



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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October 18, 2007

RE: Notice of Availability -Final Environmental Impact Statement for a MTCA Cleanup Action at the BNSF Former Maintenance and Fueling Facility, Skykomish, Washington

This Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) evaluates significant environmental impacts associated with action for cleaning up contamination at the Former Fueling and Maintenance Facility in Skykomish, Washington (BNSF Skykomish Site). The cleanup of the remaining contamination is described in the Cleanup Action Plan. This final EIS was prepared after the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) carefully considered public comments received on the 2003 Draft EIS, and the 2007 Supplemental EIS, as well as other documents available for review during the June 12 – July 14, 2007 comment period.

The EIS was prepared by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) with the assistance of ENSR. Changes to the draft Supplemental EIS were made based on Ecology review of comments received and are reflected in this EIS. The Response to Comments Summary contains original comment letters and Ecology's response to comments received. Additionally, the Summary responds to, and contains, comment letters received regarding the 2003 Draft EIS. The 2007 public review documents included the draft Supplemental EIS, draft Cleanup Action Plan, draft Public Participation Plan, and the draft Consent Decree for the remainder of the site cleanup.

The former fueling and maintenance facility is currently owned and operated by the BNSF Railway Company. Historical activities since the facility opened in the late 1890s included refueling and maintaining locomotives and operating an electrical substation for electric engines. Some of these activities released contaminants to the surrounding environment. BNSF is responsible for cleaning this historical contamination site, consistent with the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA). The BNSF Railroad still runs through town, but rail yard activities are limited to track maintenance and snow removal.

The fueling and maintenance operations released petroleum hydrocarbons (bunker C and diesel) that must be cleaned up. Petroleum hydrocarbons have impacted soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediment in areas throughout the site. The petroleum contamination extends from the rail yard beneath the historic district of the Town of Skykomish, into the Former Channel of Maloney Creek, and to the edge of the area that was cleaned during the 2006 Levee Zone Interim Action and east to the Skykomish River Bridge. The cleanup area includes temporary relocation of numerous residences and businesses.

A Remedial Investigation Report and a Supplemental Remedial Investigation Report and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) were prepared by BNSF and accepted by Ecology in 2005 as having enough information to make cleanup decisions for this site. The Draft Cleanup Action Plan for the entire site was written by Ecology and meets the requirements of MTCA. Action may begin on the site after the Consent Decree is entered and filed with the King County Superior Court.

The overall remedial objective of the cleanup action is to protect the environment and clean up residential and public properties by removing existing petroleum contamination that underlies these properties. Ecology believes this cleanup action is the only alternative that will be permanent, achievable, and expeditious, and will meet state cleanup regulatory requirements.



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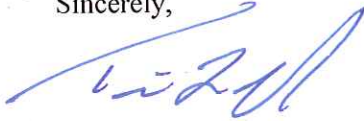
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This multi-phased cleanup will be completed by 2012, and is intended to be the final cleanup action for this site that includes the remaining portions of the Northwest Developed Zone, the Northeast Developed Zone, the Rail Yard Zone, the South Developed Zone, and the Former Maloney Creek Channel Zone. It includes a considerable amount of excavation, grading, and temporary relocation of people's homes and other structures. The EIS evaluates existing conditions, the significant adverse environmental impacts that would result from the alternatives and mitigation measures that would be needed for taking no action.

Some of the impacts identified include increased erosion and sedimentation, dust, odor, noise and vibration from increased traffic and construction activities, relocation of people and structures, disruptions to the operations of the school, businesses, and public services to town citizens. The EIS identifies steps to reduce these impacts on people in the town and on the environment.

We appreciate the contributions made by the public through their review and careful consideration of the draft environmental impact statements and other documents. For further information about the Final EIS, please contact Louise Bardy of Ecology at 425-649-7209, lbar461@ecy.wa.gov or at the address above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Nord', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Tim L. Nord, Manager
Land and Aquatic Lands Cleanup Section
Toxics Cleanup Program