

December 8, 2006

Halah Voges  
The RETEC Group, Inc.  
1011 SW Klickitat Way, Suite 207  
Seattle, Washington 98134-1162

**RE: WEEKLY NOISE MONITORING REPORT  
NOVEMBER 27 – DECEMBER 1, 2006  
Levee Zone Interim Action  
Skykomish, Washington**

Ms. Voges,

This document represents weekly noise monitoring data for the BNSF Skykomish levee zone interim action for the town of Skykomish, Washington conducted by Argus Pacific, Inc. (Argus Pacific) during the week of November 27 through December 1, 2006. The purpose of this report is to summarize and interpret noise monitoring data collected in the town of Skykomish during the levee zone interim action conducted by The RETEC Group (RETEC). Argus Pacific conducted monitoring in accordance with the revised BNSF Skykomish Air and Noise Monitoring Plan issued by Argus Pacific on September 19, 2006.

In addition, noise measurements were only taken on November 30, 2006 due to severe winter weather in the early part of the week and a lack of technical staff during the rest of the week.

## **WORK ACTIVITIES**

RETEC technicians collected noise measurements on November 30, 2006. During sampling, workers continued with foundation work for transported houses and loaders continued loading impacted materials from railyard stockpiles into railcars.

## **SAMPLING METHODOLOGY**

All samples were collected in accordance with the methods specified in the BNSF Skykomish Air and Noise Monitoring Plan. Please refer to this Plan for specific details on sampling methodology.

Community noise monitoring was conducted at the northwest corner of the railyard (just north of railroad tracks on the corner of Railroad Avenue and North 5<sup>th</sup> Street), and at the northeast corner of the schoolyard, immediately adjacent to the levee zone. RETEC technicians collected community noise measurements on November 30, 2006. Approximate noise sample locations are indicated on the attached Noise Monitoring Sample Locations Plan.

## SAMPLING RESULTS

The average noise levels recorded on November 30, 2006 were below the project action limit for community noise in the areas monitored. Average and maximum noise levels (measured in decibels) along with the monitoring plan limits can be found in the tables below.

### COMMUNITY NOISE MONITORING – RAILYARD

DATE OF MONITORING	AVERAGE NOISE LEVEL	MAXIMUM NOISE LEVEL	MONITORING PLAN LIMIT
November 30, 2006	78.8 dB	112.4 dB	85 dB

### COMMUNITY NOISE MONITORING – NE SCHOOLYARD

DATE OF MONITORING	AVERAGE NOISE LEVEL	MAXIMUM NOISE LEVEL	MONITORING PLAN LIMIT
November 30, 2006	63.6 dB	96.5 dB	80 dB

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on this data, the foundation work in the levee zone and the loading of impacted materials from the railyard stockpiles into railcars conducted on November 30, 2006 did not produce average noise levels above the project action limit for community noise in the areas monitored. Maximum noise levels were recorded above the project action level at both locations; however, these exceedances were for extremely short durations and occurred when BNSF trains passed through the town and during some heavy equipment operations.

Although the elevated noise limits are above the project action limit, they do not exceed the King County Noise Code or the Skykomish Municipal Noise Code, which allow for any source of construction noise that is of short duration to be increased by:

- 5 dB(A) for a total of fifteen minutes in any one-hour period; or
- 10 dB(A) for a total of five minutes in any one-hour period; or
- 15 dB(A) for a total of one and one-half minutes in any one-hour period.

All readings greater than 100 dB for the railyard and schoolyard monitoring stations were instantaneous readings that occurred while a train passed through town. Since train noise is exempt from the applicable noise codes, no exceedances of County or Municipal Code were recorded at either location during the monitoring period.

We appreciate this opportunity to be of service to you. Please contact us at (206) 285-3373 if you have questions regarding this report, or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Reviewed by,

Scott Rinear  
Industrial Hygienist

Elisabeth Black, CIH  
Argus Pacific, Inc.

***Attachments:***

Noise Monitoring Sample Locations Plan (11/30/06)

Larson Davis 820 Noise Data – Railyard (11/30/06)

Larson Davis 820 Noise Data – Northeast Schoolyard (11/30/06)