

*STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT*

**Determination of NonSignificance**

February 14, 2019

**Lead agency: Washington State Department of Ecology**

**Agency Contact: Huckleberry Palmer, hpal461@ecy.wa.gov, (509) 329-3433**

Description of proposal – *Investigation of smelter slag impacts to the project area*

Location of proposal – *Northport, Washington, parcel number 8002673, 48.921 N by -117.77 W*

Proponent: Washington State Department of Ecology

Ecology has determined that this proposal will 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). We have reviewed the attached Environmental Checklist.

This determination is based on the following findings and conclusions:

Project activities and impacts are minimal and temporary.

This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2) and the comment period will end on March 26, 2019.

**Responsible Official:**

Kathy Falconer, Toxics Cleanup Program Section Manager – Eastern Regional Office

Washington State Department of Ecology

Kfal461@ecy.wa.gov

(509) 329-3568

Signature   
(electronic signature or name of signor is sufficient)

Date 2/21/2019

Appeal process: Administrative Appeal, Judicial Appeal

# SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

## **A. Background** [\[HELP\]](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Northport Waterfront Remedial Investigation under the Model Toxics Control Act, Chapter 70.105D  
RCW

2. Name of applicant:

Washington State Department of Ecology

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

Huckleberry Palmer  
Department of Ecology  
Toxics Cleanup Program  
Eastern Regional Office  
Spokane, WA 99205-1295  
Tel: 509-329-3433

4. Date checklist prepared:

February 13, 2019

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington State Department of Ecology

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

March and/or April, 2019

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

Yes, pending results of the Remedial Investigation, a cleanup action may be taken to remediate the site

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Preliminary Assessments and Site Inspections Report  
Upper Columbia River Mines and Mills Stevens County Washington, October 2002

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 known other pending applications for other proposals

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

Nationwide Section 404 Permit issued by United States Army Corp of Engineers

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 nature and extent of smelter slag contamination will be investigated by surface and test pit sample collection and analysis within an approximately 5 acre area of seasonally exposed beach of the Columbia River in Northport, WA

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.

In the State of Washington, in Stevens County, in the City of Northport, in the northwest quarter section of Section S4, Township T39N, Range R40E, at approximately latitude 48.921 degrees north and longitude -117.77 degrees west, on or adjacent to the BNSF Railway Company owned tax parcel 8002673 is located the seasonally exposed beach of the Columbia River and adjacent wooded slope at which this project is proposed.

## **B. Environmental Elements** [\[HELP\]](#)

### **1. Earth** [\[help\]](#)

a. General description of the site:

(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other \_\_\_\_\_  
Sloped or undulating river bank

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?  
20%

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.

The site is contaminated with clinker slag (gravel to cobble sized) and granulated slag (coarse sand sized).

Parts of the beach are armored in cobble, other parts are fine grained sandy or silty materials. Soil in the forested slope appears to be loamy and full of cobble, covered by a layer of duff.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

It is a river bank. The bank appears quite stable, although the area is know to be a former dumping area for smelter slag.

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.

The only thing resembling excavation that will be done is to dig shallow (less the 4 foot deep) test pits for collecting samples for the remedial investigation. Test pits will be filled in and compacted the once samples are collected (same day is excavation). Twenty-five test pits will be excavated, at an estimated 1/2 cubic yard of material each, brining total volume to approximately 12.5 cubic yards.

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

Not likely. Test pits will be refilled immediately after sampling and logging. It is not anticipated that accessing the beach with the mini excavator will cause any erosion to the access path, but if it does, the damage will be repaired.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

No impervious surfaces at completion

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Immediate replacement and compaction of excavated test pits

## 2. Air [\[help\]](#)

- 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.

1 mini excavator will be used to dig 25 shallow test pits, resulting in exhaust emissions. Onsite staff will commute to the project area from Spokane, using motor vehicles, resulting in emissions.

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

No offsite sources of emissions or odor will affect the proposal

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

Workers commuting to the worksite will carpool, if feasible.

