3.13 Public Services and Utilities

Public services and utilities refer to water, wastewater treatment, and solid waste disposal services that are provided to communities. These services contribute to the health and well-being of citizens and communities. The construction and operation of the proposed action could place additional demands on or otherwise affect public services and utilities. Utilities also include electricity and natural gas services; these utilities are addressed in Section 3.6, *Energy and Natural Resources*. Public services also include emergency response and medical services; these services are addressed in Chapter 4, *Environmental Health and Safety*.

This section describes water supplies, wastewater collection and disposal, and solid waste disposal services in the study area. It then describes impacts on these services that could result under the no-action alternative or as a result of the construction and routine operation[1] of the proposed action. Finally, this section presents any measures identified to mitigate impacts of the proposed action and any remaining unavoidable and significant adverse impacts.

3.13.1 What is the study area for public services and utilities?

The study area for public services and utilities consists of the service areas that encompass the project site that could be affected by construction and routine operation at the project site. Because transport along the Puget Sound & Pacific Railroad (PS&P)[2] and in Grays Harbor would occur within existing transportation corridors, the proposed action would not require the provision of additional public services or utilities (e.g., provision of water, wastewater treatment, and solid waste disposal services) to accommodate the increased traffic associated with routine operations. Therefore, these areas are not addressed in this section.

3.13.2 What laws and regulations apply to public services and utilities?

Laws and regulations for determining potential impacts on public services and utilities are summarized in Table 3.13-1. More information about the applicable laws and regulations is provided in Appendix B, *Laws and Regulations*.

[1] Chapter 4, *Environmental Health and Safety*, addresses the potential impacts from increased risk of accidents (e.g., storage tank failure, train derailments, vessel collisions) and related consequences (e.g., release of crude oil).
[2] The PS&P rail line refers to the rail line between Centralia and the project site.

Table 3.13-1. Laws and Regulations for Public Services and Utilities

Laws and Regulations	Description
Federal	
No federal laws or regulations apply to public services and utilities.	
State	
Building Permit Application – Evidence of Adequate Water Supply (RCW 19.27.097)	Requires applicant to provide evidence of adequate water supply for the intended use of the building.
Prohibited Methods of Sewage Disposal (RCW 43.20.050)	Prohibits disposal of sewage and industrial waste in a manner that would negatively affect domestic water supply or endanger the health and well-being of the people of the state.
Local	
Adoption of International Fire Code (HMC 2.38 and AMC 15.12)	Recognizes that the respective city has adopted the International Fire Code, 2012 Edition, as the official fire code of the city.
Solid Waste and Recyclable Materials (HMC 3.16.030 and AMC 13.08)	Regulates safe, reliable, and responsible use of public services by establishing a system for collection, removal, and disposal of solid waste and recyclables and indicating other forms of disposal is unlawful.
Water System Regulations (AMC 13.56)	Set of requirements and specifications for use of City of Aberdeen water supply with regards to connections and maintenance of pipelines, provisions to avoid insufficient supply for fire flow, permitting, emergency water use restrictions, and fire protection services.

RCW = Revised Code of Washington; HMC = Hoquiam Municipal Code; AMC = Aberdeen Municipal Code

3.13.3 How were impacts on public services and utilities evaluated?

This section describes the sources of information and methods used to evaluate impacts.

3.13.3.1 Information Sources

Information about public services and utilities in the study area was obtained by interviewing local service providers and reviewing public scoping comments, previous environmental documents related to the proposed action, project construction and operation plans, and local plans.

3.13.3.2 Impact Analysis

The impact analysis considers the proposed action's potential to affect utilities that provide potable (drinkable) and industrial water, collect and treat wastewater, and dispose of solid waste during construction, as well as subsequent routine operations. Impacts were evaluated in the context of applicable regulatory requirements (Section 3.13.2) and the current capacity of these public services and utilities.

3.13.4 What public services and utilities are in the study area?

This section describes public services and utilities in the study area that could be affected by construction of the proposed action and routine operations at the project site.

3.13.4.1 Water Supplies

The City of Aberdeen Public Works Department is responsible for providing municipal services related to water supply distribution to the project site. Under existing conditions, the department provides potable water to the project site. The project site currently has no industrial water demand; however, it is likely that the department would supply industrial water if needed. The department's potable water capacity is 6.5 million gallons per day and current demand averages 2.6 million gallons per day (Randich pers. comm.[a]). The industrial water supply capacity is 100 million gallons per day, of which current demand only accounts for a small fraction (Randich pers. comm. [b]).

3.13.4.2 Wastewater Collection and Treatment

The City of Aberdeen Public Works Department provides treatment of wastewater at the project site. The department's current collection system consists of 16 lift stations that are fed by 82 miles of sanitary sewer. The treatment facility is located in Aberdeen and discharges treated wastewater into the Chehalis River.

More than $1.1 million in capital improvements were made to the City's wastewater treatment facility in 1999 and 2000, and $7.6 million of capital projects are currently under construction (City of Aberdeen 2014). The current use and available capacity of the facility are shown in Table 3.13-2.

