

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of proposal: The project is the cleanup of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) contaminated sediments located at two locations on the Spokane River within the influence of the Upriver Dam pool. An environmental study of sediments in the Upriver Dam area identify two areas that contain sediment PCB concentrations at levels that pose a potential risk to human health and the environment. The cleanup will be performed under the Model Toxics Control Act cleanup law and regulations (Chapter 173-360 WAC) under the oversight of the Department of Ecology. The project involves the engineered capping of underwater sediments in a relatively deep 4-acre area ("Deposit 1") located immediately upstream of Upriver Dam, and the excavation of PCB-contaminated sediments within a shallow 1-acre area ("Deposit 2") in the vicinity of a location referred to as Donkey Island. Excavated sediments will be disposed in a permitted, off-site landfill. By these capping and removal actions aquatic habitat will be significantly enhanced and the potential for erosion and remobilization of PCB-contaminated sediments eliminated. The action is designed to eliminate the release of PCBs into the river at the two locations.

Proponent: Avista Development Corporation, Inc.

Location of proposal, including street address if any: The sediment areas to be remediated are: Deposit 1 – located immediately upstream of Upriver Dam near the north bank (SE ¼ Sec. 2 and SW ¼ of Sec. 1, T25N, R43E); and, Deposit 2 – at a point of land known as Donkey Island located along the north bank of the river approximately 1 mile east of the Argonne Road bridge (SE ¼ of Sec. 5, T25N, R44E).

Lead agency: Washington State Department of Ecology

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

- There is no comment period for this DNS.
- This DNS is issued after using the optional DNS process in WAC 197-11-355. There is no further comment period on the DNS.
- This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date below. Comments must be submitted by April 20, 2005.

Responsible official: Flora J. Goldstein

Position/title: Section Manager, Toxics Cleanup Program

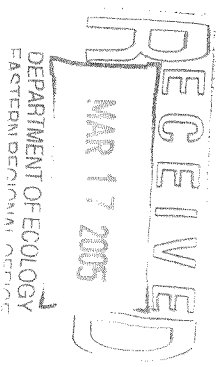
Address: 4601 N Monroe, Spokane, WA 99205-1295

Phone: 509-329-3568

Date: March 22, 2005

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Flora J. Goldstein", written over a horizontal line.



DRAFT STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT CHECKLIST

SPOKANE RIVER UPRIVER DAM PCB SITE

SPOKANE, WA

Submitted to:

Washington State Department of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program
Eastern Regional Office
Spokane, WA

March 2005

Submitted by:

Avista Development, Inc.
1411 E. Mission Ave
Spokane, WA 99202

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST{PRIVATE }

A. BACKGROUND

1. **Name of proposed project, if applicable:**
Spokane River Upriver Dam PCB Sediment Remediation Project
2. **Name of applicants:**
AVISTA DEVELOPMENT, INC.
3. **Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:**
1411 E. MISSION AVE
SPOKANE, WA 99202

DOUGLAS K POTTRATZ
509 495-4499
4. **Date checklist prepared:**
March 10, 2005
5. **Agency requesting checklist:**
Washington State Department of Ecology ("Ecology"), Toxics Cleanup Program, Spokane Office
6. **Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):**
Subject to regulatory permits and approvals, construction is currently planned for the period from July to October, 2006, though; construction will occur at two locations and may be performed as separate phases.
7. **Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.**
No. This project is expected to accomplish the final and permanent cleanup of polychlorinated biphenyl ("PCB") sediments located within Upriver Dam pool, consistent with the Model Toxics Control Act (chapter 70.105D RCW) . Following completion of construction, and consistent with plans to be developed and approved by Ecology, the project will be monitored and contingency actions implemented as necessary to ensure the continued effectiveness of the selected remedy. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") may be performing separate cleanup actions of metal-contaminated sediments in Upriver Dam area; however, the scope and timing of EPA's actions has not yet been determined.
8. **List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.**
Several relevant documents have been or are being prepared in relation to this project:
 1. Draft Final Focused Remedial Investigation Report – Upriver Dam PCB Sediment Site (Anchor Environmental, February 2005).

