

# BNSF OIL PIPELINE



## Agreed Order for RI/FS, Interim Action Proposed

The Washington State Department of Ecology and Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) have agreed to a Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, Chapter 70.105D RCW) order to conduct an interim action and remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) of petroleum-contaminated soil and groundwater at the BNSF Oil Pipeline site. In addition to BNSF, Ecology has identified the Washington State Department of Transportation, City of Tacoma, Supervalu Holdings, Home Electric, and Nichols Trucking as potentially liable persons (PLP's) for this site. However, these other PLP's did not sign the agreed order. The agreed order is a legal document formalizing an agreement between Ecology and PLP's, to ensure that proposed site investigation and cleanup activities are conducted in a timely fashion, in accordance with MTCA and other applicable laws and regulations.

Your comments on this proposed agreed order are welcome through **June 21, 2004**. The box to the right provides information about where to review the agreed order, as well as where to submit comments.

### Site Background

The 1/2-mile BNSF Oil Pipeline site runs east of and parallel to East "D" Street in

Tacoma, from East 21st (now the Highway 509 right-of-way) north to East 15th. The pipeline is located on property currently owned/operated by the Washington State Department of Transportation, Nichols Trucking, the City of Tacoma, Home Electric, and Supervalu Holdings. All land usage in the site is zoned industrial and commercial. The pipeline is a 6-inch steel pipe, installed in the early 1900's, connecting historic oil storage tanks located on property now owned by JM Martinac Company with oil storage tanks on the current BNSF Tacoma Railyard. The pipeline was owned and operated by BNSF Railway Company.

During recent excavations, portions of the pipe have been discovered to be damaged and have released petroleum products into soil and groundwater in the area of East "D" and East 19th Streets as well as other locations. The City of Tacoma reported to Ecology tar-like oily globules in Thea Foss Waterway during low tide near a stormwater *outfall* (the mouth of the drain system which discharges stormwater into the waterway) south of Johnny's Restaurant. The stormwater line appears to be a migration pathway for the petroleum-related contamination into Thea Foss Waterway. Petroleum contamination has also been found in soil in the DOT stormwater detention pond area and Supervalu parking lot as well as in soil and groundwater at the intersection of East "D"

## May 2004

### FACT SHEET

Ecology Southwest Regional Office  
Toxics Cleanup Program  
300 Desmond Drive SE  
P.O. Box 47775  
Olympia, WA 98504-7775  
(360) 407-6300 (voice)  
(360) 407-6306 (TDD)

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON AGREED ORDER:

May 20, 2004 to June 21, 2004

Comments and requests for updates should be directed to Panjini Balaraju, Site Manager, at the Ecology address listed above, e-mailed to [pbal461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:pbal461@ecy.wa.gov), or call (360) 407-6243.

### INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

The agreed order can be reviewed at the following locations:

[www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/sites\\_information.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/sites_information.html)

[www.ecy.wa.gov](http://www.ecy.wa.gov), then click on "Public Events Calendar"

Ecology Southwest Regional Office  
address listed above

Citizens for a Healthy Bay  
917 Pacific Avenue Suite 406  
Tacoma, WA 98402-4421  
(253) 383-2429

Tacoma Public Library-Main Branch  
Northwest Room  
1102 Tacoma Avenue South  
Tacoma, WA 98402-2006  
(253) 591-5666

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If you have special accommodation needs, please call (360) 407-6300, (360) 407-6306 (TDD), 711, or 1-800-833-6388 (TTY).

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Street and East 19th Street (in the vicinity of Tacoma Fixtures). Testing and analysis have shown that there are multiple sources of the petroleum contamination that is being seen in Thea Foss Waterway. Other potential sources include underground storage tanks on the Home Electric property and historic filling in the site area.

### What Is Being Done?

The agreed order requires BNSF to conduct an interim action to stop migration of petroleum-related contamination into Thea Foss Waterway. The City of Tacoma is scheduled to start the Thea Foss Superfund sediment cleanup in July 2004. Contamination migration must be stopped to prevent recontamination of sediment.

The agreed order also requires BNSF to conduct a remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) of petroleum-contaminated soil and groundwater. The remedial investigation will determine the nature, extent, and magnitude of site contamination. The feasibility study will evaluate site cleanup alternatives. After Ecology approves the RI/FS, a draft cleanup action plan is required by the agreed order. Ecology will oversee implementation of the agreed order to ensure that all parts of the agreed order are fulfilled.

### What Happens Next?

Public comment on the proposed agreed order will be considered and the order will be modified, if necessary, based on the comments received. The work for the interim action should be completed by July 2004. The work for the remedial investigation/feasibility study should be

completed by July 2005. Further formal public comment opportunities will occur after the remedial investigation/feasibility study are completed and a draft cleanup action plan is prepared.

