

WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: RCRA Closure Plan for the Treated Wood Storage Area, Charge Switching Area, and Drummed Waste Storage Area, The Oeser Company, Bellingham, Washington
2. Name of applicant: The Oeser Company
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: Chris Secrist, 730 Marine Drive, Bellingham, Washington 98225, (360) 734-1480
4. Date checklist prepared: April 22, 2008
5. Agency requesting checklist: Washington Department of Ecology
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

Preparations for the work will begin upon Ecology's final approval of the Closure Plan. If approval is granted before summer, Oeser expects to complete the proposed work during summer 2008. If approval is delayed beyond mid-July, the Treated Wood Storage area asphalt cleaning work will be completed the following year. Soil removal in the Charge Switching Area must be coordinated with work being conducted as part of a CERCLA cleanup at the site, which is scheduled for summer 2008.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

There are currently no plans for other future additions, expansions, or further activities associated with the RCRA closure plan.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

Although not directly related to the RCRA closure, the facility is undergoing remedial activity under the federal Superfund program, for which Remedial Investigation, Risk Assessment, and Feasibility Study documents have been prepared.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

The proposed RCRA closure activities will be coordinated with the CERCLA cleanup. CERCLA remedial design documents are currently under review by the EPA.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

No other government approvals or permits are needed. Oeser has prepared the closure plan pursuant to a consent agreement and final order (February 2005; EPA Docket No. RCRA-10-2003-0151), which requires compliance with the Dangerous Waste Regulations in WAC 173-303. Because the remedial actions described in the plan will be conducted under an order, they are exempt under RCW 70.105D.090 from the procedural requirements of any laws requiring or authorizing local government permits or approvals for the remedial action, as well as procedural requirements of RCW 70.94, 70.95, 70.105, 75.55, 90.48, and 90.58.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

The project is RCRA closure of the treated wood storage area, charge switching area, and drummed waste storage area at The Oeser Company facility in Bellingham, Washington. Oeser has been working with EPA to formulate the Closure Plan since 2004. The work entails cleaning the asphalt in the treated wood storage area, excavating soil in the charge switching area, and cleaning or removing concrete in the drummed waste storage area.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

730 Marine Drive in Bellingham Washington (Township 38 North, Range 02 East, Section 23, W.M.).

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site: Flat

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

The site is mostly flat with minor areas of 0 to 4 percent slopes.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

The USGS Geologic Map of Western Whatcom County shows that the site is situated on Sumas Stade glacial outwash. The USDA and SCS Soil Survey of Whatcom County Area maps the site as *172-Urban land-Whatcom-Labounty complex, 0 to 8 percent slopes*. The SCS map indicates glaciomarine drift plains. The Whatcom soil is on 0 to 8 percent slopes and the Labounty soil is on 0 to 2 percent slopes. Environmental soils investigations on the site indicate an upper sandy zone with lenses of silt and clay occurring from the land surface to a depth of 20 to 25 feet.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

NA

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Closure work in the charge switching area includes excavation and off-site disposal of excavated soil. Required fill will be imported from either the Siper Quarry located in Everson, Washington or Cowden Gravel & Ready Mix located in Bellingham, Washington.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Although erosion is unlikely, sediment and erosion control Best Management Practices will be implemented throughout the duration of the project.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

Existing impervious surfaces will be replaced, but there will be no significant increase of existing impervious surfaces.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Sediment and erosion control BMPs will be implemented in accordance with the Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington, including installing silt fences, placing soil stockpiles in contained areas, and temporarily covering exposed and stockpiled soils.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

The project will generate dust due to soil excavation and construction traffic and exhaust from construction equipment.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

NA

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

Excavation and grading activities will be carried out in a manner that minimizes fugitive emissions. Best Management Practices will be used for dust control, including applying water to suppress dust, covering soil piles to minimize dust generation, and covering bare soil with geotextile, gravel, or mulch as soon as possible as appropriate.

3. Water

a. Surface:

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Little Squalicum Creek, is a tributary to Bellingham Bay, is located several hundred feet southeast of the site.

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

No.

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

NA

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No.

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

No.

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No.

b. Ground:

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No.

