

# BNSF Skykomish Site (Former Fueling and Maintenance Facility)



## Draft Plans for an Interim Action for Cleanup of the Levee Zone

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to comment on several draft documents. The following draft documents are related to the proposed Interim Action.

- *Agreed Order*
- *Engineering Design Report*
- *National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit*
- *Public Participation Plan*
- *Draft Environmental Impact Statement*

Bunker-C and diesel fuel oil underlies the Town of Skykomish and is seeping into the Skykomish River from 80 years of operations by the BNSF Railway Company's (BNSF) Former Fueling and Maintenance Facility in Skykomish, Washington. This Interim Action will clean up the oil in the Levee Zone portion of the site.

The *Agreed Order* is a legal agreement negotiated between Ecology and BNSF to accomplish the Interim Action.

The *Engineering Design Report* details the engineering design for the cleanup actions in the Levee Zone. This report documents existing conditions of the land, structures and river and describes the scope of work, including necessary permits and conditions as well as contingencies for construction control. Health and Safety Plans and Sampling and Analysis Plans are included.

The *NPDES* permit is required to address the control, treatment, and disposal of wastewater resulting from the excavation activity prior to discharge into the South Fork of the Skykomish River. It also addresses the proper disposal of the excavated contaminated soils on-site.

The *Draft Environmental Impact Statement* identifies and evaluates the probable impacts resulting from this cleanup action. It includes mitigation of all impacts identified such that no long-term, significant adverse impacts on natural resources or the built environment remain after cleanup.

The *Public Participation Plan* is prepared to ensure coordinated and effective public involvement designed specifically for the Skykomish community. It contains the activities that Ecology, BNSF, the Skykomish Environmental Council (SEC), and the Town of Skykomish (Town) will use to engage the community during cleanup.

### Public Meeting

**Tuesday, March 14, 2006**

**6:00 pm – 8:30 pm**  
**Community Center**  
**208 Railroad Avenue, Skykomish**

Proposed cleanup actions consist of temporary relocation of 5 residences, excavation of the levee, underlying soils and sediments along the south bank of the South Fork Skykomish River, reconstruction of the levee, and restoration of natural resources, private property and public infrastructure.

### March 2006

**Public Comment Period:**  
**March 3 – April 3, 2006**

#### Send comments to:

Louise Bardy, Site Manager  
WA Department of Ecology  
3190 160th Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452  
425-649-7209  
Email: lbar461@ecy.wa.gov

#### For more information:

Susan Lee  
Public Involvement Coordinator  
WA Department of Ecology  
3190 160th Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452  
425-649-4486 or cell 360-790-9959  
Email: slee461@ecy.wa.gov

#### To review documents:

Skykomish Library, 100 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Skykomish, 360-677-2660

WA Department of Ecology  
Northwest Regional Office  
3190 160th Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008  
425-649-7190  
(Call for an appointment)

Ecology's Web Site:  
[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/bnsf\\_sky/bnsf\\_sky.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/bnsf_sky/bnsf_sky.html)

## Site background

A maintenance and fueling facility operated in Skykomish from the late 1890s until 1974. Over the decades bunker-C and diesel fuel oil were released to the environment on the railyard. The oil flowed downward to the water table, and then horizontally along the water table under the Town of Skykomish to the South Fork of the Skykomish River. Seasonal changes in the water table results in the oil being smeared in soils across the groundwater column. Sediments in the river are contaminated with oil. Free product occurs at the ground water table, and ground water contains dissolved oil constituents. Oil continues to seep into the Skykomish River at present.

The Levee Zone includes the area directly west of the Skykomish Bridge on the south side of the South Fork Skykomish River to approximately 700 feet westward along the river and approximately 135 feet south and upland from the river's shoreline. This area also includes five residences. Work in the river will extend about 10 to 30 feet towards the water from the river's ordinary high water mark (See attached map).

The railroad is owned by BNSF Railway Company (BNSF). BNSF and Ecology have been investigating the site since 1993. Remedial Investigation Studies and a Feasibility Study were completed on the site and accepted by Ecology in 2005. Ecology is writing a Cleanup Action Plan for the entire site as this Interim Action proceeds.

## Overview of Interim Action cleanup activities

The existing levee and underlying oil and contaminated soils will be removed. After removal the area will be backfilled and the levee replaced. Habitat restoration will occur as part of this work. The final levee design will accommodate elements described in the Town's Vision 2010.

Five homes and their residents will be temporarily relocated nearby. A wastewater treatment system will be constructed and existing utilities temporarily rerouted. A cofferdam will be constructed in the river around the excavation of the sediments, and appropriate spill control will be in place.

Homes will be replaced to existing footprint after excavation. Utilities will be replaced and landscaping restored. Monitoring will occur for the built and natural environment through and after the cleanup activities.

## Public comment and public meetings

Ecology is holding a public comment period for you from **March 3 through April 3, 2006**. The draft documents are available on the Ecology webpage and at the information repositories listed on the first page of this fact sheet.

