

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:

Tacoma Smelter Plume, Soil Safety Program – 2014 Summer Work, Site: Vassault Park

2. Name of applicant: **WA State Department of Ecology, Toxics Cleanup Program, SWRO**

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

PO BOX 4775, Olympia, WA 98504

Contact: John M. Zinza, PE, Field Coordinator

Tel: (360) 407 – 6249; Email: jzin461@ecy.wa.gov

4. Date checklist prepared: **December 30, 2013**

5. Agency requesting checklist: **WA State Department of Ecology**

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): **Soil remediation actions are scheduled to begin as follows:**

Vassault Park (Owned and operated by MetroParks Tacoma): July through October, 2014

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. **NO.**

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. **The soil contains arsenic or lead or both arsenic and lead above the Washington State Model Toxics Control Act standard for unrestricted land uses due to historic fallout from the Asarco Tacoma Smelter. Ecology and Tacoma Pierce County Health Department have previously tested soil at this site.**

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.

NO.

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

EXEMPT PERMITS (Permits where MTCA exemption does apply):

The Ecology Soil Safety Program remedial work at Vassault Park is under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA). A provision of MTCA (RCW 70.105D.090 Remedial actions – Exemption from procedural requirements.) exempts these projects from local permits that may be needed by cities or counties, however MTCA requires Ecology to meet the substantive requirements of the permits. Ecology will meet the substantive requirements of applicable permits and reserves their right of exemption from procedural requirements related to permits.

Note: Though Ecology is exempt from these permit, Ecology may request a permit number and submit an application to the City of Tacoma. Ecology recognizes the benefit of the City of Tacoma’s review, the benefit of having a permit number for coordination and communication purposes.

- **City of Tacoma, Grading Permit .**
 - Applicable since > than 50 CY. The project will excavate about 3,200 CY over about 90,000 square feet. The site will be restored to a new grade to improve drainage. About 1-foot cap of clean soils will be placed on the site.
- **City of Tacoma, TMC 13.11 Critical Areas Preservation:** There are no critical areas within the work limits. A steep slope is located north of the west end park boundary within 41st Street. This is not expected to have a substantive impact on the project work.
- **City of Tacoma, Stormwater mitigation, (City of Tacoma Surface Water Management Manual).**
 - Likely applicable and addressed through NPDESC Construction Stormwater General Permit, SWPPP.

NON EXEMPT PERMITS (Permits where MTCA exemption is not applicable):

- **State of Washington, Dept. of Ecology: NPDES Construction Stormwater General Permit.**
 - Not exempt and required since site is > 1 acre with special requirements for sites with contaminated soils. The project will impact almost 8 acres. Special requirements apply due to the presence and levels of arsenic and include an Ecology Water Quality review of SWPPP.
- **City of Tacoma Building Permit.**
 - The drainage and irrigation improvements that MetroParks Tacoma may piggyback on to the Ecology public works contract may require a City of Tacoma Building Permit.

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.)

Vassault Park – Ecology’s Soil Safety Program: Under this program work is completed to reduce risk of exposure to arsenic and or lead contaminated soils originating from historic fallout from the Asarco Tacoma Smelter, typically through excavation and off-site disposal of the contaminated soils. Excavated contaminated soils are replaced with clean soil from an approved offsite source (landscape material provider) selected by the contractor. For this specific project, Ecology will remove contaminated soils and cap any remaining contaminated soils with a clean athletic field topsoil cap which forms a barrier to reduce risk of exposure. The remediation area is predominantly flat grassy area used as a sports field (baseball and soccer). The irrigation system within the remediation area will be re-constructed. The final sports field grades may be increased slightly to improve field conditions and promote drainage.

Vassault Park – Drainage and Irrigation Improvements. MetroParks may request to Ecology install perforated drainage pipe and associated stormwater structures in conjunction with the work as an effort to improve the existing poor drainage in the sports fields within the remediation area. Additional measures may be taken to improve the irrigation system by installing new controllers.

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.

Vassault Park, 6100 N 37th St, Tacoma, WA 98407. Survey Description: Section 26, Township 21N, Range 2E W.M. Parcel Number: 0221262071

Legal description: Section 26 Township 21 Range 02 Quarter 24 (VASSAULT) W 15 ACS OF S 20 ACS OF E 1/2 OF NW EXC E 10 FT OF S 180 FT THEREOF ALSO THAT POR OF SE OF SW OF NW LY ELY OF E LI OF NARROWS DR ALSO THAT POR OF N 1/2 OF SE OF NW LY ELY OF E LI OF VASSAULT ST & SLY OF S LI OF N 37TH ST AS CYD BY AFN 1917280 ALSO E 5 FT OF FOLL BEG AT SE COR OF NW TH W ALG S LI SD SUBD TO E LI OF W 15 ACS OF S 20 ACS OF SE OF NW TH N ALG SD E LI TO S LI OF N 37TH ST AS CYD BY AFN 1917280 TH E ALG SD S LI TO E LI OF NW TH S TO POB EXC S 180 FT THEREOF APPROVED COMB BY CY OF TAC BLUS DEPT 12/10/09 COMB OF 2-024, 2-034, 2-035 & 2-053 SEG 2010-0273 JU 12/23/09JU

Vicinity map attached.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other

Vassault Park, Generally flat

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

Vassault Park: Approximately 2% within the remediation area. Steeper slopes up to 3:1 are present at the park but lie outside the proposed remediation area.

