

## Parties Agree to Investigate Contaminants in Soil and Groundwater

The Washington State Department of Ecology plans to enter into an Agreed Order with BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) to conduct a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study at the Parkwater Railyard site. The BNSF Parkwater facility, formerly known as Yardley, is one-half mile south of the Spokane River and lies over the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer in the Spokane Valley. The site is located at 5302 East Trent Avenue in the city of Spokane, Spokane County, Washington (see Figure 1).

## Petroleum Contamination Discovered

The site operated as a railyard for nearly 100 years. Operations continue today and include fueling, intermodal operations, and switching of rail cars. Historical operations also included maintenance. Diesel, waste oil and gasoline were stored in underground tanks (which have since been removed) and used to support the daily operations. One tank reportedly contained cleaning solvents. In 1990 a petroleum release was discovered during the removal of an underground storage tank that was believed to contain petroleum. Petroleum constituents consistent with diesel fuel have been detected in soil and groundwater near the locomotive fueling area on the rail yard.

## Agreed Order Requirements

The Agreed Order is a legal document issued by Ecology. It formalizes the agreement between Ecology and BNSF for the cleanup actions needed at the site. The Order requires BNSF to complete the following:

- Conduct a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS). The purpose of the Remedial Investigation is to gather more information to determine where and how much contamination may be in site-related soil and groundwater. The Feasibility Study will evaluate cleanup alternatives in preparation for a cleanup action.
- Submit a report detailing independent cleanup actions previously taken at the site to treat petroleum-contaminated soil.
- Submit a work plan to initiate interim cleanup actions to treat groundwater under Ecology supervision.

## Public Invited to Attend a Meeting and Provide Comments

Ecology invites you to:

- **Review** the draft Agreed Order and associated documents, including a Scope of Work and a Public Participation Plan. The Scope of Work outlines details of work to be completed. The Public Participation Plan outlines ways Ecology and BNSF will involve and inform the public about site cleanup.
- **Send** your comments to Ecology for consideration. *Comments will be accepted January 12 through February 10, 2009.* See the shaded

## Comments Accepted

January 12 through February 10, 2009

Если вам нужно помощь по русский,  
звоните Tatyana Bistrevsky 509/928-7617

Liên hệ bằng tiếng Việt, xin liên lạc  
Teddy Le 360/407-6948

Para asistencia en Español  
Richelle Perez 360/407-6971

## Send Comments and Technical Questions to

Sandra Treccani  
WA Department of Ecology  
4601 N. Monroe  
Spokane WA 99205-1295  
509/329-3412 satr461@ecy.wa.gov

## Public Involvement Questions

Carol Bergin, WA Department of Ecology  
509/329-3546 cabe461@ecy.wa.gov

## Document Review Locations

WA Department of Ecology  
4601 N. Monroe  
Spokane, WA 99205-1295  
Call Kari Johnson for an appointment  
509/329-3415

Argonne County Library  
4322 N. Argonne  
Spokane, WA 99206

Spokane Valley Library  
12004 E. Main  
Spokane Valley, WA 99216

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Website  
[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/parkwater/railyard\\_hp.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/parkwater/railyard_hp.htm)

## Public Meeting

January 13, 2009 7-9 p.m.  
Mountain Gear Corporate Office  
6021 E. Mansfield  
Spokane Valley, WA 99212

Facility Site ID No. 676

box on page one for details about reviewing the documents and submitting comments.

- **Attend a public meeting January 13, 2009 from 7-9 p.m. at Mountain Gear’s Corporate Office, 6021 East Mansfield in the Spokane Valley. Please park directly in front of the office or in the lot at the intersection of Mansfield and North Dickey Road.** An overview of the Agreed Order will be presented along with a question and answer session.

## Site Background

The property covers about 130 acres that was used as a railyard for nearly 100 years. BNSF Parkwater was the main facility for the Northern Pacific Railroad in the early 1900s until the roadhouse was torn down in 1959.

Current operations include fueling, intermodal operations, and switching of rail cars. Historical operations also included maintenance. Underground tanks containing diesel, waste oil, and possibly solvents were housed on-site to support daily operations. Petroleum underground storage tanks have since been removed. In 2004, some of the fueling operations at BNSF Parkwater were moved to a new facility in Hauser, Idaho. Currently, BNSF Parkwater serves as a support fueling facility to the Hauser facility when there is high demand.



Looking West from Fancher Road toward the Site

In 1990 an underground storage tank containing petroleum was being removed and a petroleum release was discovered. Ecology conducted an initial investigation in January of 1991 to evaluate the reported release. Since discovery of the release, BNSF conducted limited investigations and independently cleaned up some contamination.

In January 1996, the Spokane County Health District completed a Site Hazard Assessment of the property. The site ranked a three on the Hazardous Sites List. The Hazardous Sites List is a record of contaminated sites throughout the state that are ranked on a scale of one to five. One represents the greatest potential threat to human health and the environment; five represents the least potential threat. The site ranked a three because of the amount of petroleum contamination in soil and the potential for groundwater and aquifer contamination.

