

EOC Spot Report: Region 8
BNSF Somers Seep Report of Sheen on Flathead Lake
Somers, Montana
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Report as of 05/04/2017 13:30 pm MST

Overview: On Wednesday, May 3, 2017, at 3:25 pm MST, BNSF Railway reported a sheen on the Flat Head Lake, in Somers, Montana through the National Response Center (#1177348). BNSF was notified of the sheen by a local resident. Once notified, BNSF deployed an environmental team to assess the situation. The seepage is just outside the BNSF Somers Former Rail Tie Superfund Site that has known ground water and sediment contamination from operations where creosote was used to coat rail ties. The ground water tables may be high from above average snowfall/melt in the area, therefore posing a threat of an interaction of ground and surface water. BNSF believes the sheen could be biological, however EPA is deploying due to the close proximity to the Superfund Site and known contamination in the area.

Operations: BNSF has deployed boom to contain the sheen, and they are using sorbent pads to collect sheen near the shore. BNSF has taken samples of the sheen, and we are awaiting results (unknown turn-around time). The EPA OSC will be prepared to conduct additional sampling tomorrow if needed.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: BNSF is the only response entity on-site at this time. EPA has contacted the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

EPA Actions: An EPA On Scene Coordinator is being deployed this evening and will be on-site Friday, May 5, 2017. This report serves as an Incident Briefing document and next report is expected on Friday, May 5, 2017, or as conditions warrant.

The Regional EOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed.

Updates and additional information including photos will be provided at the following website:
<http://www.response.epa.gov/bnsfsomersseep>