## 3. Water [\[help\]](#)

- a. Surface Water: [\[help\]](#)

- 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, adjacent to the site is the Columbia River, which flows into the Pacific Ocean

- 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, most of the work will occur within 200 feet of the Columbia River

- 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.

No fill or dredge material will be placed or removed from surface water or wetlands. All of the shallow test pits will be dug on dry land, but some of the shallow test pits will be dug below the ordinary high water mark.

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

No surface water withdrawals or diversions will be required

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

Yes, most of the project area lies within the 100-year flood plain

- 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.

The project does not involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters

b. Ground Water: [help]

- 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.

Groundwater will not be withdrawn from a well for 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.

WASTE MATERIAL WILL NOT BE DISCHARGED INTO THE GROUND FOR THIS PROJECT

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 runoff is not anticipated for this project. The project area is composed of forest soils or river bank materials. No clearing or creation or use of impervious surfaces will occur.

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

Potentially, hydraulic fluid could leak from the mini excavator. Vegetable oil will be used for hydraulic fluid, and spill kits will be available onsite.

- 3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

The proposal does not alter or affect drainage patterns in the vicinity

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

The work is planned to not include activities that could produce stormwater impacts

4. **Plants** [help]

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

- \_X\_ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- \_X\_ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- \_X\_ 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?

No vegetation will be removed or altered

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:

No alteration of current vegetation

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

No noxious weeds are known to be on the site. The Stevens County Noxious Weeds List includes: *Centaurea macrocephala*, *Salvia sclarea*, *Butomus umbellatus*, *Salvia pratensis*, *Salvia aethiopis*, *Anchusa arvensis*, *Echium vulgare*, *Anchusa officinalis*, *Lysimachia vulgaris*, *Kochia scoparia*, *Euphorbia esula*, *Carduus nutans*, *Lepidium latifolium*, *Tribulus terrestris*, *Lythrum salicarian*, *Tamarix ramosissima*, *Cytisus scoparius*, *Onopordum acanthium*, *Senecio jacobaea*, *Abutilon theophrast*, *Anthriscus sylvestris*, *Lamiastrum galeobdolo*, *Hyocymus niger*, *Solanum rostratum*, *Berteroa incana*, *Cenchrus longispinus*, *Buddleja davidii*, *Euphorbia myrsinites*, *Carduus acanthoides*, *Chondrilla juncea*, *Centaurea solstitialis*, *Centaurea diffusa*, *Centaurea biebersteinii*

## 5. **Animals** [\[help\]](#)

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 \_\_\_\_\_

No terrestrial animals have been observed on or near the site. Presumably birds, rodents, and other small animals use the area of or near the site. The Columbia River is host to numerous fish species, including salmonids, sturgeon, minnow-family fish, sculpin family, sucker family, and many others.

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Canada Lynx, Grizzly Bear, North American Wolverine, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Bull Trout

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

Site is not known to be part of a migration route, nor does it appear to provide habitat that would be favorable to a migration route.

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

THIS PROJECT IS TO ASSESS THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF SMELTER SLAG CONTAMINATION OF THE PROJECT AREA. IF THE RESULTS OF THIS INVESTIGATION LEAD TO A CLEANUP ACTION OF THE SITE, ECOLOGICAL FUNCTION WOULD BE IMPROVED.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

No invasive animal species known to be on or near the site

## **6. Energy and Natural Resources** [\[help\]](#)

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.

Fossil fuels will be used to power the mini excavator and the passenger vehicles used in this project

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

This project would not affect the potential use of solar energy by 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:

This proposal minimizes travel distances and heavy equipment usage

## **7. Environmental Health** [\[help\]](#)

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.

Risk of fire, explosion, or spill is minimal, as this project uses safe, conventional equipment for intended uses. The site is contaminated with smelter slag containing toxic metals. This investigation will determine the extent of contamination within the project area, and site workers will be protected by safety protocols and appropriate personal protective equipment.

1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

The beach area is visibly contaminated with clinker and granulated smelter slag from Le Roi Smelter and Trail Smelter

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.

