

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Industrial Rail Corridor Expansion (IRCE) Geotechnical Test Fill Project (Project)

2. Name of applicant:

Port of Longview (Port)

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

Applicant:

Hendriksen, Lisa
Port of Longview
10 Port Way
Longview, Washington 98632
(360) 425-3305

Contact:

Kuziinsky, Matt
Anchor QEA, LLC
1605 Cornwall Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225
(503) 459-6243

4. Date checklist prepared:

December 10, 2020

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Port of Longview

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

The Project will be constructed the summer of 2021 and will remain in place until summer 2024.

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

The proposed Project is an exploratory geotechnical investigation to inform the engineering design of the future development of the Industrial Rail Corridor Expansion project (IRCE). The IRCE will be permitted and evaluated through the State Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) under a separate action. The Project will involve the placement of a test fill in a location within the proposed IRCE corridor to analyze the amount of settlement that could occur from fill placement for the embankment that would support the future rail corridor. Information

gathered will also be especially important in determining the need for utility relocations along the proposed IRCE corridor.

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

The following documents have been prepared as part of the IRCE or other Port of Longview efforts, and are applicable to the proposed Project:

- Report of Geotechnical Engineering Services (Hart Crowser 2019)
- Wetland Delineation Report (ELS 2020a)
- IRCE Wetland Mitigation Plan (ELS 2020b)
- Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application – Test Fill (Port of Longview 2020b)
- Determination of No Effect on Endangered Species Act-listed Species (Anchor QEA 2020a)
- Port of Longview Industrial Rail Corridor Expansion – Cultural Resources Assessment (Anchor QEA 2020b)
- Willow Grove Advance Wetland Mitigation Plan (Port of Longview 2019)
- Contamination Investigation: Rail Corridor Improvement (PBS Engineering and Environmental 2016)
- Approved Jurisdictional Determination (Zinszer 2018)
- Floodplain Modeling for Port of Longview Industrial Rail Corridor (KPFF 2018)

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.

Local (Cowlitz County)

- Critical Areas Permit
- Floodplain Permit
- Planning Clearance /Fill and Grade Permit

Port

- SEPA Determination

State

- Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Water Quality Certification (Washington Administrative Code [WAC] 173.201A and 173.225)

Federal

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Section 404 Review (33 USC 1344) and Individual Permit
- Endangered Species Act compliance review (16 USC 1531–1543)
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Evaluation (16 USC 1801–1884)
- National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Compliance (16 USC 470f)

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 Project is a geotechnical investigation to determine ground settlement rates based on the recommendations from Hart Crowser in their 2019 *Report of Geotechnical Engineering Services for the Port of Longview Industrial Rail Corridor Expansion* (Hart Crowser 2019). The Project would occur in an emergent wetland (Wetland A) that was identified by Ecological Land Services (ELS) in their *Wetland Delineation Report for the Industrial Rail Corridor Expansion* (ELS 2020). Wetland A is located adjacent to the Pacific Fibre Log Pond (Log Pond). The Project will also occur within the Regulatory Floodplain identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 53015C0681G (FEMA 2015).

The Project is shown in Figures 3 through 6 and will include the following activities:

- 1) Prior to placement of any fill material for the test fill, vegetation at the Project site will be mown to a height of 3 inches and the root balls of all woody plants larger than 6 inches in diameter will be removed (Figures 3 and 4).
- 2) Following vegetation mowing/removal, geotextile fabric will be laid on the ground surface across the entire Project site. The geotextile fabric will extend 5 feet beyond the toe of slope of the future test fill (Figures 3 through 6).
- 3) Nine steel and PVC settlement plate assemblies will be installed on top of the geotextile fabric in the locations shown in Figure 3. Each settlement plate will include a steel base plate and PVC riser pipe with an internal steel rod welded to the base plate (Figure 6).
- 4) Once the settlement plates are installed, a test fill embankment will be constructed on top of the geotextile fabric and settlement plate assemblies (Figures 4 and 5). Approximately 880 cubic yards of stabilization material will be placed on the geotextile fabric in a 12-inch layer. Stabilization material will extend 5 feet beyond the toe of slope of the future test fill. Stabilization material will consist of ballast or track rock, which is

generally equivalent to No. 4 Ballast as defined by American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association specifications.

- 5) Approximately 11,300 cubic yards of sand fill material will be placed on top of the stabilization material to the top-of-fill elevation, which is estimated at 23 feet above the existing grade (Figures 4 and 5). Fill material will be placed in a series of 20+ lifts. Each lift will have a thickness of between 8 and 24 inches and will be compacted to a minimum density of 100 pounds per cubic foot upon placement. If this density is not achieved, then the height of the test fill will be increased to obtain equivalent loading.
- 6) The footprint of the test fill will be approximately 158 feet by 124 feet (Figure 3). In addition, a 25-foot-wide access ramp and a short section of access road will also be constructed on the west side of the test fill to facilitate placement of fill material. Total area of fill placement in Wetland A will be 24,700 square feet (0.57-acre). Fill will be placed approximately 23 feet above the existing grade to form a rectangular pile with 1:1 side slopes (Figures 4 and 5).

