



Responsiveness Summary
BNSF Railway Black Tank Property

CSID No. 3243

FSID No. 986115712

July 20 - August 20, 2012 Public Comment Period

**Agreed Order for the Remedial
Investigation and Feasibility Study**

**Prepared by
Washington State Department of Ecology
Eastern Regional Office
Toxics Cleanup Program
Spokane, WA**

August 23, 2012

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) held a 30-day public comment period from July 20 through August 20, 2012 for the proposed Agreed Order that would require the completion of a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) at the BNSF Railway Black Tank Property (Site). Ecology would like to thank all those who provided comments.

The Site is owned by the BNSF Railway Company (BNSF). BNSF and Marathon Oil Company are the potentially liable persons (PLPs) required to implement the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study. The purpose of the Remedial Investigation is to conduct additional soil and groundwater investigations to determine the extent of contamination at the Site. Remedial action technologies will be identified and evaluated in the Feasibility Study.

The purpose of this Responsiveness Summary is to provide Ecology's responses to comments submitted by the public during the public comment period.

Based on the two comments received, no changes will be required to the draft Agreed Order, including its exhibits.

The Responsiveness Summary is organized as follows:

- Comment from William Flickinger
- Response to comment
- Comment letter from Harry M. Burger
- Response to comment

Comment from William Flickinger (received by phone on July 23, 2012):

I live in Hillyard, and I am interested in knowing whether or not my tap water is safe to drink.

Responses to comment:

Your tap water comes from the City of Spokane municipal water supply, which is operated to provide safe and reliable drinking water. The Washington State Department of Health routinely monitors the drinking water supply for any contamination. If contamination in the municipal water supply in excess of drinking water standards was to be found, you would be notified immediately.

Comment from Harry M. Burger:

JULY 31-2012

Dear Mr. Schmidt,
I am curious about the B.N.S.F. property
at 3202 E Hellesley.

I was employed at the old G.N.R.T since
1946 and was familiar with the companies
well and old pit and how it was into the aquifer.

I put in 37 years in the Hillyard Shops, working
on the old steam engines, diesel engines, in the
yard and shops, also lived in Hillyard area
for 65 years.

About the early 1950s, the Hillyard Processing
started a business remelting the slag from
Mead and dumping the tailings into the pit and
filled it up.

At that time East Hillyard residents
complained to the city council about all the
dust and smell 24 hours a day. The shop
employees couldn't drink the well water
and they couldn't use the contaminated water
in the diesels either. They had (com^{G.N.}pany) the
city put a 4" water line to our water tank,
that solved things.

Since then doesn't the slag keep
contaminating the aquifer? I would like
to know.