No transmission lines in the project area. A railroad line will be crossed to access the project area. This project will assess existing smelter slag contamination of the project site.

- 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.  
Fuel will be stored in vehicle fuel tanks.
- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.  
Standard emergency first responders could be required in the event of an accident
- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

Standard environmental sampling protocols will be used to avoid exposure to smelter slag materials

*b. Noise*

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

No noise in the area will affect the 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.

The project will create a low volume of noise in the immediate area by operation of the mini excavator during test pit excavation.

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

The volume of noise created will be minimal. Noise protection personal protective equipment will be available to onsite personnel.

**8. Land and Shoreline Use** [\[help\]](#)

- 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 for boat access and passive recreational use

- 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?

The project site has not been used as working farmland or forest

- 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:

The proposal will not be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

There is a boat launch with a dock on the site. There is a highway bridge crossing just downriver of the site.

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

No structures will be demolished



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

Railroad right-of-way

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

The site is designated as "Cities" under the Stevens County Comprehensive Plan

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

Urban

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

No part of the site has been classified as a critical area

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

No people would reside or work at the completed project

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

The completed project would not displace any people

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

NOT APPLICABLE, BECAUSE THE PROJECT WILL NOT DISPLACE ANYONE

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

The project will not make any permanent changes to the area and the proposal will not disturb area activities (including operation of the boat launch and rail line)

m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

The project will not impact agricultural or forest lands

## **9. Housing** [\[help\]](#)

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

No housing units will be provided

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

No units would be eliminated

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

There will be no housing impacts

## **10. Aesthetics** [\[help\]](#)

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

There are no proposed structures

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

No views would be altered or obstructed

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

There will be no aesthetic impacts

### **11. Light and Glare** [\[help\]](#)

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

The project will not produce any light or glare issues

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

The project will not create any light or glare

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

Neither light nor glare will affect the project

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

There will be no light or glare impacts

### **12. Recreation** [\[help\]](#)

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

The project area includes a boat ramp and is also used informally for passive outdoor recreation

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

The project will make sure access to the boat ramp is not impeded

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

Equipment staging will be controlled to allow continued public access of the boat ramp during project activities

### **13. Historic and cultural preservation** [\[help\]](#)

- 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? If so, specifically describe.

There are no listed or eligible sites located on or near the site

- 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.

There are no landmarks or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation on the site, nor material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site. Eastern Washington University completed a study of the project area to identify such resources.

- 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.

Eastern Washington University Archeology Department was contracted to study the site area for cultural resources.

- 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.

Cultural resource protection services will be contracted from the Eastern Washington University Archeology Department to implement the inadvertent discovery plan that will be followed onsite

#### **14. Transportation** [\[help\]](#)

- 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 will be accessed from Highway 25 aka Center Ave by turning southeast onto Northport Boundary Road, turning almost immediately northeast onto Park Road, and then driving approximately 1,200 feet until the rail line is crossed, accessing the parking lot. The work area is located north of the parking lot, and is accessible by a path.

- 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 area is not served by public transit. The nearest transit stop may be in Rossland, British Columbia (Canada) 15 miles to the north.

- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?

No parking spaces would be created or destroyed

- 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).

THE PROJECT WILL NOT REQUIRE ANY IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING OR BUILDING OF NEW TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

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

The project will not use water air or rail transportation. The project will be within 200 to 500 feet of a railroad spur.

- 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?

No additional vehicular trips would be generated by the completed project.

- 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.

The project will not interact with the movement of agricultural or forest products in any way

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

The project will not have any transportation impacts

### 15. Public Services [\[help\]](#)

- 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.

The project would not result in an increased need for any public services

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

The project will not impact public services

### 16. Utilities [\[help\]](#)

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:

electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other \_\_\_\_\_

No utilities are available at the site – unless the Columbia River counts as running water!

- c. 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.

