



Welcome to the Skykomish Scoop!



Whistling Post preparation for relocation



Construction of a temporary railroad crossing

This newsletter keeps you informed about cleanup and construction activities in Skykomish. During the summer, BNSF and Ecology will be busy conducting cleanup work along Railroad Avenue. See inside for details on our progress and what else is scheduled for 2008. Content for this edition of the newsletter is provided by BNSF and Ecology.

Construction update

BNSF selected Strider Construction as the contractor for cleanup work in 2008. In June, Strider worked with building movers, Nickel Brothers, to temporarily relocate the Depot, McEvoy House and Whistling Post Tavern. Strider is also working with General Construction to install the hydraulic control and containment (HCC) system along Railroad Avenue, which will control and treat groundwater flowing off the railyard. Since early June, crews have:

- Relocated the Depot, McEvoy House and Whistling Post to allow excavation on those properties
- Installed a water line bypass and constructed a water treatment facility on the railyard
- Constructed a temporary construction railroad crossing at the east end of Railroad Avenue and a temporary vehicle and pedestrian railroad crossing at the west end of Railroad Avenue
- Installed fencing, signage, pedestrian walkways, and traffic lights around the excavation area for safety and mobility
- Excavated parts of Railroad Avenue and started driving sheet pile in preparation for the HCC system (see article inside for more information on the HCC system)

Building relocation

Strider and Nickel Brothers began preparing the Depot, McEvoy House and Whistling Post for relocation in the middle of June. Crews dug a trench around each building, inserted steel beams under the buildings and raised them to sit on stilts. On June 19, the Depot was relocated to a temporary location at the east end of town along the railyard. The McEvoy House was moved to its temporary location next to the Depot on June 22. The Whistling Post moved a short distance to the west on June 25, to a temporary location on the same property. The buildings will be returned to their original locations after excavation work is complete.

Top left: The Depot was temporarily relocated to the east end of Railroad Avenue.

Top right: Crews move the Whistling Post approximately 100 feet to the west.

Bottom: The McEvoy House was transported along Railroad Avenue to its temporary location.



What is a hydraulic control and containment (HCC) system?

The HCC system is an important part of the overall cleanup in Skykomish. This underground barrier will ensure that petroleum product and contaminated groundwater do not leave the BNSF railyard. The system will collect, treat and reinject groundwater into the ground on the railyard to help flush petroleum contamination toward the barrier for another cycle of collection and treatment.

The HCC system will be installed underground along the north side of the railyard. Monitoring wells will be used to ensure cleanup levels are met. Installation of the HCC system began the week of June 30 as crews excavated the alignment and drove sheet piles into the ground using a vibrating hydraulic hammer. The maximum depth of excavation will be 20 feet below the existing grade.

Sheet pile driving and HCC system installation are expected to continue through August 2008.



View of sheet pile installation at the east end of the construction area.

Railroad safety

The 5th Street railroad crossing is temporarily closed to vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Crews closed the crossing on June 23 and opened a temporary crossing to the west, near the Skykomish School. This crossing is open daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. and does not have signal arms or warning bells. Pedestrians and drivers are asked to pay attention, look both ways and proceed with caution when using the temporary crossing. The 5th Street railroad crossing will re-open once excavation and HCC system installation are completed in this area.



The temporary traffic and pedestrian crossing is located near the Skykomish School.

What is happening next?

Driving sheet piles is a substantial part of the work to install the HCC system along the railyard. After initial testing at the east end of the construction zone along Railroad Avenue, sheet pile driving began at the west end of town near the Skykomish School. Sheet pile work will continue along the railyard this summer. The contractor will excavate and backfill as the work progresses east.

In addition to the sheet pile work, crews will excavate parts of Railroad Avenue and nearby areas, remove the contaminated soil and backfill with clean soil. When crews are finished backfilling the contaminated areas, they will return the Depot, McEvoy House, and Whistling Post to their original locations.

Visit the Skykomish Cleanup Web site for more schedule updates: www.skykomishcleanup.com.

Questions or Concerns?

If you have questions about cleanup plans or general concerns, you can reach BNSF and Ecology in a number of ways:

- Call the Skykomish Call Line: 800-228-1849
- Visit the Skykomish Cleanup Web site:
www.skykomishcleanup.com
- Send an e-mail with your question or concern to
info@skykomishcleanup.com
- Sign up for Skykomish Cleanup e-mail alerts by sending an e-mail to info@skykomishcleanup.com
- Contact Ecology: 425-649-4486 or
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/bnsf_sky/bnsf_sky.html



Skykomish Scoop

101 Stewart Street, Suite 1101
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We're open during construction!

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Sky Deli & Liquor
SkyRiver Inn
Whistling Post Food & Spirits
Skykomish Community Church
Post Office
Public Library
Town Hall



Skykomish is Open

Businesses in town are open during construction activities.

For more information about the environmental cleanup in Skykomish, please visit or call:

www.skykomishcleanup.com

1-800-228-1849