RECEIVED

AUG 01 2012

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE

Sincerely,
Harry M Burger
2304 E HERBY
SPOKANE 99207

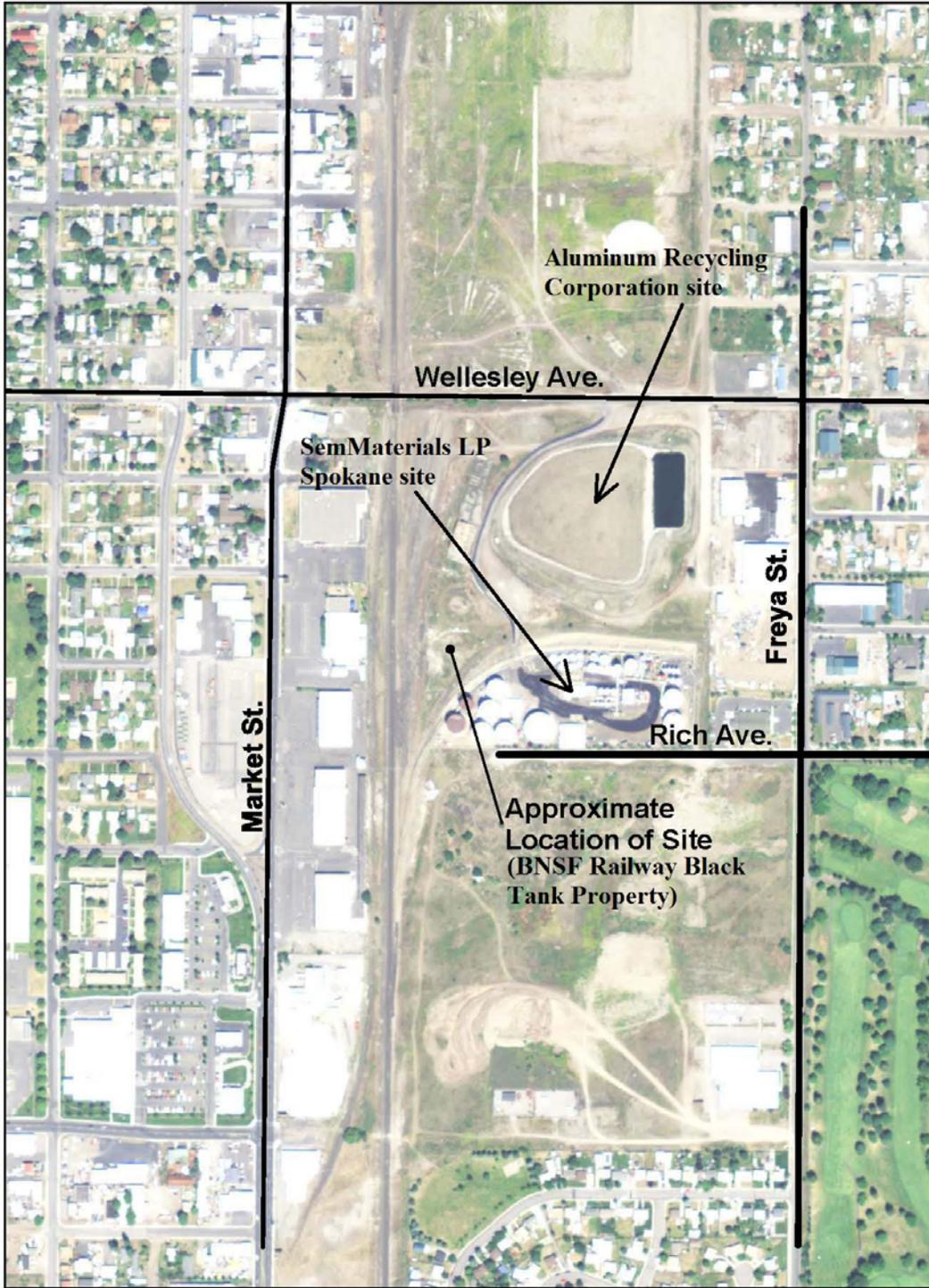
Response to comment:

Several contaminated sites are located in proximity to the BNSF Railway Black Tank Property. These include the Aluminum Recycling Corporation site and The SemMaterials LP Spokane site. Below is a map identifying the approximate locations of each site. We believe the pit that you reference in your comment is included in the Aluminum Recycling Corporation site. At this site, the Hillyard Processing Company leased land from the BNSF Railway Company and operated an aluminum dross reprocessing facility. Aluminum reprocessing reportedly began in 1954, and the activities continued even though there were several changes in operators. Aluminum Recycling Corporation was the latest operator of the facility until 1987 when the property was abandoned.

The cleanup of this site was conducted in 2003. There were several piles of white and black dross on the surface, and several piles on the side and bottom of the existing pit. The cleanup action consisted of consolidating the piles of dross into the pit. A landfill-style impermeable cap was installed so that rain and snowmelt would no longer seep through dross and carry contaminants to groundwater. A large lined pond was created so that all the runoff from the cap could be collected and evaporated without seeping through any dross.

Groundwater monitoring occurred before and after the installation of the cap. Groundwater had been contaminated with chloride, fluoride, and nitrate. Levels of all three contaminants have been slowly decreasing since the cleanup was completed. For more information regarding the Aluminum Recycling Corporation site, please view the documents online at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=1133> or contact the site manager, Sandra Treccani, at 509-329-3412.

BNSF Railway Black Tank Property Spokane, Washington



0 500 1,000 Feet

Map of Conatminated Sites near the BNSF Railway Black Tank site