



September 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 September 15, 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 September 15, 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

- Excavation/Backfilling, Soil Handling and Testing, Bird Control Measures and Oil Recovery:
 - Backfilling activities continued in cell 4, the upland area immediately south of cell 3. Excavation work shifted to upland area immediately south of cell 1 adjacent to the bridge.
 - Cofferdam removal was completed, and liner material that was trenched in river was removed. Additional boulders were placed in cell 1 at the request of DFW to make the shoreline appear more natural. All in-river work was completed.
 - NRC recovered oil as necessary.
 - The light plant was operated from dusk to dawn. Bird deterrent mylar remains in place.

- Screening of excavated materials continued. Excavated material and fines coming off of the screening operation continue to be transported off-site to Rabanco via rail.
- Test America continued on-site analysis of sediment/soil confirmation samples.
- RETEC posted soil sample results 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. Indoor air samples were collected from the school during the day when construction was in progress, and overnight. All constituents were non-detect. A revised Air and Noise Monitoring Plan was submitted to Ecology. A third particulate meter was ordered and will be installed at the bridge upon receipt.
 - Surface water quality sampling continued in accordance with the Water Quality Monitoring Plan. BNSF received a third temporary modification of water quality standards from Ecology on September 12 to cover removal of the cofferdam.
 - NDPES discharge monitoring continued.
- Document Preparation and Reporting:
 - BNSF received a third temporary modification of water quality standards from Ecology on September 12.
 - BNSF received a third extension of their HPA until September 15.
 - Internal review of the annual groundwater monitoring report is in process.
 - BNSF continued preparation of design drawings of the shoring wall/liner and response to the CDM memo. Ecology conditionally approved of the proposed barrier and reinforced earth wall (REW) system proposed by RETEC pending submittal of a final technical memorandum that formally addresses points raised by CDM. Ecology accepts the proposal element to overlap the vertical barrier (synthetic liner) joints by 5 feet as opposed to seam sealing. Ecology will accept a liner installation with no special physical protection measures (e.g., geofabric, sand) as long as RETEC supports this installation approach with puncture calculations and suitable liner specification.

- DMR for August was submitted to Ecology.
- Dewatering and Water Treatment: Operation of the water treatment system continued, with 100% of the water being treated originating from the uplands excavation. Adjustment of pH continues to be necessary.
- Meetings and Conference Calls
 - Weekly construction meeting in Skykomish between Wilder and RETEC, 10 am Tuesday, September 12
 - Weekly meeting in Skykomish with Ecology and RETEC, 11 am Tuesday, September 12
 - Conference call between Ecology, DFW, BNSF and RETEC on Tuesday, September 12 at 11 am to discuss water quality issues and mitigation plan

Activities scheduled for the week of September 18 include:

- Continue uplands excavation and backfilling.
- Continue water treatment and discharge.
- Continue to test and screen excavated material using mobile lab; transport materials off-site for disposal as trains and/or trucks are available.
- Recover oil as needed.
- Operate light plant from dusk until dawn.
- Routine Monitoring
 - Air and noise.
 - Surface water quality sampling four times daily until results are below water quality criteria. Thereafter surface water quality monitoring will be discontinued since in-river work has been completed.
 - Archaeological/Cultural Resources.
 - NPDES discharge.
- Community meeting in Skykomish, Wednesday, September 20, 6 – 8 pm

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Deviations

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

Schedule

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
Bill Mavros – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
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
Tom Bean – King County
Mike Byers, Sarah Albano, Steve Howard, Dan Berlin, Joyce Sheldon, Denell Warren,
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