2. Draft Final Focused Feasibility Study Report - Upriver Dam PCB Sediment Site (Anchor Environmental, February 2005).
3. Draft Cleanup Action Plan – Upriver Dam PCB Sediment Site (Department of Ecology, March 2005).

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.
There are no pending applications that could affect this proposal.

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

- Ecology remedial design and remedial action work plan approvals
- Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 38
- Ecology – substantive requirements to satisfy water quality standards and Section 401 Water Quality Certification
- Spokane County – substantive requirements of Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58) and the Spokane County Shoreline Master Program
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Endangered Species Act consultation (if appropriate)
- Washington State Fish and Wildlife HPA (if appropriate)
- Department of Natural Resources aquatic use authorization (if appropriate)

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 purpose of the proposed project is to remediate areas of PCB contaminated sediments upstream of Upriver Dam in Spokane, Washington. A remedial investigation/feasibility study of sediments in the Upriver Dam area identified two areas that contain sediment PCB concentrations at concentrations that pose a potential risk to human health and the environment. The project involves capping sediments in a relatively deep 4-acre area (“Deposit 1”) located immediately upstream of Upriver Dam, and excavating PCB-contaminated sediments within a shallow 1-acre area (“Deposit 2”) in the vicinity of Donkey Island. Excavated sediments will be disposed in a permitted, off-site landfill.

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, 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.

The project is located within the Spokane River in Spokane County, Washington. Deposit 1 is located between river mile 80.1 and 80.6. Deposit 2 is located at river mile 83.4. Figures 1 and 2 present the project vicinity map and site plan, respectively.

