



## **NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO APPLY HERBICIDES ON ALASKA RAILROAD PROPERTY AND ALONG RIGHT-OF-WAY**

The Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) has applied to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) for a permit to apply herbicides within ARRC operating rail yards and along ARRC's right-of-way.

The following project is proposed for the entire railbelt and is being reviewed for consistency with the Alaska Coastal Management Program and other appropriate regulatory programs. ADEC requests comments from the public regarding the project's consistency with affected local coastal district management programs, and other appropriate regulatory programs. To be considered, written comments must be submitted to the ADEC Pesticide Program at the address noted below, and must be received on or before August 14, 2006, which is 60 days after this first public notice.

**PROJECT NAME:** Alaska Railroad Corporation Integrated Vegetation Management Program

### **PROJECT SUMMARY AND LOCATION:**

Incorporate general use herbicides Razor Pro®, (EPA Reg number 228-366) with active ingredient Glyphosate, and Solution Water Soluble (EPA Reg number 228-260) with active ingredient 2,4-D, restricted use herbicide Oust® Extra (EPA Reg number 352-622) with active ingredients Sulfometuron methyl and Metsulfuron methyl, along with Alenza™ Drift Retardant into an integrated plan to control vegetation within rail yards and along the mainline, branch, spur, and siding track rights-of-way from Seward, north to Whittier, Portage, Anchorage, Palmer, Wasilla, Houston, Willow, Talkeetna, Cantwell, Denali, Healy, Nenana, Fairbanks, North Pole, Eielson, and points in between along the railbelt. Proposed herbicide application is via a licensed contractor using low-volume, low-pressure ground-directed attachments (no aerial spraying), along with spot application via hand-operated pump spray tools. Herbicide application would take place in spring or fall of 2006 and 2007. Anticipated environmental impact is minimal by using DEC- and EPA registered herbicides and industry standard application methods.

**PROJECT NEED:** Safety is the driving reason for including herbicides into an existing non-chemical vegetation management program that is not effective in controlling all weeds between rails and to the ends of cross ties. Vegetation damage to track infrastructure raises the risk of derailment. Plant growth in yards and along tracks also increases the risk of slip, trip and fall injuries to railroad employees. The Federal Railroad Administration requires railroads to keep tracks free of weeds. The FRA has repeatedly fined ARRC for uncontrolled vegetation, which is a safety violation.

### **PERMIT APPLICANT:**

Alaska Railroad Corporation

### **MAILING ADDRESS:**

P.O. Box 107500  
Anchorage, AK 99510

### **PHYSICAL ADDRESS:**

327 Ship Creek Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501

A copy of the application is available upon request. The Department will hold a public hearing on the application if 50 or more residents in an affected area, or the governing body of an affected municipality, make a request within 30 days after first publication of this notice (June 14) to the ADEC office noted below. The Alaska Railroad is scheduling several public hearings, to be announced in this newspaper in the near future. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, or special modifications to participate in this review may contact the number below.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Department of Environmental Conservation  
Pesticide Program  
555 Cordova Street  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Contact: Sandra M. Woods  
Phone: (907) 269-7802  
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