

# 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 between Seward and Indian. The project is being reviewed by the appropriate regulatory programs.

**PROJECT NAME:** Alaska Railroad Corp. Integrated Vegetation Management Program

**PROJECT SUMMARY AND LOCATION:** Incorporate general-use water-safe herbicide AquaMaster®, EPA Reg number 524-343 with active ingredient Glyphosate, 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 Portage, Girdwood and Indian. 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 summer of 2010. Anticipated environmental impact is minimal by using ADEC- 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 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

**ADDRESS:** PO Box 107500, Anchorage, AK 99510 / 327 Ship Creek Ave., Anchorage

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** The following ADEC-sponsored public hearings are scheduled to inform and involve Alaska's citizens in this important issue. Hearings will be held **4:30 to 6:30 p.m.** and will start with a brief presentation, followed by public comment.

- **WHITTIER:** Monday, **Aug. 10** - City Chambers, P-12 Bldg, Whittier St. & Glacier Ave.
- **SEWARD:** Tuesday, **Aug. 11** - Seward Marine Center /Rae Bldg, 125 3rd Ave.
- **ANCHORAGE:** Wednesday, **Aug. 12** - Marriott Downtown Hotel, 7th Ave. & "I" St.
- **PRE-HEARING Q & A:** Each hearing will be preceded by a 30-minute question and answer session from 4:00 to 4:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** In addition to the public hearings, **written comments** must be submitted to ADEC at the following address:

Stephanie Stewart, Administrative Assistant  
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation • Pesticide Program  
555 Cordova Street • Anchorage, AK 99501  
Phone: (907) 269-7644 • Fax: (907) 269-7654 •  
Email: Stephanie.Stewart@alaska.gov

**DEADLINE:** Written comments must be received by **September 15, 2009**, which is 60 days after publication of the first public notice.