

BURLINGTON NORTHERN (BN) OTHELLO SITE



FIVE-YEAR PERIODIC REVIEW and PROPOSED DELISTING FROM HAZARDOUS SITES LIST

The Washington Department of Ecology is proposing to remove the Burlington Northern (BN) Othello site from the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) Hazardous Sites List, as a result of a five-year periodic review. The site is located at the cross section of Broadway and Main streets in an industrial section of western Othello, Adams County, Washington (see Figure 1).

Periodic review of the cleanup action is conducted every five years, at a minimum, and is required by MTCA. The purpose of the review is to evaluate site conditions and monitoring data, after cleanup is considered complete, and to ensure human health and the environment are being protected. Based on this five-year review, Ecology has concluded:

- the site no longer represents a threat to human health and/or the environment;
- the remedial actions conducted at the site satisfy the intent of MTCA; and
- NO FURTHER ACTION is needed.

Ecology invites the public to review and comment on the Five-Year Review and Proposed Delisting. The shaded box at the right provides information on where to review documents and submit comments. **Written comments will be accepted June 30, 2003 through July 30, 2003.**

SITE BACKGROUND

In 1908, the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad (Chicago-Milwaukee) built a railroad yard at the site. It was used for refueling steam and electric locomotives and later diesel locomotives. BN purchased the property in 1980 and continued operations until 1982. BN still owns the property, and Washington Central Railroad currently uses it to load grains into railroad cars.

In 1986, BN began investigations for possible contamination at the site. Results of these investigations showed levels of total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) in soil and ground water were higher than allowed by state standards. In 1990, Ecology

FACT SHEET: JUNE 2003

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Comments accepted:
June 30, 2003 through
July 30, 2003

**Repositories where you may
review documents:**

Othello Public Library
101 East Main Street
Othello, WA 99344-1039

WA Department of Ecology
4601 N. Monroe
Spokane, WA 99205-1295
Ms. Johnnie Harris
(509) 329-3415

**Send comments or
questions to:**

Ms. Teresita Bala
WA Department of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program
4601 N. Monroe
Spokane, WA 99205-1295
(509) 329-3543 or
1-800-826-7716
e-mail: tbal461@ecy.wa.gov

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Calendar may be found at
www.ecy.wa.gov**

conducted a site hazard assessment of the property and the site ranked a "1." Sites are ranked on a scale of 1 to 5. A rank of "1" represents the highest potential threat to human health and the environment and "5" represents the lowest.

Under an Agreed Order with Ecology, additional studies were done prior to an interim action which confirmed TPH in soil and ground water. A total of 10,370 cubic yards of TPH contaminated soils were dug up from the site and recycled. As part of this cleanup, ground water was diverted to the City of Othello sanitary sewer system under a State Waste Discharge Permit. This was done to keep the water from flowing through contaminated soil areas. This action reduced TPH concentrations in ground water to meet state standards.

Further studies were completed to determine the extent of any remaining contamination in soils and ground water at the site and to evaluate cleanup options.

Soil capping, ground water diversion and monitoring, along with institutional controls for the BN property, were completed in 1998 as required in a Consent Decree. The ground water diversion system installed during the interim action was removed, and a barrier wall was constructed to reroute shallow ground water around the area containing contaminated soils. A Restrictive Covenant was placed on the property limiting site use and activities.

Ground water monitoring was done twice a year from June 1998 to November 2002. Results showed TPH in ground water is below

required cleanup levels. Site inspections of the asphalt and soil caps were conducted twice a year from 1998 through 2002 and have shown no signs of possible disturbance to the caps. No repair or maintenance actions have been required.

FIVE-YEAR REVIEW/ DELISTING

Based on the ground water data, and other site conditions, the following findings have been made:

- Ground water cleanup levels have been met at the site.
- The cleanup action complies with MTCA cleanup standards for soil.
- A Restrictive Covenant for the property is in place. It is effective in protecting public health and the environment from exposure to hazardous substances. It also protects the integrity of the cleanup action.
- Sufficient monitoring has been done to demonstrate that the remedy has effectively contained the TPH contamination in soils.
- All performance monitoring has been completed.

Under MTCA, Ecology may remove a site from the Hazardous Sites List if the remedial actions have been completed and compliance with cleanup standards has been achieved. These criteria

have been met; therefore, Ecology is proposing to delist this site.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Ecology will review all written comments received. A Responsiveness Summary of the comments and answers to questions will be prepared, if appropriate, and made available at the information repository listed on page one. Based on comments received, Ecology may revise the Five-Year Review Document and/or the decision to remove the Site from the Hazardous Sites List.

HOW YOU MAY BE INVOLVED

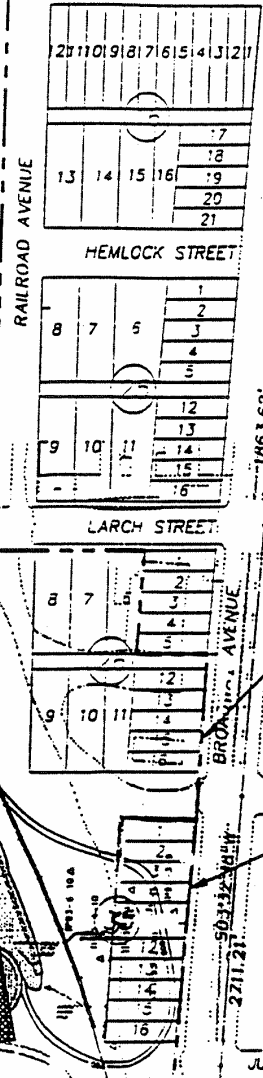
- ◆ **REVIEW** the Five Year Review documents at the repository locations listed in the box on page one.
- ◆ **SEND** in your written comments **June 30, 2003 through July 30, 2003** to: Teresita Bala, Site Manager at Ecology (see box on page one for details).
- ◆ **SHARE** this information with individuals or groups you think are interested.

33 33 34
 4 4 3
 S89°54'22"W MAIN STREET
 248.87

ST. CHICAGO,
 MILWAUKEE,
 ST. PAUL
 AND PACIFIC
 RAILROAD

LEGEND

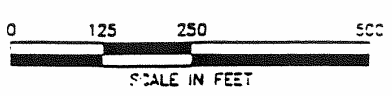
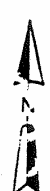
- Site BOUNDARY
- [Hatched Box] AREA EXCAVATED DURING INTERIM REMEDIAL ACTION
- [Dotted Box] Asphalt Capped Area



BURLINGTON
 NORTHERN SANTA FE
 OTHELLO RAILYARD

LES SCHWAB
 PROPERTY

200.00'



THE BURLINGTON NORTHERN SANTA FE		SCALE	NONE
1-2789-310			
NO. DESC.			
J. 7/17/97 DRAFT	G.M. 7/17/97		
DATE REVISION	CHG. DATE	APPROV. DATE	CAO FILE 2789S33

SITE DIAGRAM
 OTHELLO RAILYARD

FIGURE 1