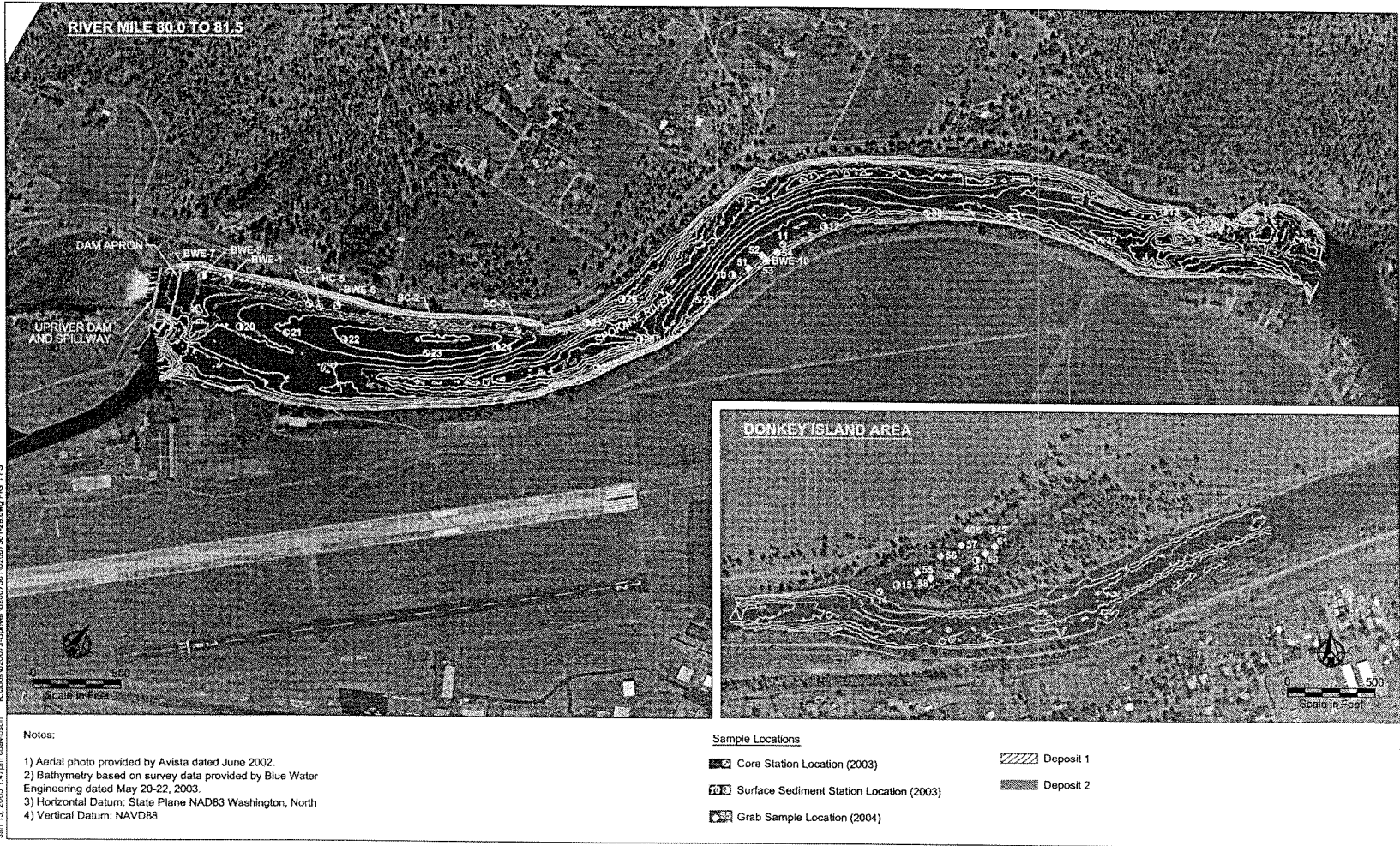


Figure 2
Sediment Deposits
Upriver Dam
Spokane, Washington



Jan 13, 2005 1:47pm c:\data\020003\upriver\02000301\02000301_28.dwg FIG. 1 FS

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**
 - a. **General description of the site (circle one):** Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other
Work will be within the Spokane River and a flood channel.
 - b. **What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?**
The steepest underwater slopes in the project area are less than 5 percent. Steeper slopes exist immediately adjacent to the proposed capping and dredging areas.
 - 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 sediments in the project area are generally gravelly sands with silts and clays.
 - d. **Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.**
All of the available data indicate that sediments in the project area have been generally stable.
 - e. **Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.**
The project includes capping Deposit 1 with 6 inches of granulated bituminous coal, overlain with 6 inches of sand, and covered with an additional 6 inches of gravel armor. This will include careful placement of approximately 4,000 tons of bituminous coal (western Washington commercial sources), 7,000 tons of sand (local quarry sources), and 5,000 tons of gravel (local quarry sources) over the contaminated sediment deposit. Subject to further sampling to delineate the extent of Deposit 2, excavation of approximately 1,000 tons of shallow sediments in the Donkey Island area would be performed using standard construction equipment, with controls to minimize construction-related impacts.
 - f. **Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.**
Capping and excavation designs will be developed to control potential erosion.
 - g. **About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?**
No changes to impervious surfaces will result from this project.
 - h. **Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth if any:**
Preliminary modeling indicates that the proposed armor for the Deposit 1 cap (gravel) is sufficient to withstand 100+ year flood conditions in the Spokane River, and thus will control potential erosion within Deposit 1. All disturbed areas will be stabilized as soon as possible to prevent erosion. The contractor will be required to develop a suitable sediment control plan prior to commencement of any activities.

