



## SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

### A. Background

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Interstate 82 Exist 33A Yakima City Landfill (CSID 3853), Interim Action

2. Name of applicant: City of Yakima

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

Joan Davenport, City of Yakima, Director of Community Development, 129 North 2nd Street, Yakima WA 98901, (509) 576-6417

4. Date checklist prepared: 10/11/19

5. Agency requesting checklist: Department of Ecology, Toxics Cleanup Program

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

Implementation of Interim Action contingent on property access and public notice requirements

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

The interim Action is being conducted as a portion of a larger regional roadway project being conducted by the City and County of Yakima. The Interim Action pertains to activities proposed to address or mitigate contamination concerns in the vicinity of planned road segments that cross the former landfill area. This checklist is for the Interim Action only. In conjunction with the Interim Action, roadway construction and development activities will be addressed by the City and/or County with separate forthcoming NEPA documentation. A portion of the roadway construction work is anticipated to occur concurrently with the Interim Action work.

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

Final (Revision 1) Interim Action Work Plan – Roadway Project, Closed City of Yakima Landfill Site, Yakima, WA, prepared by Landau Associates, dated July 29, 2019.

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 city withdrew a previous SEPA checklist for the portion of the roadway project associated with this interim action work. Currently, a separate NEPA process will inform relevant decision-making and environmental consideration for the roadway project as a whole. That process includes Section 106 cultural resource survey work further described later in this checklist.

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

The Interim Action Work Plan has been approved by Ecology, pending public review and comment. Disposal of excavated refuse will require approval from the disposal facility that will be receiving the waste. Currently the City's plans for managing dewatering water discharges have not been finalized. Discharge of dewatering water will require approvals and permitting, as required. Should the interim action have potential for stormwater discharge offsite, a NPDES Construction Stormwater General Permit would be recommended. Note that permitting for road construction or other activities associated with but not part of the Interim Action are addressed under a separate NEPA process.

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 Interim Action involves removal and offsite disposal of solid waste (e.g. refuse) along planned roadway alignments, and the management of landfill gas and stormwater in this area. The Interim Action also includes mitigation measures to prevent potential exacerbation of contamination in groundwater, and to prevent unintentional or unauthorized release or disposal of dangerous or solid waste.

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 project site is within a portion of the former Boise Cascade Mill facility located at 805 North 7th Street in Yakima. See the Interim Action Work Plan for more information. The area of the proposed Interim Action is shown on Figure 4 of the Interim Action Work Plan.

## **B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS**

### **1. Earth**

- a. General description of the site:

The Site is within a low lying area of the original Yakima River flood plain, west of and abutting Interstate 82. The Yakima River is located approximately 600 feet east of I-82 in the vicinity of the Interim Action area. The Site is currently occupied by businesses conducting log yard material processing. The site is generally vacant of buildings and

structures, however, old building foundations and slabs remain in portions of the site and a railroad track passes through the site.

(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other \_\_\_\_\_

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? Flat (no steep slopes)

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.

Native site soils are sandy with riverine gravels. Fill materials including refuse and woody materials are also present.

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

The refuse is considered to be geotechnically unstable and will be removed in the vicinity of proposed roads.

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.

Excavation details are included within the Interim Action Work Plan. The City has indicated that only clean fill materials will be used. The source of fill materials has not yet been established.

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

Standard road construction erosion management features (e.g. silt fences and revegetation) will be a component of the Interim Action.

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

After the roads are constructed, impervious surface will cover roughly ten percent of the Interim Action area. Stormwater management during the implementation of the Interim Action is included within the Interim Action Work Plan. The stormwater managing of the roadway system will be addressed under separate forthcoming NEPA documentation.

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

Standard roadway construction erosion and sediment controls/best management practices (BMPs) will be applied as discussed in the Interim Action Work Plan.

## 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.

Emission concerns include potential landfill gas from exposed refuse; potential dust during excavation and grading; and fuel-system related emissions from heavy equipment used to implement the Interim Action.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. None identified.