Stabilization rock material will be sourced from a local borrow area selected by the contractor. It is anticipated that the sand fill material will either be dredge material from the Columbia River deepening project that will be provided by the Port of Longview or from some other approved clean fill source. Both the stabilization rock and fill material will be brought in by rail, on the Port's rail tracks to the south, using side dump rail cars. The material will be placed using excavators, backhoes, dozers, loaders, and compactors. The construction access route shown in Figure 2 will only be used by the surveyor and for the mobilization and demobilization of construction equipment; it will not be used as a haul road. Most of that route is in an upland area that is currently utilized by Port vehicles. No additional rock will be needed for the upland portion of that route. The short segment that is located in Wetland A will be rocked to a depth of approximately 12 inches during placement of the stabilization material. The type and amount of stabilization rock to be placed in that area is included in the total stabilization material volume provided above in #4.

The proposed fill duration will exceed 6 months, therefore, compensatory mitigation for loss of wetland habitat and function will be required. Compensatory wetland mitigation will be conducted consistent with the applicable regulatory requirements and is proposed to occur at the Willow Grove Advance Mitigation Site on the Columbia River, approximately 7 miles downstream of the Project site. Preservation of Port-owned land will be valued at a 10:1 ratio for Category III and Category IV wetland impacts, derived from ratios for concurrent wetland mitigation from Cowlitz County Critical Areas Ordinance (Table 19.15.170-A) and Ecology publication #06-06-011a. The preservation credits are immediately available for use to mitigate

wetland impacts resulting from the proposed test fill. Therefore, 5.7 acres of preservation are proposed to mitigate for 0.57 acre of wetland impact.

If the proposed temporary fill period ends before the JARPA for the full IRCE project is submitted, the Port will remove the test fill material and other materials (e.g., settlement plates and geotextile fabric) and restore the impact area to pre-project conditions. Fill removal will be performed using standard construction equipment (e.g., excavators, front-end loaders, and dump trucks), which will access the site via the same route used for fill placement. Removed fill will be reused at an off-site location or disposed of at an appropriate upland facility. Following fill removal, restoration work in Wetland A will include grading to match pre-fill site contours and revegetation with a native wetland seed mix. Soil amendments will be added if deemed necessary.

- 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.**

City/County/State: Longview, Cowlitz County, Washington

Street Address: Near 467 Fibre Way

Public Land Survey System: Sections 10 and 11, Township 7 North, Range 2 West

Lat/Long: 46.110349 N. Latitude, -122.907774 W. Longitude

Tax Parcels: 615200500

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

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

a. General description of the site:

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

The site is generally flat with depressional areas where the wetland collects water.

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

The area slopes slightly towards the Log Pond (north of the Project site). Slopes are generally less than 2% throughout the undeveloped Project site. At the existing Industrial Rail Corridor (IRC) railroad embankment, the slope is as steep as 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 soils at the Project site are mapped as Maytown silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes (NRCS 2020). The Maytown soil type is classified as hydric. The Project site is not within agricultural land of long-term commercial significance. No soils are proposed to be removed from the site.

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

In general, the Project site is underlain by thick deposits of weak and compressible alluvial soils. The alluvial soils are heterogeneous, although they mostly consist of interbedded very loose to medium dense sandy deposits and very soft to soft silts. A *Report of Geotechnical Engineering Services* was prepared for the IRCE project, and no surface indications of unstable soils were found near the Project site (Hart Crowser 2019). However, the soils in this area are vulnerable to seismically induced liquefaction instability due to earthquake shaking.

- 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.**

Purpose: The Project is a geotechnical investigation that will inform the design of the future IRCE. It will be used to determine ground settlement rates, based on recommendations made in the *Report of Geotechnical Engineering Services* for the Port of Longview Industrial Rail Corridor Expansion (Hart Crowser 2019).

Type: Excavation for the Project will occur during the preliminary vegetation mowing/clearing stage of that work. It will be relatively minimal and limited to the removal of root balls of woody plants larger than 6 inches in diameter at the test fill site. Most of the material removed during those actions will be knocked off the root ball and replaced in the same location from where it was removed.

