involve all persons impacted by the decision, including initial contact with people either by letter or in person.
- Ecology, BNSF and the town may hold a workshop on the issue or the town will announce the subject for discussion at a council meeting.
- Following the discussion, whether in a separate meeting or as part of a council meeting, the town will listen to all comments, and then vote as a town council on the action that is best for the town.
- The council will respond to Ecology and BNSF in writing.
- When the design reports are formed, Ecology and BNSF will have a meeting or return to the town council with the design and explain how the ideas were included, or, if not, then why not. At this meeting the town can offer more comments on the design.

The town will also have another chance to comment on the designs during public comment periods when designs are more complete and in context. In this way, the town can have a substantial part in developing designs for their town as the cleanup moves forward.

Public notice for the town will include:

- Posted notice of the discussion topic at the town council meeting
- Notice on the website of the topics of discussion for the meeting
- Letters mailed to the residents directly impacted by any issue, telling them of the issue, the impact of that issue on them, and how they can participate in discussions and give their comments.

- **School**

- School Outreach
Efforts will be made to involve and engage the students at the Skykomish School in understanding activities related to the cleanup. SEC will coordinate information sharing and activities with the students.
- Students attending cleanup meetings are given community service credit.
- School board meetings
The school will use their regularly scheduled board meetings to discuss and respond to cleanup issues that affect them.
 - Either the school or Ecology/BNSF will initiate a discussion (including plans or work to date, known constraints, questions

needing answers) of the issues that need decisions regarding their property or design decisions that they can influence.

- Ecology, BNSF and the school may hold a workshop on the issue or the school will announce the subject for discussion at the regularly scheduled school board meeting.
- Following the discussion, whether in a separate meeting or as part of a school board meeting, the school board will listen to all the comments, and then vote as a board on the action that is best for the school.
- The board will respond to Ecology and BNSF in writing regarding their decisions for the school.
- When the design reports are formed, Ecology and BNSF will have a meeting or return to the school board with the design and explain how the ideas were included or, if not, then why not. At this meeting the school board can offer more comments on the design.

The school will also have another chance to comment on the designs during public comment periods after designs are more complete and in context. In this way, the school can have a substantial part in developing designs for their property as the cleanup moves forward.

- Public notice for the school will be:
 - Notices posted on the bulletin boards and post offices of Skykomish and Baring.
 - Notices to parents sent home with students.
- Workshops
Planned workshops to date are:
“How the school may be impacted by levee construction,” Wednesday, September 14, 2005, 6-8 pm at the Community Center
- Updates
Ecology and/or BNSF will update the school superintendent and board monthly regarding the progress of the cleanup by email or at school board meetings.

- **Information repositories**

The King County Library currently houses the official information repository for the BNSF Skykomish Cleanup Site. However, the library has limited space for document storage and for people to sit while reviewing lengthy documents, and the hours of operation in the library are limited. For these reasons, information repositories can also be found in the Skykomish Town Hall and in the home of Michael Moore for the SEC.

Complete site files are kept at Ecology's regional office in Bellevue and available for public review by appointment.

Information repository locations, contacts, and hours of operation are listed below.

<p>King County Library Skykomish Branch 100 5th Avenue N. Skykomish, WA 98288 360-677-2660</p> <p>Hours: Monday and Friday, 2 – 6 PM, Tuesday and Thursday, 2 – 8 PM Closed Wednesday and weekends</p>	<p>Washington State Department of Ecology 3190 160th Ave., S.E. Bellevue, WA 98008 Call for an appointment: Sally Perkins 425-649-7190 (425) 649-4450 FAX E-mail: perk461@ecy.wa.gov</p> <p>Hours: Monday – Thursday, 8 AM to 12 PM and 1 - 4 PM</p>
<p>On weekends, call for an appointment at the Skykomish Environmental Coalition in Skykomish, WA Michael Moore Phone: 360-677-2410 Lorna Goebel Phone: 360-677-2812</p>	<p>Skykomish Town Hall 4th Avenue N Skykomish, WA 98288 360-677-2388</p> <p>Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM</p>

Activities

- **Community meetings**
Ecology, BNSF, and SEC may conduct meetings, jointly and separately, on various issues of interest and concern to the Skykomish community.

Meetings scheduled to date are:

- Feasibility Study, Tuesday, June 28, 6-7:30 pm at the Community Center by BNSF and Ecology
- Response to Feasibility Study, July 13, 6-8 pm at the Community Center by SEC

- **Issue workshops**
Ecology and BNSF may conduct workshops with groups of people or agencies on specific issues during cleanup preparation to make sure the people most affected by cleanup comment early, often, and meaningfully.

Issue workshops with various groups of people or agencies will be documented and responded to as decisions are made. These workshops go beyond meeting basic public involvement requirements by engaging those most affected by cleanup decisions substantively while the decisions are being formed.

Workshops will be scheduled on the following subjects at appropriate times:

- Levee design
- Road west of the school as necessary for cleanup of the levee
- Levee construction/school
- Levee construction/residents

- **Community working groups**

Ecology and BNSF will participate as needed on work groups in the community.

- BNSF is providing a facilitator for the Town's Septic Summit through EnviroIssues. The purpose of this work group is to find a design and provide support for constructing a septic system for the town. This construction needs to be coordinated with cleanup work.

- **Individual meetings**

Ecology, BNSF, SEC and the Town will talk informally with individuals about cleanup issues at every opportunity.

- **Community group briefings**

Ecology and/or BNSF will attend regularly scheduled community meetings to update people on the progress of the cleanup and coordinate activities.

