

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

REVISED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Original Description of proposal: The Former Irondale Iron and Steel Plant (Site) produced iron and/or steel intermittently from 1881 to 1919. Previous investigations show that past steel plant operations resulted in the contamination of soil, sediment, and groundwater at levels that exceed the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) cleanup standards for total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) and metals.

Due to its location on Puget Sound, the Site is designated as a Puget Sound Initiative cleanup site. Jefferson County Public Works has been named as a Potentially Liable Person (PLP) for the Site. However, because of the county's limited financial resources, Ecology prepared the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Report and draft Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) for the Site. When funding becomes available, Ecology intends to implement the CAP.

Description of revision: The original DNS was signed on December 14, 2009 and a comment period was held from December 14, 2009 to January 22, 2010. The description is being revised to include additional habitat restoration work that would not otherwise occur. Cleaning up toxic sites and restoring habitat at the same time make efficient and effective use of state and local resources. The previous proposal also included some restoration because the remedial activities will disturb portions of the intertidal and shoreline zones. However, the remaining portions of the park property between the remediation areas and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Chimacum Creek restoration site also present opportunities for significant habitat restoration. This area contains large amounts of fill that are rapidly eroding into Port Townsend Bay. By removing this fill, the upper intertidal habitat will be restored and a more stable backshore dune habitat will be created. To maximize the overall benefits of the project, the entire stretch of shoreline was added into the restoration design from the southern edge of the Jefferson County property to the southern end of the WDFW Chimacum Creek restoration site.

The proposed remediation and restoration activities will provide long-term benefits for fish, and avian species that utilize the Site, including salmonids, forage fish, great blue heron, and other species. The restoration will improve spawning habitat for forage fish in the upper intertidal zone throughout the project area. Direct benefits to listed salmonids will include availability of additional prey base as well as creation of additional foraging habitat. Approximately 56,100 sq. ft. (1.29 ac) of new intertidal habitat and 71,700 sq. ft. (1.65 ac) of new backshore habitat will be created by excavating the existing fill pad. No aquatic habitat will be lost as a result of the proposed project.

Proponent: Washington State Department of Ecology, Toxics Cleanup Program, Southwest Regional Office

Location of proposal, including street address, if any: The Former Irondale Iron and Steel Plant is generally located at 526 Moore Street in the unincorporated town of Irondale, about 5 miles south of Port Townsend.

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 revised 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.

Responsible official: Rebecca S. Lawson, P.E., LHG

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Date 5/25/2011 Signature Rebecca S. Lawson