

Consent Decree for Cleanup and SEPA Determination Available for Public Review and Comment

Public Comment Invited

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) would like your comments on the proposed Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) for the BNSF D Street Pipeline site on East D Street in Tacoma. BNSF Railway Company (BNSF), City of Tacoma, Washington State Department of Transportation, Home Electric Company, and 1815 East D Street LLC are the potentially liable persons (PLPs) for this site. As part of the Consent Decree (legal agreement), they will

- Dig up and dispose of polluted soils.
- Install groundwater monitoring wells to measure pollutant levels.
- Limit development or other activities that might interfere with the cleanup.

Cleanup of contaminated soils and groundwater must meet state standards under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), Chapter 70.105D RCW.

The box to the right has information about where to view a copy of the cleanup documents and how to submit comments. The following documents are available:

- Consent Decree.
- Draft Cleanup Action Plan (CAP).
- Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) – the report that the CAP is based on.
- State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) determination – Ecology has determined that this project is unlikely to negatively impact the environment or surrounding community.

Please submit your comments May 22 through June 23, 2008.

Cleanup Action Plan

The draft CAP describes *future* cleanup plans. Ecology is asking the PLPs to complete the cleanup by taking three major cleanup actions:

Comments Accepted

May 22 through June 23, 2008

Submit Comments and Technical Questions to:

Marv Coleman, Site Manager
WA Department of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program, SWRO
P.O. Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
Phone: (360) 407-6259
E-mail: mcol461@ecy.wa.gov

Public Involvement Contact:

Hannah Aoyagi
Phone: (360) 407- 6790
E-mail: haoy461@ecy.wa.gov

DOCUMENT REVIEW LOCATIONS

Tacoma Public Library

1102 Tacoma Avenue
Tacoma, WA 98402
Phone: (253) 591-5666

Citizens for a Healthy Bay

917 Pacific Avenue, Suite 100
Tacoma, WA 98402
Phone: (253) 383-2429

WA Department of Ecology Southwest Regional Office

300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

By appointment only:
Contact Debbie Nelson,
dene461@ecy.wa.gov or
(360) 407-6365

Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Web site

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/BNSF_oil_pipeline/BNSF_oil_pipeline_hp.htm

Facility Site ID #: 2923141

BNSF D Street Pipeline

1. The PLPs will dig up about 36,000 cubic feet of petroleum-polluted soils from areas that are accessible.
2. Ecology expects remaining pollution to break down through natural processes. The PLPs will monitor groundwater to make sure it meets state standards for monitored natural attenuation.
3. The PLPs will also make sure that future development or other activities will not interfere with cleanup actions. Future owners would be notified, and not allowed to install drinking water wells on the property.

Ecology will oversee all cleanup work and ensure that state cleanup standards are met.



Petroleum Pollution

Petroleum contains many chemicals that can harm the environment and human health. These chemicals can get into soil, groundwater, or surface water through spills or leaks.

One of the most important ways to keep our waterways from being polluted is to clean up nearby sites like this one.

What can you do?

Do your part by keeping our streets and storm drains free of petroleum.

- Fix your car's oil leaks.
- Properly dispose of oil, pesticides, and other chemicals, rather than dumping them down a storm drain.

Everything that goes onto our streets and into storm drains, ends up in our waterways!



Protecting Puget Sound

This cleanup is part of Governor Gregoire's effort to help protect and restore Puget Sound. The BNSF D Street Pipeline site runs along the east shore of the Thea Foss Waterway, which is connected to Puget Sound.

Cleaning up the land around the Thea Foss is an important step in making this waterway safer and healthier.

Site Background

The half mile long BNSF D Street Pipeline site runs along East D Street, from East 21st, north to East 15th (map on page 3). The pipeline runs through property owned and operated by the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT), Nichols Trucking, City of Tacoma, 1815 D Street LLC, and Supervalu Holdings. This land is all zoned for commercial or industrial use.

BNSF installed the 6-inch steel pipeline in the 1900s. The pipeline connected oil storage tanks on two properties (now owned by JM Martinac Company and BNSF Tacoma Rail Yard).

During recent excavation work, the City of Tacoma reported to Ecology that

- Parts of the pipeline were damaged and have released petroleum products into the soil and groundwater.
- Tar-like, oily globules were found in the Thea Foss Waterway during low tide, near the mouth of the drain system that discharges stormwater into the waterway.
- Petroleum pollution appears to have traveled into the Thea Foss along the stormwater line.

Petroleum pollution has also been found on the DOT and Supervalu properties, and in soil and groundwater at the intersection of East D and

BNSF D Street Pipeline

East 19th streets. Other sources of pollution may include underground storage tanks on the 1815 D Street LLC property and historic fill.

Between 2004 and 2005, BNSF and other PLPs took some **interim actions** – partial cleanup actions – to begin cleaning up the site. These interim actions were done before a Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) was written.

What Happens Next?

Ecology will consider public comment when finalizing the CAP. Once the consent decree is finalized, BNSF will begin the final cleanup. If major changes to the consent decree are needed,

the documents will be available for further public review and comment.

Why This Cleanup Matters

This cleanup will protect human health and the environment by limiting exposure to petroleum pollution. It will also prevent further pollution from entering the Thea Foss Waterway, and help improve the overall health of Puget Sound.

Below: Site map for the BNSF D Street Pipeline site (approximate area is outlined in the red box)



