

Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company – Skykomish Site Cleanup Update & Schedule Changes



The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has been working with the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) to prepare for future cleanup activities at the BNSF Former Maintenance and Fueling Facility site in Skykomish, Washington. Recent tasks include:

- Developing cleanup options for the site,
- Establishing cleanup levels for the site, and
- Completing Phase 2 of the barrier wall project.

With so much going on at once, BNSF requested an extension on the next deadline in the cleanup schedule which affects the entire schedule. Ecology has approved this request. What does this mean for the Skykomish community? Here are some highlights from the new schedule:

- Public comment and public meeting on the draft Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study/ Environmental Impact Statement will be held in August/September 2003;
- Public comment and public meeting on the draft Cleanup Action Plan and Consent Decree will be held in July 2004; and
- Preparation of engineering and construction plans followed by cleanup actions will then proceed.

A new schedule of projected 2003-2004 cleanup events is on page 3.

Barrier Wall Update

The barrier wall was installed in 2001 to address petroleum seeping into the Skykomish River. This underground wall runs west from the Skykomish Bridge along West River Road. Phase 2 was completed in Fall 2002 to improve petroleum recovery.

Monitoring of the barrier wall will continue as long as necessary.

Cleanup Options

Ecology presented potential cleanup options to the community on October 10 and December 2, 2002. The purpose of these meetings is to provide you with information about cleanup options that you will need for the August/September 2003 public comment period. The technologies described may be used individually or in combination with other technologies at different areas of the site.

You are invited to an Ecology meeting on institutional controls (see box on page 2) at 6:30p.m., February 27, 2003. The meeting will be held at the Skykomish Community Center, 114 West Railroad Avenue, in Skykomish.

Cleanup options that are being considered include the following technologies:

- Thermal treatment (heating contaminants in soil and groundwater to mobilize them toward wells for removal),
- Excavation (digging up contaminated soil),
- Bioremediation (naturally-occurring microscopic "bugs" [microbes] in soil and groundwater digest the oil and turn it into water and harmless gases),
- Flushing (water or chemicals are pumped into the ground to flush contaminants from the ground and move them to a pump for removal),
- Bioslurping (in-place vacuum-enhanced recovery of oil from soil and groundwater), and
- Oxidation (chemicals such as hydrogen peroxide or ozone gas are pumped into the ground to break

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For Technical Questions:

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For other questions or to be added to the mailing list:

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Site documents can be reviewed at the following locations:

Skykomish Library
100 5th Avenue North, Skykomish
(360) 677-2660
Weekdays only

WA Department of Ecology
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue WA 98008
Call for an appointment
Phone: (425) 649-7190

Ecology's Web Site:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/sites.html>

For special accommodation needs or language translation assistance, call Rebekah Padgett at (425) 649-7257 (Voice) or 711 or (800) 833-8973 (TTY).

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down contaminants into water and harmless chemicals).

Handouts on each of these topics are available by contacting Rebekah Padgett at (425) 649-7257. Reference notebooks containing these handouts are available at the Skykomish Library, Skykomish Town Hall, and by contacting the Skykomish Environmental Coalition at (360) 677-2410.

A *Cleanup Action Plan* is a document that describes the cleanup alternative(s) that will be used at the site.

The *Consent Decree* is a legal document, approved and entered by a court, formalizing an agreement between Ecology and potentially liable persons (PLPs). Once signed, a Consent Decree relieves liability of a PLP for known contamination once the cleanup (with monitoring) is complete.

An *Environmental Impact Statement* is an analysis of probable adverse environmental impacts of a proposal, reasonable alternatives, and possible measures for reducing impacts.

Feasibility Studies develop and evaluate cleanup options for a given site.

Institutional Controls are measures taken to protect people, pets, and the environment from coming into contact with hazardous substances left behind after a cleanup is completed. These measures ensure that a cleanup works.

A *Remedial Investigation* is used to characterize the site and define the extent of contamination.

Current Activity/Next Steps

BNSF is currently preparing the draft Feasibility Study/Environmental Impact Statement for Ecology review and subsequent public comment. This work includes further sampling of soils and groundwater throughout the site, as well as sediments in the river.

How Can You Be Involved?

Ecology encourages you to stay informed and involved in the cleanup by attending Ecology and related meetings, reading related handouts and documents as they become available, becoming familiar with the cleanup process, and providing feedback through

public meetings and comment periods. As the cleanup progresses, refer to the schedule of projected 2003-2004 cleanup events (page 3). You can provide valuable local input and knowledge that will be helpful in finding solutions for the Skykomish community.

Site Background

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 operation, its primary function was to refuel and maintain locomotives, provide electricity for electric engines operating between Wenatchee and Skykomish, and to store snow removal equipment.



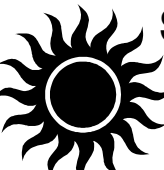

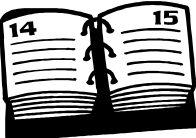
Fuel for the trains, including diesel and bunker oil, was stored in underground storage tanks at the site until 1974, when BNRR discontinued most fuel handling activities at its Skykomish facility. Currently the BNSF facility is used as a base of operations for track maintenance and snow removal crews.

Based on current available data, the site contamination consists of the following:

- **Soils** – Surface soils on the railyard contain petroleum (diesel and Bunker C), lead, arsenic and very limited PCBs. In some areas of the site, including areas off the railyard, subsurface soils contain petroleum and its components (e.g., polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons or PAHs) to approximately 15 feet below ground surface.
- **Groundwater** – Both floating and dissolved petroleum are present in groundwater beneath the site and at the Skykomish River.
- **Surface Water** – Petroleum from upland areas is seeping into the river through groundwater.
- **Sediments** – Petroleum and PAHs are present in sediments along the riverbank at seep locations and in Maloney Creek.



BNSF-SKYKOMISH SITE CLEANUP 2003-2004 EVENTS

Season	Short-Term Cleanup	Long-Term Cleanup
 <p>Winter '02-'03</p>	<p>Barrier wall (installed in 2001 to address petroleum seeping into the river) monitoring and oil recovery ongoing</p>	<p>Propose cleanup options</p> <p>December 2: Ecology meeting to discuss cleanup options and any concerns you may have about the cleanup</p> <p>February 27: Ecology meeting to discuss institutional controls and any concerns you may have about the cleanup</p>
 <p>Spring '03</p>	<p>Barrier wall monitoring and oil recovery ongoing</p>	<p>Preparation for Feasibility Study Report (describes cleanup options)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)</p>
 <p>Summer '03</p>	<p>Barrier wall monitoring and oil recovery ongoing</p>	<p>Public comment period on investigation and cleanup options</p> <p>August/September: Formal public meeting and 30-day comment period on draft Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study/EIS</p>
 <p>Fall '03</p>	<p>Barrier wall monitoring and oil recovery ongoing</p>	<p>Finalize Remedial Investigation & Feasibility Study/EIS</p> <p>Cleanup planning begins (develop Cleanup Action Plan and Consent Decree)</p>
 <p>2004</p>	<p>Barrier wall monitoring and oil recovery ongoing</p>	<p>Ecology chooses cleanup options</p> <p>Summer/Fall: Formal public meeting and 30-day comment period on draft Cleanup Action Plan and Consent Decree</p>

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