

Washington Department of Ecology news
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Ecology Department, Stevens County authorities, monitoring ***sewage spill in Columbia River***

SPOKANE - Raw sewage from a broken sewer line in Trail, British Columbia, is flowing into the Columbia River and into Washington state. Canadian officials estimate that up to 1.5 million gallons (or 6 million liters) will ultimately be spilled into the river by the time repairs can be made.

Washington Department of Ecology, Stevens County Sheriff's Office and the Northeast Tri-County Health District in Colville are monitoring the response progress, along with emergency response staff from the British Columbia Ministry of Environment. The Columbia River enters Washington state and Stevens County approximately six miles north of the community of Northport.

According to the B.C. Ministry of Environment, a coupler came apart on a 12 inch sewage pipe underneath a decommissioned bridge near Trail. Raw sewage has been flowing into the river since 5 p.m. Monday, March 26.

The Northeast Tri-County Health District warns citizens to stay away from the river as much as possible until the sewage has finished running down the river.

The B.C. Ministry of the Environment says that special scaffolding needs to be constructed under the bridge in order to make the repairs today by 3 p.m.

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