Companies responsible for contamination at a site have an opportunity to pursue cleanup through Ecology’s Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP). If Ecology determines the VCP program is not an appropriate avenue for the cleanup, it becomes part of Ecology’s formal cleanup process. The Agreed Order between BNSF and Ecology at this site begins the formal cleanup process.

## Why This Cleanup Matters

- Cleanup protects the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer that provides drinking water to more than 500,000 residents.
- Cleanup reduces exposure pathways.
- Cleanup protects human health and the environment.

## What Happens Next?

Ecology will review and respond to all comments received by February 10, 2009. After comments are considered, Ecology may modify the Agreed Order, if appropriate. Once the Agreed Order is final, the remedial investigation/feasibility study will proceed. As the cleanup moves forward and new documents are developed, you will be notified about opportunities to comment.

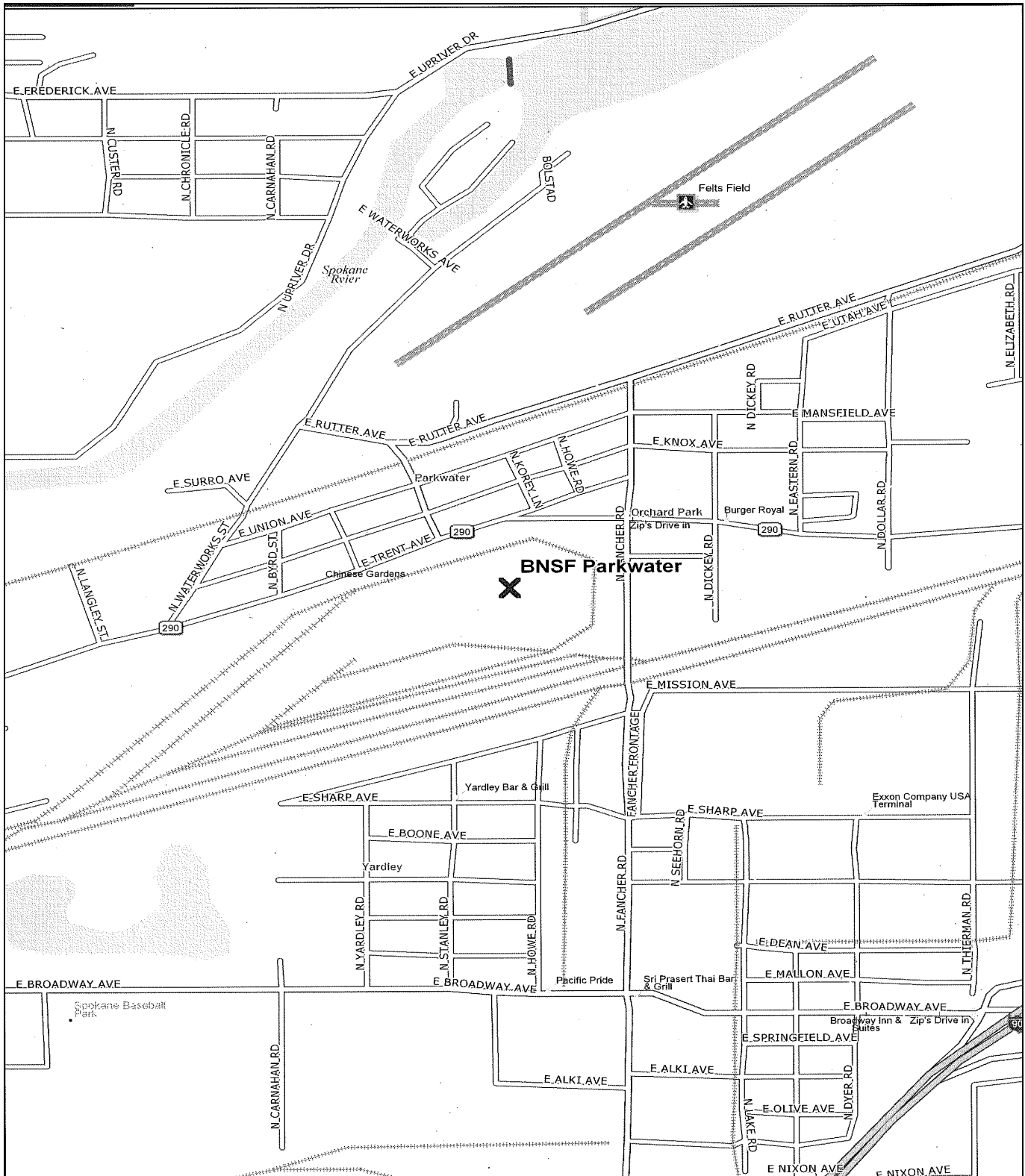


Figure 1

If you need this publication in an alternative format, call Carol Bergin at 509/329-3546. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with speech disability call 877-833-6341