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.**
During construction, engine operations will temporarily increase air emissions in the area. Minor, localized sulfide odors are anticipated as a result of excavation of Deposit 2. Because of the relatively large particle size of Deposit 1 cap materials, and the wet nature of sediments to be excavated from Deposit 2, only minor, localized dust emissions are expected during construction. There will be no increase in air emissions after construction is complete.
 - b. **Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.**
There are no off-site sources of emissions or odor that would affect the proposal.
 - c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:**
Sediments excavated from Deposit 2 would be transported to the off-site landfill in covered rail containers and/or dump trucks, or using equivalent measures to control emissions during transport.
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.**
Yes, the project area is located within the Spokane River.
 - 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.**
Yes, the proposed project involves over and in-water work within 200 feet of the shoreline. In-water work areas are depicted on Figure 2.
 - 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.**
A total of approximately 16,000 tons of fill material will be placed within Deposit 1. Approximately 1,000 tons of sediments may be excavated from Deposit 2.
 - 4) **Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**
The project will not require surface water withdrawals or diversions.
 - 5) **Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.**
Yes, the entire project area is within a 100-year floodplain.
 - 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 waste material will be discharged to surface waters.

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 ground water will be withdrawn and no water will be discharged as a result of this project.
- 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.
Not applicable.

c. **Water Runoff (including storm water):**

- 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.
Not applicable.
- 2) **Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.**
Excavation of sediments from Deposit 2 may potentially result in relatively minimal short-term water quality and sediment residuals impacts. The project will be designed and implemented to provide effective controls during the construction period, such as isolation of the area from the Spokane River by placement of a small sand dam at Deposit 1. These measures, which will be refined during remedial design, are expected to effectively control short-term water quality and sediment residuals impacts.

- d. **Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:**
See above. In addition, motorized equipment used to perform the construction will be subject to best management practices and discharge controls.

4. **Plants**

- a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site (Deposit 1 and 2): None
- _____ 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?**
No vegetation will be removed or altered as the sediments are remediated. At Deposit 2 excavation

equipment may disturb some upland vegetation to gain access to the deposit. Any disturbances will be repaired and replaced with native or approved plantings and landscaping.

- c. **List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.**
There are no threatened or endangered plant species known to occur on or near this site.
- d. **Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:**
No landscaping is proposed .

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.**
There are no threatened or endangered species known to be on or near this site (based on existing Spokane County records).

- c. **Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.**
The Spokane River lies within migration routes for migratory birds.

- d. **Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:**
All of the activities conducted for this project are designed to enhance wildlife habitat. Isolating and excavating sediments containing elevated PCBs from the Spokane River system will reduce potential threats to wildlife in the Spokane River area.

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.**
The completed project has no energy requirements other than construction machinery.

- b. **Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.**
There will be no affect upon the potential use of solar energy for adjacent properties.

- 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:**
Not applicable.

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.**

Sediments to be remediated by the proposed action pose a potential risk to human health and the environment in the existing in-water setting, owing to largely to potential bioaccumulation exposures. However, particularly within the Deposit 2 excavation area, sediment PCB concentrations are below State of Washington Model Toxics Control Act standards for industrial sites, and thus do not pose a risk to construction workers at the site. There is a remote risk of spill of hydraulic fluids associated with construction of the proposed apron. This risk is reduced by spill containment systems and cautious practices expected to be used on the project.
- 1) **Describe special emergency services that might be required.**

No additional special emergency services are anticipated.
- 2) **Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:**

The contractor will submit a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures (SPCC) plan for approval prior to starting work. The contractor will be required to have all equipment listed in the plan on site. Construction equipment will be routinely checked for leaks, and that all equipment be maintained in proper working condition. Capping procedures at Deposit 1 will be designed to minimize potential local short-term impacts to river water quality.
- b. **Noise**
 - 1) **What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic equipment, operation, other)?**

There is no noise that exists in the area that may affect the proposed project.
 - 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.**

Short-term construction noise will increase from construction equipment such as generators and other miscellaneous equipment, and increased truck traffic. Construction equipment and vehicles will operate primarily between dawn and dusk. There are no long-term noise impacts from the project.
 - 3) **Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:**

None. The project area is generally distant from residential homes and no construction will occur at night. Temporary truck traffic will be associated with Deposit 2 and the contractor will be required to inform any potentially impacted residences in the affected area.
8. **Land and Shoreline Use**
 - a. **What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?**

This reach of the Spokane River is generally used for recreation including water skiing, swimming, and fishing.
 - b. **Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.**

There are no agricultural uses within this site.

