



July 31, 2006

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

**RE: Weekly Progress Report for Week Ending July 28, 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 July 28, 2006 and provides:

- A list of activities that have taken place during the week
- Detailed description of any deviations from the Order and project plans and
- Description 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**

- House Moving:
  - The Teacherage and Moore house were moved on Tuesday, July 25; the shed from the school property was moved on Wednesday, July 26. D.B. Davis demobilized from the site and Wilder initiated uplands work with demolition of house foundations. An archaeological monitor was present during this work and did not recover any artifacts. The monitor will return for the uplands excavation work.

- Cofferdam installation/fish removal

Construction of the coffer dams was completed. Bill Mavros of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) visited the site on Wednesday, July 26. One topic of discussion was the need for a fish biologist to be on site during completion of cofferdam construction and fish removal. Based on refinements made to the cofferdam construction process, it was agreed that a fisheries biologist was not necessary. RETEC personnel removed fish from the westernmost cell on Friday using an electroshocker.

- Excavation, Soil Handling and Testing:
  - Continued in-river excavation in eastern cell and collection of confirmation samples.
  - Screening of overburden materials continues. Levee overburden material continues to be transported off-site to Rabanco via rail, with daily change out of trains.
  - Test America initiated on-site analysis of soil confirmation samples.
  - RETEC posted stockpile soil data on the Quickplace website.
- Monitoring
  - Daily particulate monitoring was performed by RETEC, and Argus Pacific conducted twice weekly air monitoring for arsenic and lead, and weekly air monitoring for petroleum distillates, diesel exhaust and PAHs in accordance with the final Air and Noise Monitoring Plan.
  - An archaeological monitor was on site during demolition of house foundations.
  - Surface water quality sampling continued in accordance with the Water Quality Monitoring Plan. Turbidity measurements met the criteria established in the AO. A sheen was detected between the two cofferdams; oil absorbent pads were used to control the sheen.
  - NDPES discharge monitoring continued.
- Document Preparation and Reporting:
  - Revision of the Release Control Plan was completed and the document was submitted to Ecology.
  - An electronic copy of the O&M Manual was submitted to Ecology at your request.
  - Revisions to Chapter 11 of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) are in preparation in response to Ecology comments.
  - Internal review of the annual groundwater monitoring report is in process.
  - Preparation of shoring and recovery trench design is in process.

- Preparation of a work plan to pre-characterize uplands overburden soils (above the vertical delineation limit or VDL) is in process.
- Received email from Charlie Sundberg with King County and letter from Washington DAHP re: Effects & Mitigation Technical Memorandum for historical resources.
- Dewatering and Water Treatment: An inward gradient was achieved by pumping of water from the easternmost cell. The water treatment system operated with a flow rate of approximately 650 gpm. We are evaluating methods for increasing the residence time for oil/water separation.
- Restoration: Large woody debris was delivered to the site
- Meetings and Conference Calls
  - Weekly construction meeting in Skykomish, 10 am Tuesday, July 25
  - On-site meeting with Bill Mavros, DFW, and Tom Bean, King County, Wednesday, July 26 re: scour zone material.
  - Meeting Thursday, July 27 between Ecology, BNSF/RETEC, Town, Town's sewer system consultant and BNSF's septic system designer to discuss compatibility of replacement septic systems with Town's community sewer system.

Activities scheduled for the week of July 17 include:

- Dewatering and completion of excavation in eastern cell; backfill eastern cell.
- Continue water treatment and discharge.
- Continue to test and screen material excavated from above the VDL using mobile lab.
- Continue upland excavation where possible.
- Complete revisions to SWPPP.
- Routine Monitoring
  - Air and noise.
  - Surface water quality.
  - Archaeological/Cultural Resources.

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- In-water protection of fish.
- NPDES discharge.

### **Deviations**

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

### **Schedule**

RETEC is in the process of preparing a plan to pre-characterize upland overburden soils to minimize material handling steps and recover time in the schedule. Other measures for recovering time in the schedule may be considered once the production rate of the in-river excavation has been determined. At this time, no deviations are anticipated from the schedule in Exhibit E of the Agreed Order.

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  
Lorna Goebel, Michael Moore – Skykomish Environmental Coalition  
Mike Byers, Sarah Albano, Steve Howard, Joyce Sheldon, Denell Warren, File BN050-19390