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

No waste material will be discharged into the ground.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Oeser collects and treats all of their process water and any water that comes in contact with treated wood products. Stormwater runoff flows through an on site detention pond and bio-swale system prior to discharging to the Cedarwood municipal stormwater collection system, which discharges to Little Squalicum Creek. The facility is currently permitted under an Ecology Individual Industrial NPDES Permit.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

No.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

Stormwater management BMPs and institutional controls will be implemented to prevent adverse impacts from runoff.

4. Plants

a. Check or circle type of vegetation found on the site:

- _____ deciduous tree: **alder, maple**, aspen, other
- _____ evergreen tree: **fir, cedar**, pine, other
- _____ **shrubs**
- _____ **grass**
- _____ pasture
- _____ crop or grain
- _____ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- _____ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- _____ other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

NA

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

USFWS, USFS, and WDFW information on federally listed, proposed, and candidate wildlife species and Washington State threatened and endangered species indicate that one listed bird species, the bald eagle, is known to occur in the general vicinity of the site.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

NA

5. Animals

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

- birds: **hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds**, other:
- mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
- fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

No such species are known to be on the site. See 4(c) for species that may occur in the vicinity.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

All of Western Washington is located within the Pacific Flyway that encompasses the area from the Pacific Coast to the crest of the Cascade Mountain Range.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

NA

6. Energy and natural resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

NA

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

NA

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

NA

7. Environmental health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

The proposed action might include handling, managing, and disposing of regulated hazardous waste.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

The need for special emergency services is not anticipated. An OSHA level site specific Health and Safety Plan has been prepared for and is maintained on the site. The Plan includes the identification of potential site hazards and directions for contacting emergency services including routes to nearby emergency facilities.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

Implementation of the Health and Safety Plan and following standard operating procedures during site work.

b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

NA

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Construction-related noise will be generated from truck traffic, excavation activities, and heavy equipment engine noise. Some heavy equipment will have safety alarms (beepers) that activate when the equipment reverses. Normal work hours for this cleanup are 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. State regulations establish construction work hours as 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

Construction noise will be reduced by using mufflers on engines, using quieter equipment or construction practices, and turning off equipment when not in use. To reduce construction noise, the construction industry's best management practices for noise will be incorporated into construction plans and contractor specifications. Cleanup

documents and work plans include specific details on how noise mitigating measures will be implemented, including compliance with Washington Noise Control Act requirements (RCW 70.107; WAC 173-60.)

8. Land and shoreline use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

Industrial

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

The property has been used for industrial purposes since the early 1900s.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

The site is an operating wood treatment facility and consists primarily of wood storage areas. Site structures include an office building, machine shop, above ground storage tanks, employee locker and break room, process water treatment facility, and various protective structures that cover saws and other process units.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

Railroad trackage will be removed and replaced. Some of the facility structures may need to be moved, but not demolished, in order to accommodate implementation of to closure plan.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Heavy Impact Industrial (HII), Whatcom County, Title 20 Zoning Ordinance

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Heavy Impact Industrial (HII)

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

NA

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

NA

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

NA

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

NA

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

NA

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

Proposal does not change the existing use.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

NA

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

NA

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

NA

10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

NA

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

NA

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

NA

11. Light and glare

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

None

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

NA

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

NA

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

NA

12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Little Squaticum Creek Park is located several hundred feet southeast of the site.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

NA

13. Historic and cultural preservation

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

No places or objects are currently registered or proposed within the site.

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

There is no evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural materials on the site.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

Site workers will be informed of the potential of inadvertent discovery of cultural resources. In the event of inadvertent discovery, the project engineer will be notified immediately and appropriate action will be taken.

14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

The site is accessed by Illinois Street via Marine Drive. Access is not affected by the proposal.

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

The site is on a Whatcom Transit Authority bus route (Marine Drive).

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

NA

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

NA

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

The facility currently receives untreated wood products and ships treated wood products via railway. There will be no change to rail use associated with the proposed action.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

The current number of vehicular trips per day will not change following project completion. Truck traffic occurs during normal business hours.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

NA

15. Public services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

NA

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

NA

16. Utilities

a. Utilities currently available at the site:

Electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer.

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

There will be no change to the current utilities at the site.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: 

Date Submitted: April 25, 2008