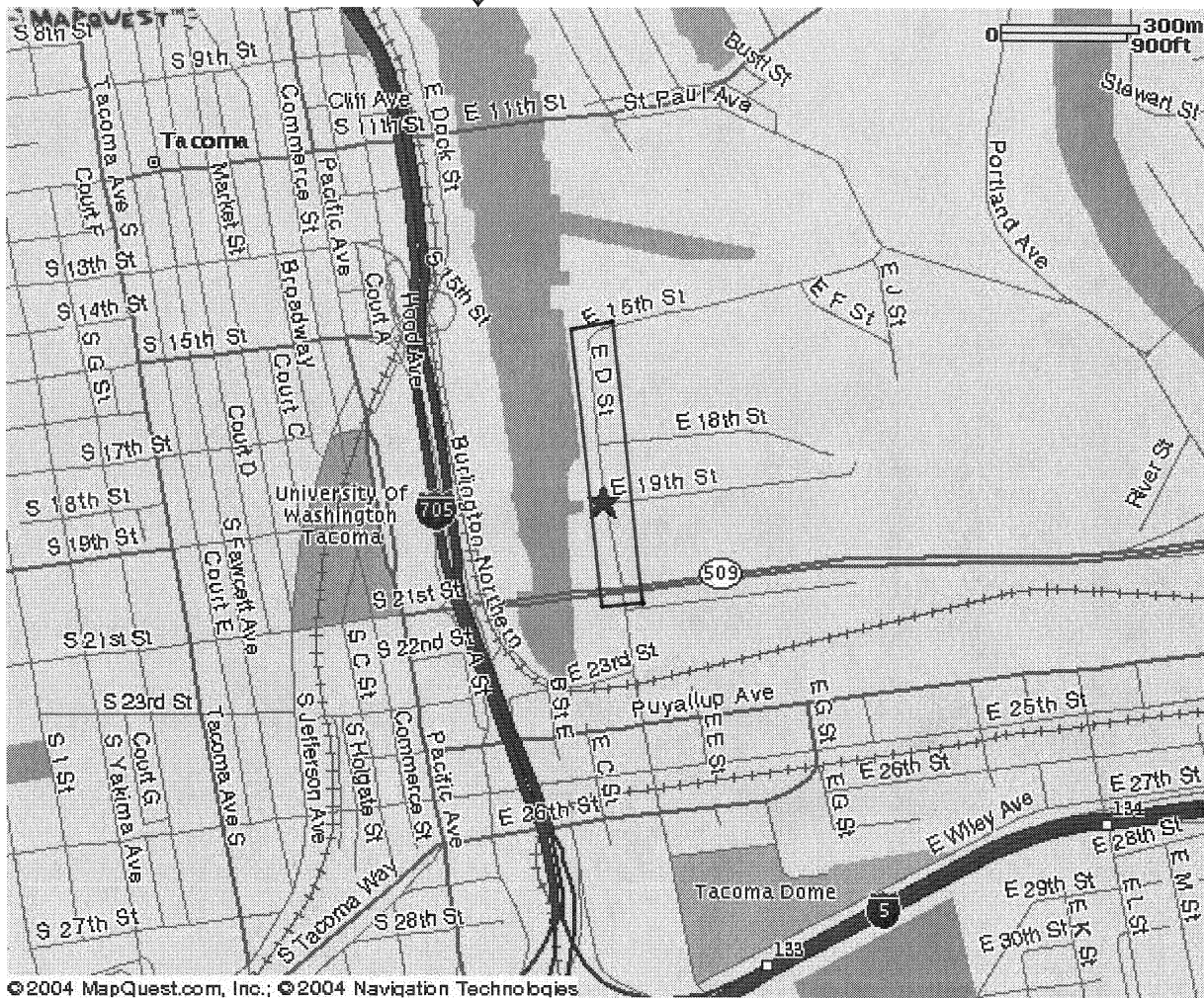
### Ecology Wants Your Comments!

You are invited to review and comment on the proposed agreed order through **June 21, 2004**. The public comment period presents an opportunity to have your ideas and comments heard by Ecology. Information repositories, which include the agreed order, have been set up at the locations listed in the box on page one. To review more detailed site documents than those in the information repositories, contact Ecology's Southwest Regional Office records center at (360) 407-6365 to schedule an appointment.

Please submit your written comments to Panjini Balaraju, Site Manager, at the Ecology address listed in the box on page one. Ecology will review and respond to all comments received, and may revise the agreed order. Updates of site activities will be provided to those who submit comments or request to be placed on the site mailing list. (If you received this fact sheet directly from Ecology, you are already on the site mailing list.)

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Thea Foss  
Waterway



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