



TRAINSONG'S POLLUTION PURGATORY

Union Pacific took one step closer to heeding public concerns about a railroad pollution plume at a meeting last Thursday.

Residents were pleased to learn the railroad will test 30 additional homes for toxic vapor contamination as opposed to the original six, but many agree the scope of testing and cleanup should be expanded even further.

"It seems clear that the intent of the railroad is to downplay the potential hazards and financial impacts of their pollution," said Becky Riley. Riley is a longtime northwest Eugene resident and board member of the Railroad Pollution Coalition (RPC), a grassroots volunteer group of members from neighborhoods adjacent to the railyard and from the Oregon Toxics Alliance. Riley said the railroad should be more forthcoming about the potential health risks and "should compensate residents for lost property value."

RPC wants the railroad to improve communication with area residents, including notifying renters and property owners of test results in a timely manner and developing a system to inform new residents about solvent contamination. Conducting more comprehensive tests to determine the full

extent of contamination and more aggressively cleaning up the pollution should, in RPC's view, be on the railroad's list of priorities.

What's more, residents in the River Road neighborhood over the solvent plume also have a right to be protected from contamination, Riley said. "I am not entirely convinced that the potential for crawl space contamination in River Road should be dismissed, at least not for every property, and not without more justification," she commented in response to the state Superfund Health Investigation Program's health assessment completed in May.

If vapor intrusion is of less concern in River Road, then the reasons "should be explained in the report, preferably with data to back up the reasoning," Riley said.

SHINE's health report concluded that crawlspace vapor contamination in many Trainsong homes presents a "public health hazard." River Road was originally included in the report, but SHINE later de-

Lane Area Herbicide Spray

• **Weyerhaeuser - South Valley** (744-4600) will aerially spray 258 acres with Garlon 4, XRT, Accord, Arsenal, Transline, Oust XP, Xtra, Chopper, and Escort herbicides plus Methylated Seed Oil, Support, Induce, and Activator 90 adjuvants near Long Tom River in Low Pass and near Post Creek in Blachly starting August 15th.

• **Washburn Contract Services** (503-831-1593) will spray roadsides with 2,4-D LV6, Oust, Escort, Glyphosate, and Milestone herbicides for Freres Timber (503-859-2121) starting July 25th.

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