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.

Vassault Park: Alderwood (Ab) and Alderwood (Ac), generally gravelly, sandy loam, non-hydric..

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. **No**
- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Soil Safety Program general: The purpose of the planned filling and grading is to remove arsenic and or lead contaminated soils and replace the excavated materials with clean soil from an approved offsite source (landscape material provider) selected by the contractor. The quantities for each site are presented below.

Vassault Park Soil Safety Program Work: Under the WA State Department of Ecology's Soil Safety Program, the project will remove approximately 3,900 cubic yards and 900 cubic yards of contaminated soil from depths of 0 to 6-inches, and 6-to 12-inches respectively, by traditional excavation methods. The removal will occur in an area approximately 370,000 square feet. Additional excavation and/or application of a geotextile separation barrier may be warranted depending on confirmation sample results obtained from the initial excavation depth. The site will be restored with suitable clean soils, primarily soils suitable for an athletic field. The final grades will vary from the existing grade primarily to improve drainage while still serving the current use (athletic field). Soils will be planted with a turf seed mix suitable for an athletic field, either applied by hydroseed or drill seed. Some shallow soil trenching may occur to replace the existing irrigation lines, and install new perforated drainage pipe.

Non-Soil Safety Program work, Vassault Park Drainage and Irrigation Improvements: Metro Parks may request to Ecology to install perforated drainage pipe and associated stormwater structures in conjunction with the work as an effort to improve the drainage system. These drainage improvements could consist of approximately 20,000 lineal feet of perforated drainage pipe and associated rock and fabric, a drainage structure, and approximately 620 lineal feet of storm drain pipe (about 12-inch diameter). The grade underlying the clean replacement soils will be modified to improve drainage while at the same time meet athletic field requirements. Additional measures may be taken to improve the irrigation system. Ecology likely will replace the existing irrigation pipe within the footprint of the pipe to eliminate valid concerns about likely damage from the remediation project. Replacing the irrigation pipe may require shallow trenching below the clean soil layer. The replaced irrigation system may include new controllers as part of the replacement system.

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

Erosion during construction is unlikely as construction will occur in the summer and the area is flat, so there is virtually no runoff.

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? **There will be no increase in impervious surface. The existing impervious surface (building and associated hardscaping) will remain unchanged.**
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:
Existing fields are natural turf and rely on surface drainage or infiltration. Proposed renovations will increase the amount of rainfall infiltrating the rootzone, because the top 12 inches of the athletic fields will be replaced with athletic field soil mixes (higher percentage of sand) , thereby increasing the pore space in the soil. Overland runoff is reduced. Planned drainage improvements will additionally eliminate runoff.

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.

Depending on the weather, a minor amount of dust may occur when removing the soil and replacing with clean soil; however, strict dust control measures will be implemented to prevent the spread on contaminated dust. Emissions from construction equipment.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. **No**
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: **The sites will be watered, if needed, prior and during construction to minimize dust.**

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.

There are no wetlands located on or near the Vassault Park

- 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. **There will be no fill or dredging of surface water or wetlands.**

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. **There will be no surface water withdrawals or diversions.**

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

Vassault Park: 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. **There will be no ground water withdrawn – impacts on the percolation into the ground water will remain the same. There may be slightly more infiltration on the fields as that water will be allowed to percolate rather than runoff.**

- 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. **There will be no waste material discharge 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.

The only water runoff will be stormwater. The project will not create new impervious surface that would result in an increase in stormwater runoff. After remediation, stormwater from the sports fields will be collected in a very similar manner to the existing drainage, with no changes in overall drainage pathways. Stormwater will continue to discharge to the City of Tacoma storm drain system.

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

Contaminated soils will be disposed of at a Subtitle D landfill that will be approved by the contractor and Ecology.

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

During construction, the Contractor will use BMPS including covering stockpiles and placing stockpiles on plastic if located on street or driveway or parking lot. BMPs include sweeping streets daily and removing any sediment from the roadway. Stormwater drains will have filter fabric catch basin placed inside. Track off plates and / or construction stabilization entrances will be used. Stormwater BMPs will be used to stop stormwater from leaving the site. The BMPs will include contingencies.

Post-construction, drainage from the sports fields will be typical of runoff from grassy areas. No treatment is required.