Ecology will host a public meeting during the comment period to present information, answer questions and hear your comments. The meeting will be:  
**Tuesday, March 14, 2006, 6:00 pm, Community Center, 208 Railroad Avenue, Skykomish.**

Ecology will also host an availability meeting near the end of the comment period to accept written comments and be available to answer your questions as needed as you finalize comments. The meeting will be:  
**Saturday, April 1, 2006, 10 am – 1 pm, Community Center, 208 Railroad Avenue, Skykomish**

## What happens next?

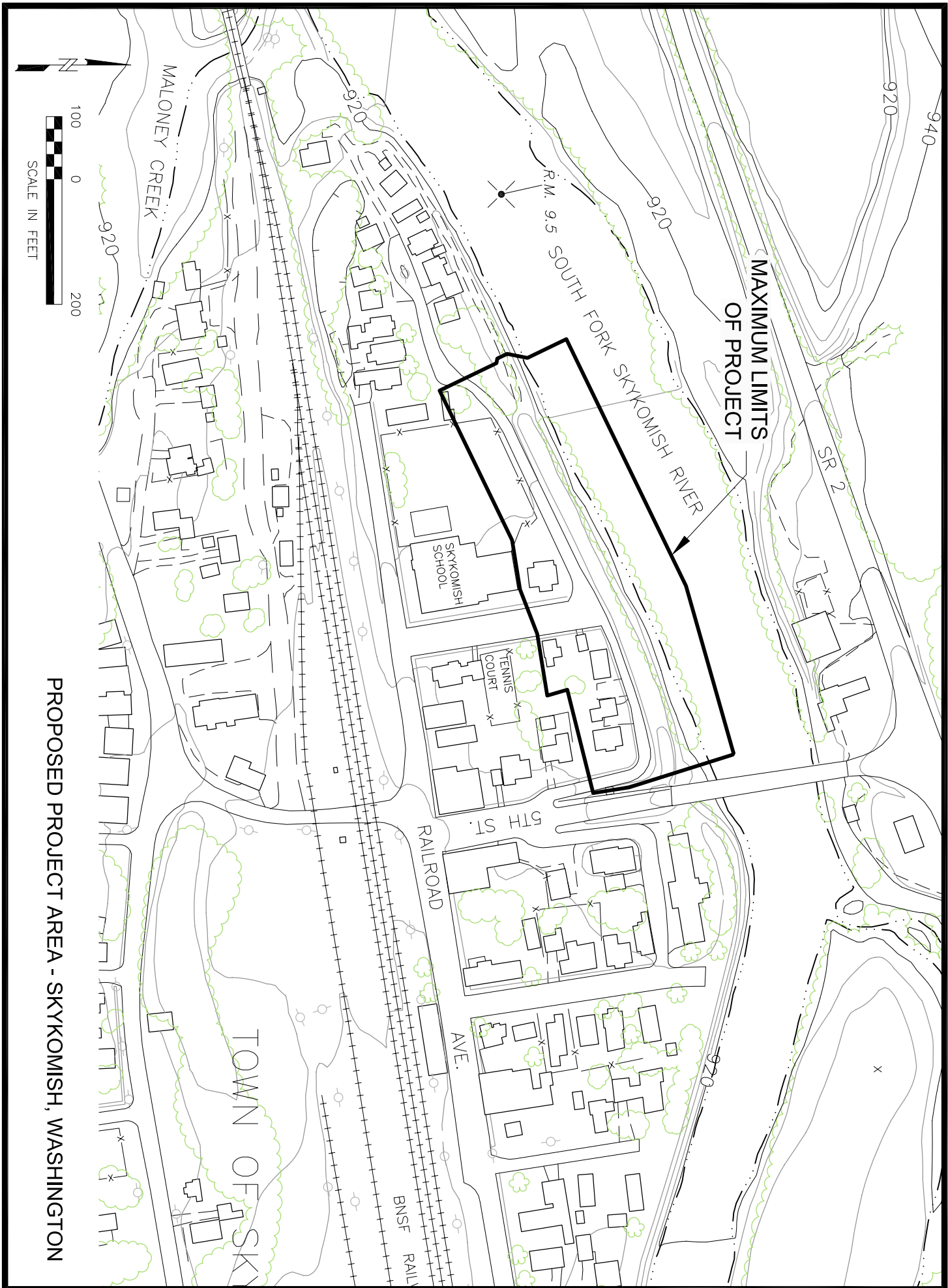
Once the public comment period ends, Ecology will review all comments that have been received and will make the appropriate changes.

Cleanup of the Levee Zone is due to begin in May, 2006, and to be completed by the end of December, 2006.

## Ecology wants your comments

Ecology encourages you to review and provide comments on the documents for this Interim Action cleanup. Please send your comments by **April 3, 2006**, to Ecology's Site Manager, Louise Bardy, at the address in the box on the first page of this fact sheet. Comments may be sent by mail or e-mail and should include "BNSF Skykomish Cleanup" in the subject line.

For information about other Ecology public comment periods, meetings, hearings, workshops, and open houses, please visit Ecology's public events calendar at: <http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/pubcalendar/calendar.asp>. Read Frequently Asked Questions about Effective Public Commenting at this link to learn more about the public comment process.



MAXIMUM LIMITS OF PROJECT

R.M. 9.5 SOUTH FORK SKYKOMISH RIVER

SKYKOMISH SCHOOL

TENNIS COURT

5TH ST

RAILROAD

AVE.

BNSF RAIL

MALONEY CREEK

TOWN OF SKYKOMISH



PROPOSED PROJECT AREA - SKYKOMISH, WASHINGTON