Fill placement for the Project includes the placement of both stabilization rock and clean sand fill material. Stabilization rock material will consist of ballast or track rock and will be sourced from a local borrow area selected by the contractor. Sand fill will either consist of

dredged material from the Columbia River deepening project that will be provided by the Port of Longview or from some other approved clean fill source. Both the stabilization rock and sand fill material will be brought into the Project site by rail, on the Port's rail tracks to the south, using side dump rail cars.

Total Affected Area: The area proposed for excavation is minimal and not expected to be more than 0.01 acre. The area proposed for fill placement is approximately 0.57 acre in size. All fill will occur in Wetland A.

Approximate Quantity: Approximately 12,180 cubic yards of fill material will be placed for the test fill to an elevation of 23 feet above existing grade. The fill material will consist of approximately 880 cubic yards of stabilization rock and 11,300 cubic yards of sand (anticipated to be dredged from the Columbia River).

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

Yes, there is a potential for erosion to occur during the Project. Once fill is placed for the test fill, there is limited chance that wind erosion could occur from the sand fill placement.

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

Approximately 36 square feet of steel plate (9 plates that are 4 square feet each) will be installed at Project site. It will occur underneath the mound of test fill material. This will comprise less than 1% of the 0.57-acre test fill area.

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

Appropriate erosion control measures will be employed to minimize and manage erosion during construction of the Project. The following best management practices (BMPs) to reduce erosion and other earth-related impacts from the Project will be implemented during construction:

- All work will be performed according to the requirements and conditions of the Project permits.
- The contractor will be required to develop and implement a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan to be used for the duration of the Project to safeguard against an unintentional release of fuel, lubricants, or hydraulic fluid from construction equipment.

- The contractor will be required to properly maintain construction equipment and vehicles to prevent them from leaking fuel or lubricants; if there is evidence of leakage, the further use of such equipment will be suspended until the deficiency has been satisfactorily corrected.
- Access to the wetlands affected by the test fill will be provided through buffer areas to minimize disturbance (Figures 2 and 7).
- The project area perimeter and any stockpile of materials will be staked and marked with silt fencing; wattle may be used, as well, to ensure the contractor does not impact any areas outside of the work pad.
- Watering of test fill material will be performed if there is a potential for wind erosion to occur.
- Construction entrances for the test fill will be rocked.

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.**

The Project will have short-term emissions from diesel exhaust and dust particles from heavy equipment used to perform earthmoving (e.g., fill placement, excavation). No long-term emissions will result from the completed Project.

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

There are no off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect the Project.

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

The Project will adhere to applicable regulations for the reduction or control of emissions. BMPs will be implemented to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to the air during construction activities. BMPs include conducting inspections of equipment to ensure that uncontrolled emissions do not occur.

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.

The Project will occur in an emergent wetland identified as Wetland A by ELS in their 2020 wetland delineation report (ELS 2020; Figure 2). Wetland A is a 53.46-acre emergent Category IV wetland located on the lake fringe portion of the Log Pond, a 71-acre waterbody that was constructed to support lumber mill operations. Wetland A is hydrologically connected to the Log Pond. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that the Log Pond and its associated wetlands have nexus to the Cowlitz and Columbia rivers, although two lock structures keep the Log Pond independent of these rivers.

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.

The Project will involve the placement of fill within a 0.57-acre section of Wetland A that is located along its southern boundary (Figures 2 through 6). The Project is currently proposed as a temporary action with removal occurring within 3 years of fill placement once sufficient ground settlement data have been collected. However, the Port intends to submit the JARPA for the larger IRCE project by the end of the proposed test fill period. When that occurs, the Port will request approval to retain the test fill material in place for incorporation into the proposed IRCE embankment that will support the new rail lines.

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.

Approximately 880 cubic yards of stabilization rock (ballast or track rock) and 11,300 cubic yards of sand fill (Columbia River dredge sand) will be placed into Wetland A as part of the Project (Figure 2). The stabilization rock will be sourced from a local borrow area selected by the contractor. The fill sand will come from the Port of Longview.

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 for the Project.

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

The Project site is within the Regulatory Floodplain (FIRM Panel 53015C0681G; FEMA 2015).

- 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 will 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 and water will not be discharged to groundwater as part of the 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.**

No waste materials will be discharged 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.**

Runoff in the vicinity will continue to be collected in Wetland A and drain to the Log Pond directly or through subsurface connections.

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

During construction, incidental quantities of waste materials from accidental leakage from equipment could enter surface waters. The contractor will be responsible for the preparation of an SPCC Plan to be used for the duration of the Project to safeguard against an unintentional release of fuel, lubricants, or hydraulic fluid from construction

equipment. No waste materials will be discharged to ground or surface water from the completed Project.

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

Hydrology within Wetland A will not be significantly affected by the Project, due to the large size of that wetland and its proximity to the Log Pond. Water will continue to be collected in the wetland and drain to the Log Pond directly or through subsurface connections.