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

Landfill gas controls are discussed within the Interim Action Work Plan. Dust controls will be applied during implementation of the Interim Actions. Excessive idling of heavy equipment engines will be avoided.

### 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.

The Yakima River is located approximately 600 feet east of I-82, which forms the eastern site boundary. The Interim Action area is adjacent to wetlands from the National Wetlands Inventory in several areas, including a freshwater forested/shrub wetland and a riverine wetland. These include a riverine wetland subparallel with G Street, and a freshwater forested/shrub wetland that forms a "T" shape, west of and parallel to I-82 and south of the riverine wetland.

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 Interim Action work will be done in wetlands areas.

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 excavation or filling work will be done in wetlands areas as part of the Interim Action.

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

Dewatering is anticipated to be needed in areas where refuse is below the water table. The dewatered water will be appropriately treated and discharged to either sanitary or stormwater systems.

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

The Interim Action project site is within the original floodplain of the Yakima River. The I-82 corridor is located on a raised berm in the vicinity of the project site. This berm serves as a dam under flood conditions and 100-year and 500-year flood plains are located east of I-82.

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 will be discharged to surface waters.

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 groundwater withdrawals other than dewatering for excavations in areas where refuse is below the water table will take place. Care will be taken during excavation of such areas to maintain a hydraulic gradient away from the river.

- 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.

The refuse at the site currently results in groundwater quality concerns. Removal of the refuse in the area of the Interim Action will improve groundwater quality.

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.

Stormwater management during the Interim Action is discussed within the Interim Action Work Plan.

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

The interim Action will employ best management practices (BMPs) to ensure that no waste materials enter ground or surface waters. Note that existing refuse is currently in contact with groundwater. Such refuse within the Interim Action area will be removed during the Interim Action implementation, and dewatering will be used to prevent exacerbation of existing conditions.

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

The planned stormwater drainage of the new roadways will be addressed under separate forthcoming NEPA documentation.

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

BMPs will be employed to address stormwater and groundwater during the implementation of the Interim Action. The planned stormwater drainage of the new roadways will be addressed under separate forthcoming NEPA documentation.

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?

The majority of the project area contains only sparse grass, weeds, and some shrubs. Forested wetlands are located adjacent to the Interim Action project area.

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

Potential threatened and endangered plant species will be addressed under a forthcoming NEPA documentation for later project phases.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

The Interim Action project area is within an urban area (City of Yakima) and within the limits of the former landfill. Native vegetation is not anticipated to be a significant component of this site. Future vegetative cover will be addressed under forthcoming NEPA documentation.

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

The project site is expected to be covered with both noxious weeds and potentially native species since it is developed land that is now vacant.

## 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.

Both birds and small mammals are anticipated to be present at the site, especially within the freshwater forested/shrub wetland area adjacent to the Interim Action project area.

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.

A DNS GIS map shows the area as potential sharp-nosed snake habitat.

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

The possibility of migratory birds nesting in the freshwater forested/shrub wetland area adjacent to the Interim Action project area cannot be precluded.

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

Future wildlife habitat will be addressed under forthcoming /NEPA documentation.

- 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.

The interim action will include use of energy for operating heavy equipment and for pumping of dewatering water.

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

No anticipated impacts to adjacent properties by the proposed Interim Action.

- 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:

Minimization of heavy equipment idling will reduce energy impacts.

## 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.

Some toxic materials may have been disposed of with the refuse at the site, as evidenced by occasional detections of hazardous constituents in some groundwater samples. The Interim Action Work Plan includes contingency for management of hazardous materials, should they be encountered during the Interim Action refuse excavation work.

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

Disposal of refuse resulted in some contamination being released to groundwater at the site. Also, some petroleum hydrocarbons in groundwater were found west of the Interim Action area.

- 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.

Care will be taken during implementation of the Interim Action during excavation work in the vicinity of any utility crossings. Any hazardous materials encountered during refuse excavation will be appropriately handled and disposed of.

- 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.

Heavy equipment will refuel offsite. Any onsite fueling will include use of BMPs and containment systems to address risks of a fuel release.

- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Interim Action work will be performed under Health & Safety Plan. That plan will include emergency services information.

- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

Control of landfill gas, dust control, and proper management of dewatered water will control environmental health hazards during the Interim Action.

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)?

Indi-

cate what hours noise would come from the site.

Heavy equipment operation only. Far distant from offsite properties.

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: None.

**8. Land and Shoreline Use**

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Industrial or vacant land uses.

- b. Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? No.

- c. 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?

Property was former Boise Cascade Mill and former Yakima City Landfill.

- 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? No.

- d. Describe any structures on the site. No structures in the Interim Action area.

- e. Will any structures be demolished? No.

f. What is the current zoning classification of the site? 99-Other developed land (zoned for regional development).

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

Regional development. A portion of the former Mill Site area is designated single-family residential.

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

Not applicable (no shorelines).

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

National wetland inventory mapped wetlands are located adjacent to the area of the Interim Action.

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

None. The project includes the proposed Interim Action work only, not future land developments.

k. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? None.

l. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: Not applicable.

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

The Interim Action is being conducted by the City of Yakima, the planning entity for the lands.

n. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any: Not applicable.

## 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: Not applicable.

## 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.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? None.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: Not applicable.

### 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 identified.
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: Not applicable.

### 12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? None (vacant land).
- 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: Not applicable.

### 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? If so, specifically describe.

No buildings currently stand within or adjacent to the project area. The project area is within the former Boise Cascade Mill site and a former municipal landfill.

- 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.

The project site is located on land historically occupied by Yakama Nation tribes. A Cultural Resources Assessment for the East-West Corridor was conducted in part of the landfill remediation site in 2014 and uncovered no evidence of Native American or other historic use or occupation. The report also stated that it is unexpected that any Native American artifacts would be unearthed in this project site. Additional test pits were dug in 2019 as part of a cultural resources survey. No evidence of Native American or historic use or occupation was discovered in these test pits.

- 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.

Methods used to assess cultural and historic resources include: visual site inspections which includes photographing and documenting potential ground disturbance; test pit surveys which include sieving soil, observing soil profiles, and documenting any artifacts unearthed; reviewing the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data (WISAARD); and consultations with the Yakama Nation. Section 106 consultation initiations with the Yakama Nation and DAHP occurred on August 6, 2014. *Cultural Resources Assessment for the Yakima East-West Corridor Project, Yakima, Yakima County, Washington* by Drayton Archaeology was published on July 14, 2014. The latest Area of Potential Affect (APE), published on May 16, 2019, was concurred by the DAHP on May 30, 2019. Survey and assessment methodology for the 2019 test pits described above was submitted on October 17, 2019, and a follow up report is anticipated that will document the test pit results.

- 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.

Conducting surveys in addition to the ones conducted for the aforementioned Cultural Resources System was done to help confirm that unearthing culturally significant artifacts is unlikely. In the unlikely event that cultural significant deposits/materials are unearthed during this project work will be immediately halted until objects can be properly assessed and the appropriate people will be notified including DAHP and Yakama Nation personnel. In the unlikely event that human remains are unearthed, work will be immediately halted; remains will be covered; and the appropriate people will be contacted including the Yakima Police, Yakama Nation personnel, and DAHP personnel.

#### 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.  
Project site area surrounded by I-82 to east, E Street through H Street, and 8<sup>th</sup> Street to the west.
- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? No. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?  
Not applicable for proposed Interim Action.
- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? None. 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). Not applicable for proposed Interim Action.
- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? No.
- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? None for proposed Interim Action.

- 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? No.
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: Not applicable.

**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)? No.
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.  
Not applicable.

**16. Utilities**

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: Not applicable for proposed Interim Action.  
electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system,  
other \_\_\_\_\_
- d. 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 other than potential temporary conveyances for managing stormwater and excavation dewatering water during the implementation of the Interim Action.

**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: 

Name of signee Frank P. Winslow

Position and Agency/Organization Cleanup Site Manager, Dept. of Ecology, Toxics Cleanup Program

Date Submitted: 10/10/19

## D. supplemental sheet for nonproject actions

(IT IS NOT NECESSARY to use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

