

# State Environmental Policy Act

## Environmental Checklist

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

See 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:  
*2010 SEPA Rule Amendments*  
*Amend the SEPA Rules (WAC 197-11) in response to direction provided by the Washington State Legislature in 2ESSH 6406.*
2. Name of applicant: *Washington State Department of Ecology*
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:  
*Gordon White, Program Manager*  
*Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program*  
*Washington State Department of Ecology*  
*PO Box 47600*  
*Olympia, WA 98504*  
*Phone: (360) 407-6000*
4. Date checklist prepared: *October 15, 2012*
5. Agency requesting checklist: *Washington Department of Ecology*
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):  
*The Washington State Legislature directed the Department of Ecology to amend the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Rules in 2ESSB 6406, adopted during the 2012 legislative session. Starting in August, 2012, Ecology worked with an Advisory Committee to develop these first phase amendments. Ecology intends to adopt the phase 1 rule amendments by December 31, 2012.*
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.  
*The legislation directed Ecology to undertake a second phase of rulemaking, which will begin in late 2012 and is slated for adoption at the end of 2013. A separate SEPA checklist and review will be conducted on phase 2.*
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.  
*-see Staff Report*
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.  
*N/A*
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.  
*Adoption of this rule will need to comply with the requirements of the Washington State Administrative Procedures Act (Chapter 34.05 RCW).*
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.)

This is a set of proposed amendments to WAC 197-11 (SEPA Rules). The proposal would:

1. Increase the flexible thresholds that local governments may adopt to exempt minor new construction projects from SEPA review. Proposed changes include:
  - a. Establish separate flexible exemption thresholds for local governments in counties fully planning under RCW 36.70A.040 and local governments in other counties.
  - b. Revise the process that local governments follow in adopting flexible SEPA exemption thresholds.
  - c. Revise and clarify language related to the "residential", "parking lot" and "landfill and excavation" categories of minor new construction.
2. Increase the exemption threshold for SEPA review of electric facilities.
3. Add flexibility for all lead agencies by improving the efficiency of the environmental checklist. This includes allowing for electronic submittal of the environmental checklist, including electronic signature.

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.

*This proposal applies to all projects in the state of Washington which can be defined as "actions" under SEPA and which are reviewed to determine if they are exempt under WAC 197-11; and projects for which an environmental checklist must be prepared.*

## B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

### 1. Earth

- a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other . . . . . *Does not apply*
- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?  
*Does not apply*
- 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.  
*Does not apply*
- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.  
*Does not apply*
- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.  
*Does not apply*
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.  
*Does not apply*
- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?  
*Does not apply*
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:  
*Does not apply*

### a. 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.  
*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:  
c. *Does not apply*

### 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.

*Does not apply*

- 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.

*Does not apply*

- 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.

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

- 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.

*Does not apply*

#### 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.

*Does not apply*

- 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.

*Does not apply*

#### 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.

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

*Does not apply*

### 4. Plants

- a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site: *Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

## 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:

*Does not apply*

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. *Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

## 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. *Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

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:

*Does not apply*

## 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.

*Does not apply*

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

b. Noise

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

*Does not apply*

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.

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

**8. Land and shoreline use**

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

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

c. Describe any structures on the site.

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

**9. Housing**

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

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

**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?

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

**11. Light and glare**

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

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

## 12. Recreation

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

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

## 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.

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

## 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. *Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

- 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).

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

**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.

*Does not apply*

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

*Does not apply*

**16. Utilities**

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

*Does not apply*

- 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.

*Does not apply*

**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: *Jordan White*

Date Submitted: 10/22/12

**D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS**

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

*-See Staff Report*

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

*- See Staff Report*

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

*- See Staff Report*

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

*-See Staff Report*

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

*The proposed modified "findings" requirement for establishing flexible exemption levels helps ensure that those project types and locations are compatible with existing land use plans. In order for a higher exemption*

*level to be adopted, the local jurisdiction will demonstrate how the project types, sizes and location are consistent with land-use plans*

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

*-See Staff Report*

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

*No conflicts have been identified.*