No utilities will be used for the project

### C. Signature [\[HELP\]](#)

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of signee \_\_\_\_\_

Position and Agency/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

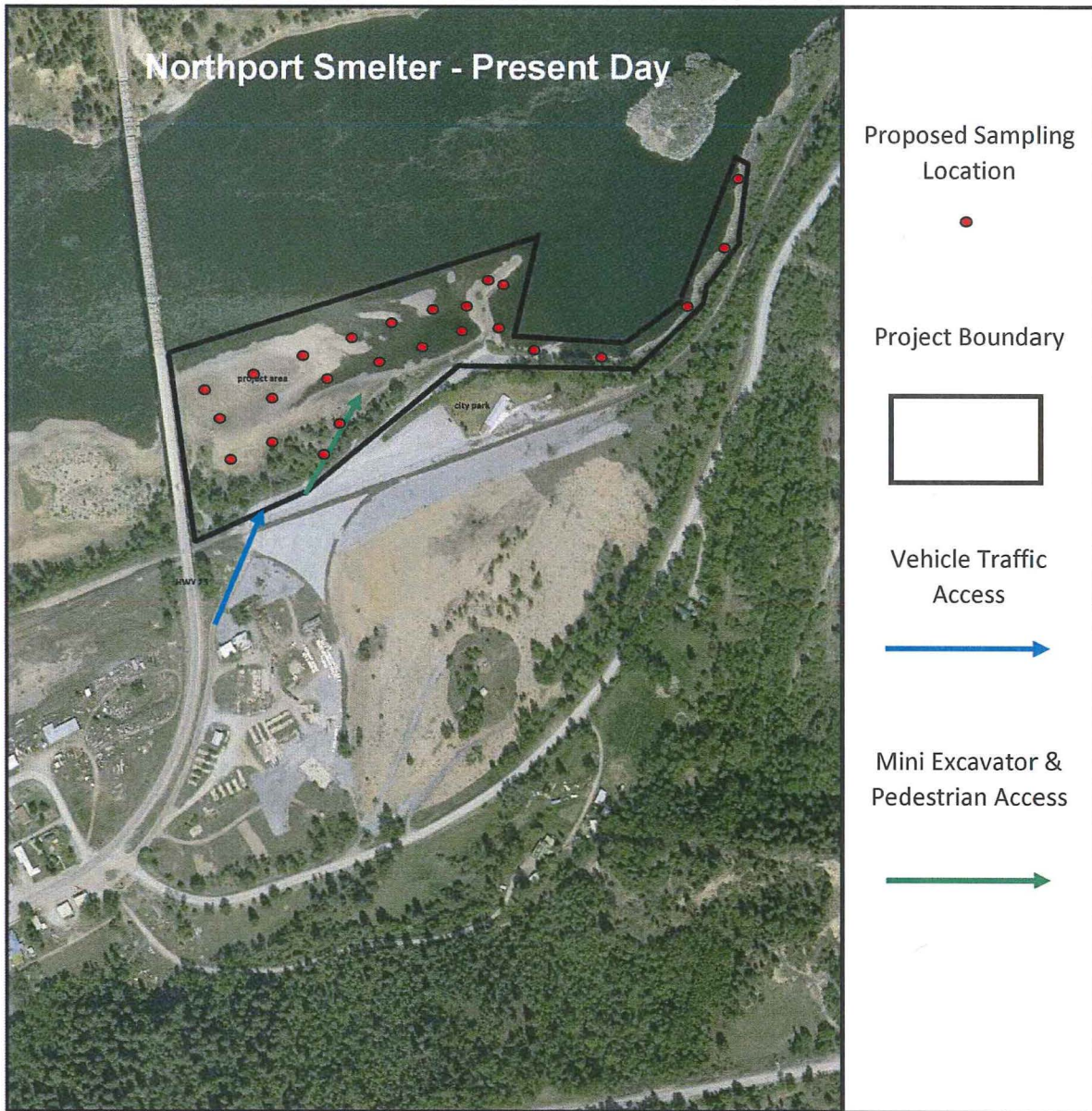


Figure 1 – Approximate Project Boundary