Community organizations with regularly scheduled meetings include:

- Skykomish Town Council
- Town Council committees
- Skykomish School Board
- Skykomish Historical Society
- Lion's Club

- **Walk Through Town**

Members of the SEC will walk through Town, knock on doors, and informally talk with people of the town for the purpose of advertising events, gathering information, and keeping in contact with people who are not participating in other cleanup activities. Staff of Ecology, BNSF, or Visioning 2010 for the Town may be invited to join SEC depending on the current issue being addressed.

Communications

- **Mailed notices**

Mailings will be the primary method of distributing information to the public. A mailing list has been compiled by Ecology and BNSF that includes all residents and property owners in the Town of Skykomish, parents of school students, and other interested parties. The list is updated regularly.

- **Posted notices**

Notices will be posted in Skykomish for the visitors, tourists and residents who do not receive mail. These notices will include invitations to meetings, notification of sampling activities, updates on cleanup activities, and other items of interest to the general community. Notices will be posted at the Skykomish Community Center bulletin board, library, post office, Town Hall, and the bulletin boards next to the Whistling Post Tavern and inside the Cascadia Hotel.

- **Emailed notices**

The SEC will use emailed notices for their contact list as well as mailed notices to the site mailing list for most activities. However, only mailed notices are considered 'public notice' as required under the cleanup law.

- **Update letters**

Ecology Site Manager, Louise Bardy, will communicate directly by letter to the Skykomish community and other interested parties and agencies with updates on the progress of cleanup. The next update letter will be in September 2005, after the conclusion of Vision 2010 and further development of cleanup plans.

- **Press releases**

Press releases may be issued to newspapers in King and Snohomish counties as necessary to inform the general public regarding the progress of the cleanup. The main newspapers are: The Seattle P-I, The Seattle Times, The Everett Herald, The Monroe Monitor.

- **Websites**

Current and historical information regarding the BNSF Skykomish Cleanup Site can be found on Ecology's website at:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/pub_inv/pub_inv2.html

The Town of Skykomish also has information regarding the cleanup on their website at:

<http://www.town.skykomish.wa.us>

Community events

- **Fourth of July picnic and softball game**

The Town of Skykomish sponsors a picnic on the 4th of July at the Skykomish Ball Field, along with a raffle of donated items to raise money for fireworks. The picnic includes a softball game between Skykomish and Baring, and the best firework display in Sky Valley.

BNSF will sponsor the softball game and provide shirts for the Skykomish softball team.

- **Skykomish Show-N-Shine 2005**

The Skykomish community hosts the 3rd Annual car show to fund local community improvements. The day-long car show is held in downtown Skykomish on Saturday, August 27. The event features food, crafters, displays, and over 200 cars, trucks, and oddly named vehicles.

Ecology and BNSF will host booths at the car show.

More information regarding Show-N-Shine can be found on the website at: <http://www.skykomish-show-n-shine.com>

3. Public Participation Goals/Tools

Ecology, BNSF, SEC, the town and the school intend to meet the public participation goals using a variety of tools - processes, activities, communications, and ongoing events and meetings. The following table shows how the goals are met by using these tools.

Goals	Tools	Visioning	Ongoing Communications	School	Information repositories	Community meetings	Issue workshops	Community working groups	Individual meetings	Mailed notices	Posted notices	Update letters	Press releases	Websites	Skykomish Show-n-Shine	SEC Walk Through Town
Provide information and engage in dialogue for the purpose of educating people so that they can contribute to the cleanup decisions in a meaningful and timely way.			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Receive comments on cleanup issues and respond to the needs and concerns of the affected community as related to the cleanup.		X	X	X		X	X	X	X							X
Facilitate communication among participants to this plan and coordination of activities under this plan.			X				X	X	X							

4. Schedule

The following is a list of the activities and schedule to meet public participation goals for June 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005

Date	Time	Activity	Lead	Audience
On-going		Cleanup - Community group briefings	BNSF/Ecology	Community groups
On-going		Cleanup - Sampling and surveying notifications	BNSF	Skykomish community
June 2 Thurs	6-8 pm	Vision - Meeting	Town	Visioning committee
June 23 Thurs	6-8 pm	Vision - Meeting	Town	Skykomish community
June 28 Tues	6-7:30 pm	Cleanup - Meeting on feasibility study	BNSF/Ecology	Skykomish community
June 30 Thurs	10-12 pm	Cleanup coordinating – Meeting Septic Summit	Town	Septic Summit committee
July 4		Event - Picnic & softball game	Town	Skykomish valley
July 11 Mon	6:30-8 pm	Cleanup coordinating – Meeting of Town Council	Town	Skykomish community
July 13 Wed	6-8 pm	Cleanup – Meeting on feasibility study	SEC	Skykomish community
July 27 Wed		Vision – Distribution of draft report	Town	Skykomish community
July 30 Sat	10-1 pm	Vision – Meeting on draft report	Town	Skykomish community
Aug 11 Thurs		Vision – Distribution of final report	Town	Skykomish community
Aug 13 Sat	10-1 pm	Vision – Meeting on final report	Town	Skykomish community

Date	Time	Activity	Lead	Audience
Aug 27 Sat	10-4 pm	Event – Show N Shine	Town	Skykomish valley
Sept 14 Wed	6-8 pm	Cleanup – Workshop on levee construction	BNSF/Ecology	School board & staff

This schedule will be updated on an ongoing basis as activities are developed in order to inform people and coordinate with cleanup plans.