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types 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? **Existing athletic field turf will be removed and replaced with similar athletic field turf.**

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. **There are no known threatened or endangered species on or near either site.**

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: **No proposed landscaping to change the character of the park. Grass will be replanted after removed as part of the contaminated soil removal. There will be no use of native plants.**

Care will be taken to minimize impact to the few trees adjacent to the project limits while excavating contaminated soils.

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: crows, seagulls
mammals: deer
fish: None

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 the site.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. **No.**

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. **None to minimal since the park infrastructure using electricity will be unchanged other than possibly changing the irrigation system controllers.**

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. **No.**

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: **None**

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.

Vassault Park: The soil that will be removed at the sites is contaminated with arsenic or lead or both arsenic and lead from the Tacoma Smelter Plume. The following table indicates the average and maximum levels of arsenic and lead for each site. The values are reported in parts per million (ppm), those values that are bold indicate that we found samples above the State cleanup level of 20ppm for arsenic and 250ppm for lead.

	Arsenic Average	Arsenic Maximum	Lead Average	Lead Maximum
State Cleanup Level	20	40	250	500
Site Name w /depth of sample / year sampled				
Play Area 1, 0- 2-in, 2005	65.5	214.0	54.6	142.0
Play Area 1, 2- 6-in, 2005	50.7	96.0	52.4	122.0
Play Area 1, 0- 6-in, 2011	134.8	217.0	115.3	257.0
Play Area 1, 6- 12-in, 2011	87.8	122.0	69.5	102.0
Play Area 2, 0- 2-in, 2005	35.4	114.0	36.8	128.0
Play Area 2, 2- 6-in, 2005	42.2	115.0	41.7	110.0
Play Area 2, 0 to 6-in, 2011	117.1	260.0	98.5	62.4

Play Area 2, 6 to 12-in, 2011	72.0	141.0	62.4	112.0
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Note: See map for attached map for play area and sample locations. Play Area 3 on the attached figure is outside project limits.

- 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required. **No new needs. The park will be reconstructed the same as before.**
- 2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

The Contractor will water soil during construction to limit dust and dispose of contaminated soils at a Contractor and Ecology approved Subtitle D landfill. Construction workers will have Hazardous Waste Site worker training.

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? **None.**
- 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 noises will occur during the soil removal and replacement. The hours of work will occur within the local jurisdiction noise ordinance hours. The Contractors typically work weekdays from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Work is not planned for Sundays, and State and Federal Holidays.

There will be no increase in long term noise.

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

Vassault Park: The Construction work will last about five months and be concentrated on the site itself. There is adequate room for the storage of the equipment, therefore no need for equipment to be continually moving on an offsite.

8. Land and shoreline use

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

Vassault Park: Public park that provides outdoor recreation, picnic, play areas, and both active and passive recreation activities and programs.

- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe. **N/A**

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

Vassault Park – existing restroom / storage building

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? **No above ground structures will be demolished. Below ground infrastructure (irrigation system) may be demolished and replaced to complete the remedial work.**

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

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

Open space / recreation

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.

No

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? **There will not be anyone residing on the site. Two to three maintenance staff currently work on the site and will continue to do so after remediation.**

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? **There will be no displacement impact.**

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: **There will be no displacement impact.**

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:
The proposed project will make the subject property more compatible with existing land use plans and future use by reducing risk of exposure to contaminated soils and improving drainage. The use of the park does not change.

9. **Housing**

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

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

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: **N/A**

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? **N/A**

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? **N/A**

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

11. **Light and glare**

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? **The project will not produce, increase or decrease light or glare.**

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? **NO**

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? **None**

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

12. Recreation

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

Wilson High School is located a few blocks away.

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

Users of the athletic fields will be impacted during the temporary closure of the park necessary to allow Ecology complete the remedial work.

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

The work is planned after the Sounds to Narrows event in order to avoid a conflict. The upper area of the park that includes the tennis courts will be separated by a fence and remain open to the public. Parking and sanitary facilities will be available to the users of the upper portion of the park.

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

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

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any: **N/A**

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. **See Maps**

Access to the site is currently from North 37th Street and Narrows Drive. Though a portion of the parking lot will be blocked off to the public for contractor use, a sufficient number of existing parking spaces will be made available for the public to use tennis court area.

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

YES.

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate? **There will be no change in the number of parking spaces when the project is completed.**

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). **No**

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. **No**

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur. **None**

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: **None**

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. **No**

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

16. Utilities

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

Vassault Park: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system.

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. **Storm sewer, and irrigation**

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: *John M. Zinze*
Date Submitted: *December 30, 2013*

Vassault Park - Tacoma, WA

Samples taken on 1/24/2011 and 2/10/2011



200 100 0 200 Feet



Legend

- 2011_Sample_Locations
- 2005_Sample_Locations
- Play_Areas

— Remediation Area