



December 18, 2006

Louise Bardy
Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

**RE: Weekly Progress Report for Week Ending December 18, 2006
BNSF Skykomish Levee Zone Interim Action for Cleanup**

Dear Louise:

This weekly progress report is submitted on behalf of BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) per Agreed Order No. DE 3279 for the week ending December 15, 2006 and provides:

- A list of activities that have taken place during the week
- Detailed descriptions of any deviations from the Order and project plans
- Descriptions of all deviations from the schedule and any planned deviations in the upcoming week, and plans for recovering lost time and maintaining compliance with the schedule.

Activities

- Soil Handling:
 - Trains were received and loaded with excavated materials for off-site disposal four out of six days due to adverse weather conditions and closure of the main railroad line due to land slides.
- Restoration:
 - Plumbing work was completed at the all five houses.
 - Septic drain fields were installed at the Moore and Mitchell houses. Work continues on the others.
 - Steel beams were removed from all of the houses, and interior repairs were completed. Structural repairs are in progress at the Teacherage and D.B. Davis is awaiting approval from the school board to complete dry rot repairs.

- The Mackner, Moore and Mitchell west houses were cleaned in preparation for the return of residents.
- Heaters and dehumidifiers were operated in the houses 24-hours a day.
- We are awaiting hook up of electrical and phone connections by Potelco and Verizon, respectively. Regional power outages due to adverse weather conditions are expected to delay hook ups and Labor and Industries inspections of electrical connections.
- RETEC met with Wilder Construction, their levee retaining wall design engineers (Melbor-Pita) and the Town to discuss levee retaining wall design issues. Based on direction provided at the meeting, Melbor-Pita is completing the retaining wall design. The crest of levee averages 6-8 feet above ground surface. It performed very well during the November flood. It will be determined within the next week if the design is near complete to allow placement of the bottom course of blocks prior to Christmas. If the Town, RETEC and the designers determine there are too many design hurdles remaining (e.g., appearance of stairs) , then wall construction can not begin soon and we will schedule additional fill to be placed so that the levee width is increased for the winter.
- Monitoring:
 - Noise monitoring was performed at the school and railyard. Permission was requested and received from Ecology to discontinue noise monitoring starting Friday, Dec. 22.
- Document Preparation and Reporting:
 - Weekly progress report submitted to Ecology on December 11.
 - Submitted notification of noncompliance with stockpile runoff discharge limits (high pH) to Ecology.
 - Submitted NDPEs DMR and DMR for stockpile runoff to Ecology.
- Dewatering and Water Treatment:
 - The water treatment system on the railyard was operated Thursday and Friday to treat stockpile runoff. The system was operated in recirculation mode and water was treated with muratic acid to lower the pH prior to discharge. It was not possible to collect and analyze (within holding time requirements) a discharge sample for laboratory analysis due to road and analytical laboratory closures. Some water was held in the discharge tank to allow sampling next week.

- Meetings and Conference Calls
 - Weekly construction meeting held in Skykomish between Wilder and RETEC, Wednesday, December 13 at 10:00 am
 - DCAP discussion meeting with Ecology at 9:30 am at Ecology's NWRO on December 14.
 - EIS discussion meeting with Ecology at 10:30 am at RETEC's Seattle office on December 15

Activities scheduled for the week of December 18 include:

- Continue loading and transporting materials off-site for disposal as trains are available
- Schedule electrical and telephone hook-ups as soon as possible.
- Clean the remaining two houses: Teacherage and Mitchell east.
- Install drain field at Mackner house and septic tank at the Teacherage.
- Complete basement slab at the Mitchell west house and parking slab at the Mackner house.
- Begin work on retaining wall if design has been completed and it is determined that it can be completed this winter. If not, the levee will be fortified per discussions with Town.
- Continue operating heaters and dehumidifiers in the temporarily relocated houses
- Weekly construction meeting in Skykomish between RETEC and Wilder – Tuesday December 19
- Continue noise monitoring through Thursday, Dec. 21. Argus Pacific will dismantle noise monitors and weather station on Friday, Dec. 22.
- Continue discharge monitoring required by Exhibit J to the Agreed Order. Submit DMRs required by NPDES permit and Exhibit J of the Agreed Order.
- Continue preparation of contingency plan to transport material off site for disposal by March 30, 2007 as necessary based on predicted shipment rate.

Deviations

There are no deviations from the Order and project plans to report.

Ms. Bardy
December 18, 2006
Page 4

Schedule

BNSF will request an extension of the December 9¹ deadline to have “Temporarily relocated homes ready for occupancy” and the December 23 deadline to “Complete moving residents back into houses”. Unfortunately, due to adverse weather and related power outages and road closures, it will not be possible to meet the specified deadlines. Potelco can not at this time guarantee to have power connections made by the end of the year. Therefore, BNSF will request extension of the deadline to have houses ready for occupancy to January 6, and the deadline for having residents moved back in to January 12. Our ability to meet this schedule is dependent on Potelco and Verizon, and the Labor & Industries inspection of the power connections. Please note, inspections are only performed on Wednesdays.

Sincerely,

The RETEC Group, Inc.



Halah M. Voges, P.E.
Senior Program Manager

cc: Susan Lee – Ecology
Angie Thomson, Penny Mabie, Hillary Johnson – Enviroissues
Bruce Sheppard – BNSF
Chris Yates, Clint Stanovsky – Town of Skykomish
Craig Trueblood – PG&E
Daryl Petrarca – AdaPT
David Carson – Bell & Ingram, P.S.
Desiree Gould – Skykomish School Superintendent
Gary West – Skykomish Resident
John Robinson – US Forest Service
Michael Moore – Skykomish Environmental Coalition
Ron Timm – Ecology
Tom Bean – King County
Mike Byers, Steve Howard, Dan Berlin, Joyce Sheldon, Denell Warren, File BN050-19390 – RETEC

¹ On December 8, 2006, BNSF requested extension of the December 9 deadline to December 18 8, 2006, but did not receive a response from Ecology.