- c. **Describe any structures on the site.**
There are no structures on the site.
- d. **Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?**
No.
- e. **What is the current zoning classification of the site?**
The south bank of the river is designated incorporated urban. The zoning on the north bank varies from rural activity center to rural traditional.
- f. **What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?**
The site is designated as a water body. Properties adjacent to the site are designated rural traditional, incorporated urban and as rural activity centers.
- g. **If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?**
Spokane County has classified this area as pastoral.
- h. **Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.**
The project area is within the Spokane River. There are no other areas of the project area designated as environmentally sensitive by Spokane County. The Donkey Island area provides unique off-channel habitat in this reach of the Spokane River. Cleanup actions in this area will repair and preserve existing habitat qualities.
- i. **Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?**
Not applicable.
- j. **Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?**
Not applicable.
- k. **Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:**
Not applicable.
- l. **Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:**
This project would not affect any existing or projected land uses.
- 9. **Housing**
 - a. **Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.**
No housing would be destroyed or created as a result of this project.
 - b. **Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.**
Not applicable.
 - c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:**
- 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?**
No structures will be constructed as part of this project.

b. **What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?**
No views would be altered or obstructed as a result of this project.

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

11. **Light and Glare**

a. **What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?**
This project will not create light or glare.

b. **Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?**
Not applicable.

c. **What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?**
It is not anticipated that off-site sources of light or glare will affect this proposal.

d. **Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:**
None.

12. **Recreation**

a. **What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?**
The Centennial Trail and Shield's Park are immediately adjacent to Deposits 1 and 2. The Centennial Trail is generally used for walking, biking, and running. Shield's Park is used for hiking and rock climbing. This reach of the Spokane River is used for waterskiing, fishing, and swimming. The Centennial Trail may need to be crossed by equipment to reach and conduct work at Deposit 2.

b. **Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.**
Recreational activities in the project area may be temporarily restricted or delayed during construction. There would be no permanent impact to any recreational uses. Users of the Centennial Trail near Deposit 2 may encounter vehicles crossing the Trail. Flaggers will be used by the contractor to protect the safety of recreationalists. No impact to the Trail is anticipated, but protective measures will be taken and any potential impacts to the Trail will be corrected after job completion.

c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:**
If access across the Centennial Trail is necessary for construction, the restricted area will be minimized and alternate routes provided if possible. Also, see 12b, above.

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.**
There are no places or objects list on, or proposes for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to 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.**
None of these items are known to exist on or next to the site. The state office of archeology and historical preservation will be consulted prior to construction.
- c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:**
Not applicable.
- 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.**
Several potential access points are available to facilitate construction; specific access points will be identified during remedial design. There no plans to make this site permanently accessible to the existing street plan.
 - b. **Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?**
Not applicable.
 - c. **How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?**
Not applicable.
 - 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).**
There are no plans for any new roads, streets or improvements to any roads or streets. Temporary access via the Centennial Trail and private land may be necessary and there may be some temporary roads for site access. After construction, the Centennial Trail would be returned to its previous condition and temporary roads would be removed.
 - e. **Will the project use (or occur in immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.**
The project is immediately adjacent to Felt's Field (air transport). Rail transport exists immediately south of the project area across Trent Road, which may be utilized for the transport of excavated sediments to the off-site landfill. This reach of the Spokane River is not currently used for water transport, other than recreation.
 - f. **How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.**
No additional vehicular trips are anticipated as a result of the completed project.
 - g. **Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:**
No permanent measures are proposed. Any temporary disruptions of local traffic patterns will be coordinated with county traffic officials and local residences will be informed by signage or neighborhood fliers.

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.**
There would be no need for increased public services.

b. **Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.**
None.

16. **Utilities**

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

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 that might be needed.**
No utilities are proposed for this project.

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:

Step 1/1/05

Date Submitted:

March 17, 2005