

BNSF Railway Black Tank Property Cleanup



Black tank demolition, 2006.

Comments accepted:
June 4 – July 3, 2018

Submit comments online at:
<http://cs.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=tNYGC>

Or by email or mail to:
Jeremy Schmidt, Site Manager
jeremy.schmidt@ecy.wa.gov
4601 North Monroe Street
Spokane, WA 99205

Document review locations:
Hillyard Public Library
4005 North Cook Street
Spokane, WA 99207
Phone: 509-444-5380
Hours: Tues. 12–8 p.m., Wed. – Sat.
10 a.m.–6 p.m., closed Sun. and Mon.

Ecology Eastern Regional Office
4601 North Monroe Street
Spokane, WA 99205
Phone: 509-329-3415
Hours: Weekdays 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. by
appointment, closed weekends

Website:
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=3243>

Facility Site ID: 98615712
Cleanup Site ID: 3243

Browse other Ecology public events:
<https://ecology.wa.gov/events-listing>

Proposal to remove contaminated shallow soil so freeway construction remains on schedule

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) seeks your input June 4 – July 3, 2018, on an amendment to the legal agreement (Agreed Order) with BNSF Railway and Marathon Oil, the parties responsible for cleaning up the BNSF Railway Black Tank site. The site covers roughly 18 acres in Spokane's Hillyard neighborhood at 3202 East Wellesley Avenue.

The Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) recommended that up to 15 feet of contaminated soil at each of the five surface soil contamination areas (see Figure 1, page 2) be excavated and disposed to prevent people and animals from contacting it. The RI/FS became final after the public comment period held May 22 – June 22, 2017.

To meet the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) schedule to complete the North Spokane Corridor (NSC) project to connect US Highway 395 to Interstate 90, the contaminated soil removal needs to happen in 2018, so we are proposing it be completed as an interim action before the full cleanup plan is final. The proposed soil removal is explained in further detail on page 2. We have reviewed it using the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) checklist, and determined it won't adversely affect people or the environment.

Ecology, BNSF, Marathon, and WSDOT are committed to working together to protect people and the environment, incorporate public input about site cleanup, and keep the NSC freeway construction on schedule.

Shallow soil excavation, disposal, and backfilling

The proposed interim cleanup action is to excavate up to 15 feet of soil at each of the five surface soil contamination areas (see Figure 1) to prevent people and animals from contacting it. Contaminated soil deeper than 15 feet will be addressed as part of the long-term cleanup of contaminated groundwater.

Contaminated soil will be transported off-site for disposal at a landfill permitted to accept the waste. Excavation may extend deeper if more contamination is encountered and can be safely removed without resorting to shoring or other measures. The edges of the excavated areas will be increased if sampling indicates that it is necessary to meet cleanup standards.

All excavations will be backfilled to their original grade and compacted with clean soil to meet WSDOT and BNSF specifications. In addition to removing contaminated soil in the five areas, remaining underground piping and infrastructure throughout the site will be removed and disposed at an appropriate off-site landfill.

