

WAC 197-11-970 Determination of nonsignificance (DNS).

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of proposal

Improvements will be made to an existing construction and demolition debris landfill which will include: regrading existing soil to provide a direct contact barrier, reduce infiltration, enhance evapotranspiration, and protect ecological receptors; placement of additional material over 1.8 acres of the landfill to provide positive drainage and cover existing debris; and placement of a geotextile barrier and 12" crushed rock over 0.7 acres of the landfill to protect ecological receptors. A 0.1 acre low permeability asphalt cap will be placed around the former dry cleaner building. A former irrigation well will be decommissioned.

Proponent

Washington State Department of Ecology

Location of proposal, including street address, if any

1313 W 13th Ave, Walla Walla WA

Lead agency

Washington State Department of Ecology

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse 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 May 16, 2016

Responsible official Michael A. Hibbler

Position/title Section Manager, Toxics Cleanup Program

Phone 509/329-3568

Address 4601 N Monroe, Spokane WA 99205

Date 03/31/2016

Signature



SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

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.

Instructions for Lead Agencies:

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

The help links in this checklist are intended to assist users in accessing guidance on the checklist questions. Links are provided to the specific sections of the guidance applicable to the questions. However, the links may not work correctly on all devices. If the links do not work on your device, open the guidance at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/sepa/apguide/EnvChecklistGuidance.html and navigate to the appropriate section.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the [SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS \(part D\)](#). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

A. Background

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: *WA DOC Washington State Penitentiary Remedial Action*

2. Name of applicant: *Washington State Department of Ecology*
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:
*Sandra Treccani
4601 N Monroe
Spokane, WA 99205
(509) 329-3412*
4. Date checklist prepared: *March 7, 2016*
5. Agency requesting checklist: *Washington State Department of Ecology*
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): *2016-2017*
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 document related to this proposal is the Draft Cleanup Action Plan, prepared by Ecology, which specifies the selected remedial action to address soil and groundwater contamination at the WA DOC Washington State Penitentiary Site. Other information can be found in the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study documents. Both documents can be found at the Department of Ecology's Eastern Regional Office. The Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study have already undergone public comment, and the Draft Cleanup Action Plan will undergo public comment concurrently with this SEPA Checklist.*
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 Cleanup Action Plan, when finalized, will represent local, state, and federal governmental approval of the proposal. Local, state, and federal agencies will have the opportunity to comment on both the Cleanup Action Plan and the SEPA checklist.*
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. *State and local approval for institutional controls, required under the Uniform Environmental Covenants Act.*
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.) *Improvements will be made to an existing construction and demolition debris landfill which will include: regrading existing soil to provide a direct contact barrier, reduce infiltration, enhance evapotranspiration, and protect ecological receptors; placement of additional material over 1.8 acres of the landfill to provide positive drainage and cover existing debris; and placement of a geotextile barrier and 12" crushed rock over 0.7 acres of the landfill to protect ecological receptors. A 0.1 acre low permeability asphalt cap will be placed around the former dry cleaner building. A former irrigation well will be decommissioned.*
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. *The site is located at 1313 W 13th Ave, north of the City of Walla Walla. It is bounded by 13th Avenue and light industry to the east, 13th Avenue and agricultural land to the north, Sudbury Road landfill to the West, and light industry and the City of Walla Walla to the south.*

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site:

(circle one): *Flat*, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other _____

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? *Less than 1%*

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 agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils. *Soils are generally alluvial deposits of the Ringold Formation, overlain by surficial Palouse Formation loess.*

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. *No.*

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. *Approximately 1.8 acres of soil will be subject to regrading. Additional native fill from other areas of the Pentientary will be used to even the surface, cover exposed debris, and provide positive drainage for the final landfill surface.*

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

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? *An additional 0.1 acres of impervious surface will be added as a result of the project.*

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: *Best management practices in the form of silt fences or straw bales will be used to prevent soil loss.*

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. *Dust is likely due to earthmoving activities and gravel placement. Water will be used to control dust during these activities. Large diesel trucks for gravel and soil moving and excavators for soil excavation will be used. Diesel odors will be present.*

- 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: *Water will be used to control dust during any earthmoving or gravel placement. Large diesel equipment use will be limited to daylight hours.*

3. Water

a. Surface Water:

- 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. *No.*
- 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. *None.*
- 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 Water:

- 1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? 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. *None.*

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. *Water use for dust control is planned to be minimal; by its nature, the quantity will be small enough to not generate erosion or runoff. Applied water is expected to evaporate or infiltrate into the ground.*

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. *No. Contaminants are of minimal leachability and are not expected to be transported into groundwater, hence the selection of containment as an appropriate remedy.*

3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe. *Yes. One of the goals of the proposed work is to enhance positive drainage off the final graded landfill cover area.*

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any: *None.*

4. Plants

a. Check the 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

Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.