Table 3.13-2. Current Use and Available Capacity for the City of Aberdeen Wastewater Treatment Facility

Permit Defined Design Criteria	2013 Peak or Maximum	Annual Average	Maximum Available Capacity	Maximum Available Capacity (%)
Average flow for the maximum month: 9.90 mgd	January: 4.30 mgd	3.25 mgd	5.6 mgd	43
Peak hourly flow: 18.0 mgd	15.5 mgd	N/A	2.5 mgd	14
BOD_5 loading for maximum month: 7,400 lbs/day	April: 4,910 lbs/day	4,342 lbs/day	2,490 lbs/day	34
TSS loading for maximum month: 8,900 lbs/day	September: 8,629 lbs/day	8,629	271 lbs/day	3

Source: Scott pers. comm.
mgd = million gallons per day; N/A = not applicable; BOD_5 = 5-day biological oxygen demand; lbs/day = pounds per day; TSS = total suspended solids

3.13.4.3 Solid Waste Disposal

Solid waste collection and disposal services in the study area are provided by Hometown Sanitation LLC and LeMay, Inc. Both companies provide garbage and recycling collection for residential and commercial customers. Under existing conditions, Hometown Sanitation provides collection service to the project site. Solid waste collected by Hometown Sanitation is transported to LeMay's Central

Transfer Station, in Aberdeen, for temporary storage prior to transport for permanent disposal. The transfer station is currently at about 60% capacity, but has a flexible system to respond to shifts in demand (Dionne pers. comm.). Waste from the transfer station is trucked to the Wasco County Landfill in The Dalles, Oregon, for permanent disposal (Stalander pers. comm.).

Hazardous waste collection and disposal is provided to the study area by several companies. Currently, the applicant contracts with Cowlitz Clean Sweep to transport materials to the Stericycle Environmental Solutions disposal facility in Kent, Washington, as needed.

3.13.5 What are the potential impacts on public services and utilities?

This section describes impacts on public services and utilities that could occur in the study area. Potential impacts of the no-action alternative are described first, followed by potential impacts of the proposed action.

3.13.5.1 No-Action Alternative

Under the no-action alternative, the applicant would continue to operate its existing facility as described in Chapter 2, Section 2.1.2.2, *Existing Operations*. Although the proposed action would not occur, it is assumed that growth in the region would continue under the no-action alternative, which could lead to development of another industrial use at the project site within the 20-year analysis period (2017 to 2037). Such development could result in impacts similar to those described for the proposed action.

3.13.5.2 Proposed Action

This section describes impacts that could occur in the study area as a result of construction and routine operation of the proposed action. First, this section describes impacts from construction of the proposed action. It then describes impacts of routine operation at the project site.

Construction

Construction of the proposed action would temporarily increase the demand for water at the project site. Industrial water would be used for construction and for hydrostatic testing. Approximately 8.4 million gallons of water would be used to conduct serial hydrostatic testing of one storage tank at a time. Special treatment of the hydrotest water prior to discharge is not expected but if the water exceeds discharge requirements, the water would be treated appropriately (e.g., filtering, pH adjustment) on site prior to discharge or shipped for offsite disposal if it cannot be handled on site. If no contamination issues are found, a hose would be attached to a valve on the last tank and routed into the stormwater sump of the new tank farm containment for release into Grays Harbor through the Port of Grays Harbor stormwater system. Information about stormwater runoff and water quality is provided in Section 3.3, *Water*.

Potable and industrial water supply for construction would be provided by the City of Aberdeen and considered an additional demand to the applicant's existing facility account.

Construction activities would also result in a temporary increase in solid waste and hazardous waste, including debris from demolition activities (e.g., concrete and asphalt) and construction of new facilities. It is anticipated that solid waste generated during construction would be taken to

LeMay's Central Transfer Station prior to transport for permanent disposal. The transfer station and destination landfill have adequate capacity to handle this temporary increase in waste. It is anticipated that the applicant would use one or more of the providers listed in Section 3.13.4.3, *Solid Waste Disposal*, for collection and disposal of these wastes. The handling of hazardous materials is addressed in Section 3.14, *Hazardous Materials.*

Operations

The proposed action would result in new buildings[3] and 18 additional employees, which would modestly increase the demand for potable water on site. This demand would be added on to the applicant's existing contract with the City of Aberdeen Public Works Department. As noted, the applicant would be required to comply with the code that protects the city's water supply.

Routine operation of the proposed action would also increase the amount of solid waste generated at the project site. Hometown Sanitation LLC would provide services for regular pickup; LeMay's Central Transfer Station would be available to handle excess solid waste. The incremental increase in solid waste would be within the capacity of both service providers and that of the destination landfill.

Operation of the proposed action could also generate hazardous waste as a result of minor releases, as described in Section 3.14, *Hazardous Materials*. These hazardous materials would require safe disposal and would be hauled separately from regular solid waste. It is anticipated that the applicant would continue to contract with the providers listed in Section 3.13.4.3, *Solid Waste Disposal*, to collect and dispose of these wastes. Information specific to the safe handling of hazardous materials in compliance with applicable regulations is discussed in Section 3.14, *Hazardous Materials*.

3.13.6 What required permits and plans apply to public services and utilities?

The following permit conditions and required plans are expected to reduce impacts on public services and utilities.

- City of Hoquiam and City of Aberdeen Fire Department Permits.
  - Permits the proposed action as meeting fire prevention and suppression requirements.
  - Adherence to the International Fire Code, 2012 Edition.
- City of Aberdeen Utility Services Agreement.
  - Communication and coordination.

3.13.7 What mitigation measures would reduce impacts on public services and utilities?

This section describes the applicant mitigation that would reduce potential impacts on public services and utilities.

[3] The new buildings would provide offices, a laboratory, and maintenance and warehouse facilities.

3.13.7.1 Applicant Mitigation

With implementation of the permit conditions described above, impacts resulting from the proposed action are considered low and would not necessitate mitigation.

3.13.8 Would the proposed action have unavoidable and significant adverse impacts on public services and utilities?

Compliance with the applicable regulations and permits described above would reduce impacts on public services and utilities. There would be no unavoidable and significant adverse impacts.