



September 5, 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 September 1, 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 1, 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:
  - Excavation, soil confirmation sampling and backfilling activities were performed in cell 4, the upland area immediately south of cell 3.
  - Backfilling activities continued in cells 1-3 as water quality issues allowed. Cell 1 is 95% complete, cell 2 85% complete and cell 3 is 60% complete.
  - NRC recovered oil from the excavation surface in all 3 cells daily.
  - The light plant was operated from dusk to dawn. Bird deterrent mylar was relocated to upland excavation area as upper levels of the cofferdams have been dismantled.
  - 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 and truck.

- Test America continued on-site analysis of sediment/soil confirmation samples.
- RETEC posted soil/sediment sample results on the Quickplace website.
- Rock crushing operations were completed at the Town's burn dump site and the crusher was demobilized.
- 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. The air monitoring report for week 7 was submitted to Ecology.
  - Surface water quality sampling continued in accordance with the Water Quality Monitoring Plan. BNSF received a temporary modification of water quality standards from Ecology on August 29. Water quality exceedances for turbidity at the compliance point were reported to Ecology on August 30, 31 and September 1. A slight oil sheen was visible outside the cofferdam, but inside the booms, on September 1. Work was shut down to control turbidity and we have continued discussing with Wilder practical modifications to activities to lower turbidity, including ensuring that the blue aquabarrier was full. We have been notifying Wilder verbally of the turbidity conditions downstream throughout the day as we collect the samples.
  - NDPES discharge monitoring continued.
- Document Preparation and Reporting:
  - BNSF received a temporary modification of water quality standards from Ecology on August 29.
  - BNSF received an extension of their HPA until September 8. We are pursuing an extension until September 15.
  - Internal review of the annual groundwater monitoring report is in process.
  - Ecology provided comments on the shoring design memorandum on August 30. Revisions to the memo are in progress to address Ecology comments.
- Dewatering and Water Treatment: Operation of the water treatment system continued. Equipment to adjust pH was added to the system.

- Meetings and Conference Calls
  - Weekly construction meeting in Skykomish between Wilder and RETEC, 10 am Tuesday, August 29
  - Weekly meeting in Skykomish with Ecology and RETEC, 11 am Tuesday, August 29
  - School board meeting to discuss bus traffic, teacher parking and the schedule for excavation and backfilling work adjacent to/near the school, 5:00 pm, Wednesday, August 30

Activities scheduled for the week of September 5 include:

- Finish backfilling all 3 cells; initiate removal of cofferdam and liner material that was trenched in for turbidity control (as water quality measurements allow)
- Continue water treatment and discharge
- Continue to test and screen excavated material excavated using mobile lab.
- Continue upland excavation.
- Recover oil as needed
- Operate light plant from dusk until dawn
- Routine Monitoring
  - Air and noise. Move air & noise monitoring equipment from bridge to school
  - Surface water quality.
  - Archaeological/Cultural Resources.
  - In-water protection of fish.
  - NPDES discharge.

### **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.

Ms. Bardy  
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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  
Lorna Goebel, 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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