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? *Native grasses and weeds will be removed during grading and emplacement of soil, geotextile, and crushed gravel surfaces. These surfaces will be replaced after completion of the project.*

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. *None known.*

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: *Seeding with native grass mixes will be performed over the final landfill surface, to enhance evapotranspiration and limit the growth of invasive weeds.*

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site. *None known.*

5. Animals

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

Examples include:

birds: *hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds*, other:

mammals: *deer, bear, elk, beaver*, other:

fish: *bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish*, other _____

b. List any threatened and 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: *None.*
- e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site. *None known.*

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. *Diesel will be used to power earthmoving vehicles.*
- 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. *Exposure to diesel for vehicle fueling. There is a risk of diesel spill, but spill control measures and plans are already in place at the facility. Potential exposure to contaminants present in soil. A health and safety plan will be developed for work related to the project; all project workers will be subject of his plan, and will be provided personal protective equipment should it be needed. Risks related to site work are not expected to leave the site.*
 - 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses. *Soil and groundwater are contaminated with volatile organic compounds and metals.*
 - 2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity. *Underground utilities may be present near the former dry cleaner building. These will be characterized with utility locates prior to any underground work.*
 - 3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project. *None.*
 - 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required. *None are expected, but fire or ambulance services would be sufficient. These will be documented in the health and safety plan.*
 - 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: *Preparation of a health and safety plan, and the availability of personal protective equipment and a spills kit.*

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. *Traffic noise due to the operation of diesel earthmoving equipment, including but not limited to dump trucks and excavators. Noise will be short-term, likely for no longer than one month. Operations will only occur during daylight hours, expected to be between 7am and 7pm.*

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: *Limiting work to daylight hours is expected to minimize noise impacts.*

8. Land and Shoreline Use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe. *The site is currently used to house criminal offenders. Numerous activities occur at the facility, including composting/recycling, vehicle maintenance, dry cleaning, and those associated with prison operations (food services and recreational activities). The facility also has a firing range. Adjacent properties are agricultural and light industrial. The project should not affect any of those uses.*

b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use? *Historically, the land had some agricultural use. However, those activities have not been in use for over 30 years. No land will be converted.*

1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how: *None of these activities will be affected by the project.*

c. Describe any structures on the site. *There are numerous structures in the vicinity of both the landfill and the former dry cleaner. The landfill is outside the secure perimeter and so is only peripherally bounded by administration buildings, secure fencing, and offender housing. The former dry cleaner is now a hobby shop used by offenders. It is surrounded by recreational yards and offender housing.*

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? *No.*

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? *The land is zoned as Public Reserve, which is intended to protect and preserve certain areas of land devoted to existing and future use for civic, cultural, education, and similar facilities.*

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

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

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.
No.
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? *No change from current.*
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? *None.*
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: *N/A.*
- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: *None.*
- m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any: *None.*

9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. *None.*
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. *None.*
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: *None.*

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? *None proposed.*
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? *None.*
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: *None.*

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? *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: *None.*

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?
None.

- 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: *None.*

13. Historic and cultural preservation

- a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers located on or near the site? If so, specifically describe. *The prison is over 100 years old; many buildings are eligible for designation. However, none will be affected by the project.*
- b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources. *Yes, there is an historic cemetery near the project, but it is within the secure perimeter and will not be impacted by the project. There is the potential for Indian or historic use in the area; the Department of Corrections completed a cultural survey of the area in 2009 which involved several hundred test pits, and no cultural resources were identified.*
- c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc. *As mentioned above, a cultural survey of the area in 2009 showed no cultural resources. This survey involved tribes and historic preservation officials.*
- d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required. *None.*

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any. *The site is accessed by 13th Avenue.*
- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? *The prison is served by the Walla Walla city bus system.*
- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? *None.*
- d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). *No.*

- e. Will the project or proposal 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 or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates? *Approximately 10 truck trips per day would be generated, but no vehicles will leave the site or use any public roads.*
- g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe. *No.*
- h. 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, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe. *No.*
- 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 stormwater management
- 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. *None.*

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: *Sandra L. Treccani*

Name of signee *Sandra L. Treccani*

Position and Agency/Organization *Site Manager, WA Dept of Ecology*

Date Submitted: *3.31.16*