



Town Hall Agenda

April 14, 2026

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Park County Senior Center

206 S. Main Street

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84621591214?pwd=U59mkTzX5lQsb3C1jliYjEdY5asYoz.1>

Meeting ID: 846 2159 1214

Passcode: 628426

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Pledge of Allegiance

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

4. Scheduled Public Comment

A. Montana Department of Environmental Quality Update on Burlington Northern Livingston Shop Complex

5. Intermission

6. Public Comment

Individuals are reminded that public comments should be limited to item over which the City Commission has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power (MCA 2-3-202)

7. City Commission Comments

8. Adjournment

Notice

- **Public Comment:** The public can speak about an item on the agenda during discussion of that item by coming up to the table or podium, signing-in, and then waiting to be recognized by the Chair. Individuals are reminded that public comments should be limited to items over which the City Commission has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power (MCA 2-3-202).

The Chair shall have the discretion to solicit comments from the public in the following order: (1) residents of the City, (2) business owners or operators in the City, (3) other organizations conducting operations in the City, and (4) residents, businesses or organizations from outside the City. The Chair may limit each person's comment period to not less than three (3) minutes.

- **Meeting Recording:** An audio and/or video recording of the meeting, or any portion thereof, may be purchased by contacting the City Clerk. The City does not warrant the audio and/or video recording as to content, quality, or clarity.
- **Special Accommodation:** If you need special accommodations to attend or participate in City meetings, please contact the City Clerk at least 24 hours in advance of the specific meeting you are planning on attending.

File Attachments for Item:

A. Montana Department of Environmental Quality Update on Burlington Northern Livingston Shop Complex

BURLINGTON NORTHERN LIVINGSTON SHOP COMPLEX

April 2026 Update

The Burlington Northern Livingston Shop Complex (Facility) includes an active rail yard used for repair and maintenance and the surrounding area where contaminants have come to be located.

Previous rail yard operations resulted in soil and groundwater contamination, including chlorinated solvents, petroleum, lead, asbestos, and other compounds released to the environment. Investigation and cleanup occur under Montana’s Comprehensive Environmental Cleanup and Responsibility Act, also known as State Superfund.

In September 2001, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Facility, which requires cleanup actions and additional investigations. BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) has implemented multiple ongoing cleanup actions and continues to investigate contamination, including monitoring groundwater.

Although contaminated groundwater remains at the Facility, it does not currently impact the City of Livingston’s current public water supply wells.

Cleanup Status

Treating and Removing Solvents from Soil and Groundwater

In 2015, BNSF installed air sparge and soil vapor extraction (AS/SVE) systems to remove chlorinated solvents from soil and alluvial groundwater approximately 1,000 feet northeast of the electric and locomotive shops. This system is known as the Curtain Wall System. BNSF expanded the system in 2017 and again in 2019. BNSF treated air emissions until 2021, when an evaluation demonstrated untreated emissions were protective of human health. Samples indicate about 7.7 gallons of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) have been removed since the system began operating.

In 2020, BNSF installed a separate AS/SVE system at the electric shop, also known as the Electric Shop AS/SVE. It began operating in January 2021. BNSF treats air emissions with granular activated carbon prior to discharge. Samples indicate about 5.7 gallons of PCE have been removed from soil and groundwater since that system began operating. The following figure shows the June 2025 alluvial groundwater plume.



The map above details the location of the Burlington Northern Livingston Shop Complex alluvial groundwater plume.

Treating and Removing Solvents Cont.

In July 2017, BNSF began periodically injecting sodium lactate into the shallow bedrock east of the locomotive shop to treat chlorinated solvents in the shallow bedrock aquifer, expanding the injection locations in 2018.

Sodium lactate helps create low-oxygen conditions that allow microbes to break down solvents in the groundwater. Additional injections are needed when monitoring indicates the process is slowing down.

Groundwater samples show PCE concentrations are decreasing in some portions of the shallow bedrock. Although PCE breaks down, it transforms into other compounds (including trichloroethylene, cis-1,2-dichloroethylene, and vinyl chloride), and concentrations of those compounds are increasing as expected. The goal is to ultimately break down all the compounds to ethene, which is an inert substance.



June 2025 - Sampling Well ISCO-10



April 2025 - Injecting Sodium Lactate in Well 18-4

In March 2026, BNSF installed two additional monitoring wells (one alluvial and one shallow bedrock) and five vapor monitoring points to address data gaps. BNSF continues operating and maintaining the AS/SVE systems and periodically injecting sodium lactate. BNSF also samples groundwater across the Facility to monitor contaminant behavior, inspects the cinder pile, and annually updates the public and private well inventory.

DEQ continues to provide oversight of the work, reviews multiple reports that detail various cleanup actions/monitoring, and requires revisions or approves the reports when appropriate.

Risk Assessment Amendment

- In September 2024, DEQ required BNSF to prepare a risk assessment amendment (RAA) for the Facility.
- The original risk assessment was completed in 1993. Since that time, there have been changes in toxicity information and risk assessment methodology, and new contaminants have been discovered through additional investigations completed since the ROD was issued in 2001.
- The cleanup actions implemented by BNSF have also removed contaminants from the Facility.
- The RAA will identify what areas of the Facility still potentially pose an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment.
- BNSF prepared an RAA work plan, and DEQ required it be revised.
- Once DEQ approves the work plan, BNSF will calculate potential risks and cleanup levels (if appropriate) and prepare a draft RAA report.
- DEQ expects that BNSF will submit the draft RAA report before the end of 2026.
- DEQ will seek public comment on the RAA report before it is finalized.

Next Steps

BNSF will prepare a feasibility study work plan concurrently with finalizing the RAA report to:

- identify cleanup options for the bedrock groundwater,
- identify alternative cleanup options for the alluvial groundwater given the previously selected “monitored natural attenuation” option did not meet the timeframe and cleanup levels required by the ROD,
- identify cleanup options for any remaining areas of the Facility that potentially pose an unacceptable risk that were not previously addressed in the ROD.

DEQ plans to present on the current status of the BN Livingston Shop Complex during the City of Livingston’s Town Hall meeting. This presentation is open to the public and will be streamed live.

City of Livingston Town Hall Meeting

BN Livingston Shop Complex Presentation by DEQ staff

April 14, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.
Park County Senior Center
206 S. Main St., Livingston, Montana

Those interested who cannot attend the meeting in-person are encouraged to scan the QR code to attend virtually via Zoom.



Contact

Interested parties are also encouraged to send questions or concerns to Montana Department of Environmental Quality Environmental Project Officer Denise Martin at (406) 444-5567 or via email at denise.martin@mt.gov. Please also reach out via email to be added to or removed from this project’s interested parties mailing list.

Denise Martin

Montana Department of
Environmental Quality
Environmental Project
Officer
(406) 444-5567
denise.martin@mt.gov

Nolan Lister

Montana Department of
Environmental Quality
Public Information
Officer
(406) 444-6469
nolan.lister@mt.gov