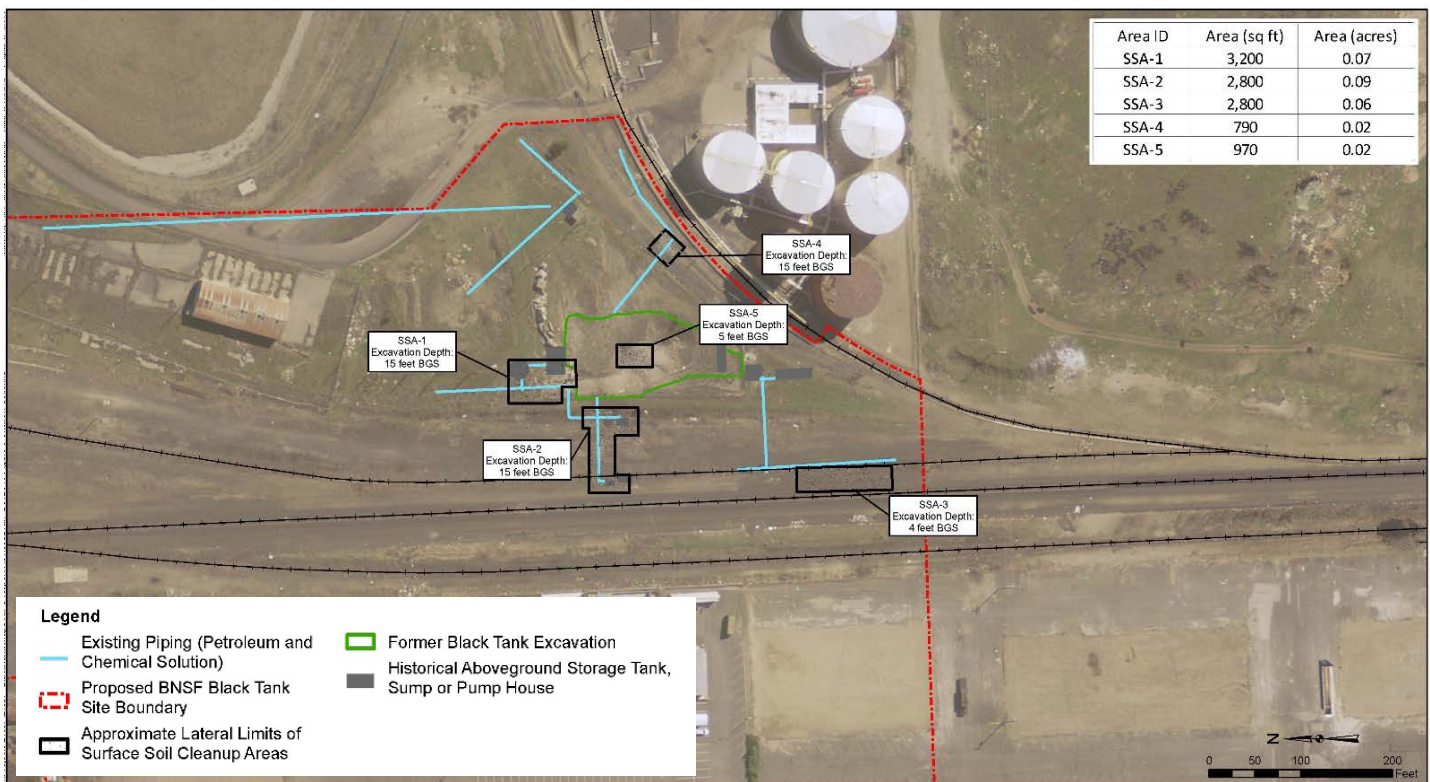


Figure 1. Site diagram showing the contaminated shallow soil zones to be excavated. *Courtesy of ERM.*

Upon successful completion of the work, BNSF and Marathon will draft a completion report. The report will include the following information:

- A summary of the work completed
- Any deviations from the work plan
- Chemical analytical data documenting that backfill materials were not contaminated
- Performance and confirmation analytical data from samples taken within the excavations
- Disposal documentation for all materials taken off site

Documents available for your review and comment

You may review the following draft documents online or at the document repositories listed on page 1:

- Amended Agreed Order, which includes a scope of work and schedule for the soil removal
- SEPA checklist and our determination that the soil removal will not adversely affect people or the environment (Determination of Non-significance)

Site history and contamination issues

The site housed a 50-foot-diameter, above-ground black tank that stored petroleum products, primarily the thick, heavy oil known as bunker C for fueling trains. Later, the black tank stored asphaltic oil and other petroleum-based mixtures that were used by BNSF's tenants. Residual petroleum products were stored until 2006 when BNSF removed the tank and 10,270 tons of contaminated soil.

The site also had an above-ground red tank that was used to store and transfer diesel. The diesel was used as fuel and to thin bunker C so it could be pumped into trains.

Today, there are five areas of soil contamination ranging from the surface to 15 feet underground (see Figure 1, page 2), which is what this proposed interim cleanup action addresses. From 15 feet underground to the water table, a 9,150-square-foot area of soil is contaminated. This is the pathway through which the petroleum traveled from the surface to groundwater. As a result, an approximate 7-acre plume of petroleum is on groundwater about 170 feet underground.

Your drinking water is safe

The site is directly over the Hillyard Trough portion of the Spokane-Valley Rathdrum-Prairie Aquifer. The aquifer provides drinking water to nearly 500,000 residents in the Spokane area.

Because the contamination is a heavy oil, it is staying on top of groundwater with very little mixing occurring. Many groundwater monitoring wells are at the site, and we are confident that drinking water is not affected by the contamination at this time. Monitoring will continue until the cleanup process is complete.

Next steps

Ecology will review and respond to the comments we receive during the public review period. We will publish our responses online and send them to the people who commented.

If public comments elicit any substantial changes to the amended legal agreement or the SEPA documents, we will hold another comment period. If not, they will become final, and BNSF and Marathon will plan and complete the shallow soil excavation.



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Toxics Cleanup Program
4601 North Monroe Street
Spokane, WA 99205-1295

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Ecology seeks public comment on proposal to remove contaminated shallow soil at BNSF Railway Black Tank Property



Public comment period

June 4 – July 3, 2018

Black Tank website:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=3243>

Request a public meeting

Erika Bronson

509-329-3546

erika.bronson@ecy.wa.gov

We will hold a public meeting if 10 people request one.

Special accommodations

To request materials in a format for the visually impaired, visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>, call Ecology at 360-407-7170, Relay Service 711, or TTY 877-833-6341.