

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE  
AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR  
SHELL PUGET SOUND REFINERY RAIL UNLOADING FACILITY

**Description of proposal:** Shell Puget Sound Refinery (PSR) is located in western Skagit County on March Point, along the south shore of Padilla Bay. Shell proposes to build a rail spur from the existing BNSF Railway line onto Shell PSR property to accommodate unit trains of 102 tank cars transporting crude oil. The facility is being designed to receive and unload a maximum of six unit trains per week. The project also involves installing equipment and facilities to pump oil from rail cars to existing tanks within the refinery, construction of several stormwater retention ponds, and other safety and spill response measures.

In addition, Shell PSR proposes mitigation for approximately 26 acres of on-site wetland impacts through restoration of a portion of a nearby tree farm back to tidally-influenced estuary on Padilla Bay. The crude received by rail at this facility will be used to replace and supplement crude that Shell PSR currently receives by ship. The proposed project does not increase Shell PSR's refining capacity.

**Proponent:** Equilon Enterprises, LLC dba Shell Puget Sound Refinery

**Location of proposal:** The Shell Puget Sound Refinery is located at 8505 South Texas Road, Anacortes, WA 98221 in western Skagit County on March Point, along the southwestern edge of Padilla Bay.

The project area is located on Parcel P33502 in the following Sections, Townships, and Range:

- NW ¼, Section 3, Township 34 N, Range 2 E
- NE ¼, Section 4, Township 34 N, Range 2 E
- NE and SE ¼, Section 33, Township 35 N, Range 2 E
- SW ¼, Section 34, Township 35 N, Range 2 E

**Co-lead agencies:** Skagit County Planning and Development Services and Washington State Department of Ecology. Skagit County is the nominal lead for the SEPA review process.

**EIS Required.** The co-lead agencies have determined this proposal may have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is required under RCW 43.21C.031 and will be prepared in accordance with RCW 43.21.C.030(2)(c),(d)and (e). The lead agencies have identified the following areas for discussion in the EIS:

- Earth
  - Geology
  - Soils
  - Topography
  - Unique physical features
  - Erosion/enlargement of land area (accretion)
- Air
  - Air quality
  - Odor
  - Greenhouse gas/Climate

- Water
  - Surface water movement/quantity/quality
  - Runoff/absorption
  - Floods
  - Groundwater movement/quantity/quality
  - Public water supplies
- Plants and animals
  - Habitat for and numbers or diversity of species of plants, fish or other wildlife
  - Unique species
  - Fish or wildlife migration routes
- Environmental health
  - Noise
  - Risk of explosion
  - Releases or potential releases to the environment affecting public health such as toxic or hazardous materials
- Land and shoreline use
  - Relationship to existing land use plans and to estimated population
  - Light and glare
  - Aesthetics
  - Historic and cultural preservation
  - Agricultural crops
- Transportation
  - Transportation systems
  - Vehicular traffic
  - Waterborne, rail, and air traffic
  - Parking
  - Movement/circulation of people or goods
  - Traffic hazards
- Public services and utilities
  - Fire
  - Police
  - Schools
  - Parks or other recreational facilities
  - Water/stormwater
  - Other governmental services or utilities

**Scoping.** Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS within a 45 day expanded comment period beginning on September 21, 2015 and closing on November 5, 2015.

Comments in the following areas are particularly valuable:

- Reasonable range of alternatives
- Potentially affected resources and extent of analysis for those resources
- Measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate effects of the proposal

**Scoping meetings:** Scoping meetings will be held in the locations listed and will include an open house

- Mount Vernon: Tues., Oct. 13 • Best Western Plus, 2300 Market St., 4-8pm.
- Anacortes: Wed., Oct. 14 • Anacortes Middle School, 2202 M Ave., 4-8pm.
- Lynnwood: Mon., Oct. 19 • Lynnwood Convention Center, 3711 196th St. SW, 4-8pm.

Written scoping comments will be accepted at the scoping meetings.

There will be a facilitated verbal comment session from 5-7:30 pm at each public scoping meeting.

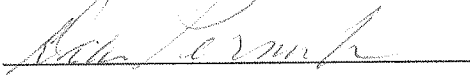
During the scoping comment period you may also submit comments by:

- Calling and recording a message at 1-844-254-9668 (toll free) *5 minute time limit for messages*
- Sending electronic written comments to: [comment@ShellRailEIS.com](mailto:comment@ShellRailEIS.com)
- Hand deliver to Skagit County Planning & Development Services, 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA during regular business hours by November 5, 2015
- Mailing your comments to  
Shell Rail EIS, PO Box 21206, Seattle, WA 98111  
*Must be postmarked by November 5, 2015*

**Documents available:** An environmental checklist and other information can be viewed online at ShellRailEIS.com, or reviewed at Skagit County Planning & Development Services, 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA 98273.

**Responsible officials:**

Dale Pernula, AICP  
Director, Skagit County Planning & Development Services

Date: 9/21/15 Signature: 

Josh Baldi  
Director, Northwest Regional Office, Washington State Department of Ecology

Date: 9-21-15 Signature: 