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

BMPs will be implemented to avoid or minimize impacts to the aquatic environment as described in Section A.11.

Compliance with applicable regulations will require the implementation of certain measures. Applicable regulations that pertain to water resources include the following:

- CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WAC 173.201A and 173.225)

4. Plants [\[help\]](#)

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

Vegetation within Wetland A and around the Project site is primarily dominated by emergent species including reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*). These species are non-native and potentially invasive on the site. Some shrubs and trees are present in the wetland transition areas including red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*), Sitka willow (*Salix sitchensis*), and black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera*).

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Approximately 0.57-acre of herbaceous plants, primarily reed canarygrass, will be covered by the test fill. A few shrubs will also be removed in the Project site.

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

The following listed plant species in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service jurisdiction historically have the potential to occur within the vicinity of the Project area:

- Golden paintbrush (*Castilleja levisecta*)
- Nelson's checker-mallow (*Sidalcea nelsoniana*)

However, the Project area does not currently contain the appropriate habitat for these species, and these species were not identified during site visits.

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

No landscape planting is proposed as part of the Project.

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

Yellow flag iris and reed canarygrass are both on Cowlitz County's Class C Noxious Weed List (Cowlitz County 2020). Those species were identified on the Project site as dominants in Wetland A and adjacent uplands by ELS during the wetland delineation (ELS 2020). Other Class C weeds noted on or near the Project site by ELS include Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), spotted jewelweed, Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), common teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), common cat's ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), and oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*). Those species are less common than yellow flag iris and reed canarygrass.

In addition to those Class C noxious weeds, ELS also observed floating primrose-willow, a Cowlitz County Class A noxious weed (Cowlitz County 2020) in other portions of the Log Pond to the east of the Project site, and poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), a Cowlitz County Class B noxious weed (Cowlitz County 2020), in uplands adjacent to the southwestern portion of the Log Pond. Neither of these species was observed on the Project site on or in the vicinity of the Project site.

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 the following:

Birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other

Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other

Fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other

Birds: hawk (*Buteo* spp. and *Accipiter* spp.), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), songbirds (suborder Passeri), other: waterfowl (suborder Anseres)

Mammals: small mammals (i.e., racoons, opossums), rodents (i.e., squirrels, mice)

Fish: No fish occur on the Project site; however, bass (*Micropterus* spp.), salmon (*Oncorhynchus* spp.), trout (*Oncorhynchus* spp., *Salvelinus* spp., and *Salmo* spp.) likely occur in the Columbia and Cowlitz rivers; bass, various species of pan fish, and other warmwater invasive fish likely occur in the Log Pond.

Amphibians and Reptiles: It is likely amphibians, such as frogs and salamanders, and possibly some reptiles, such as common turtle and snake species, utilize wetland habitat at the site.

Impacts to animals at the site will be minimal. Habitat features in the Project site are limited because vegetation is primarily a monoculture of reed canarygrass. No nest sites will be disturbed. No in-water work is proposed so no fish will be disturbed.

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

The following species protected under the Endangered Species Act have the potential to occur in the vicinity of the Project (USFWS 2020); however, there is no documentation that any of these species have been observed or are known to occur within the Project site:

- Mammal: Columbian white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus leucurus*) – Columbia River Designated Population Segment (DPS); Threatened
- Mammal: North American wolverine (*Gulo gulo luscus*); Proposed Threatened
- Bird: marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*); Threatened
- Bird: streaked horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris strigata*); Threatened
- Bird: yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) – Western U.S. DPS; Threatened
- Fish: bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*); Threatened
- Fish: Columbia River chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*); Threatened
- Fish: Lower Columbia River Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*); Threatened

- Fish: Lower Columbia River coho salmon (*O. kisutch*); Threatened
- Fish: Lower Columbia River steelhead (*O. mykiss*); Threatened
- Plant: golden paintbrush (*Castilleja levisecta*); Threatened
- Plant: Nelson's checker-mallow (*Sidalcea nelsonisana*); Threatened

Due to the heavily industrialized and disturbed environment surrounding the Project site, no listed species are anticipated to be affected by proposed work. Listed fish utilize the Columbia and Cowlitz rivers but do not have access to the Log Pond, so they will not be affected by proposed work.

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

The general Project area is within the Pacific Flyway, a broad migratory corridor that extends from Alaska to Central America and is used by waterfowl, eagles, hawks, falcons, songbirds, sandhill cranes, and shorebirds (see the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Species Volume IV: Birds).

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

The Project will adhere to applicable regulatory requirements related to the preservation of animals, including:

- Local critical areas protection
- Endangered Species Act
- CWA Section 404

BMPs will include:

- Use of construction methods designed to minimize terrestrial noise generation.

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

There are no invasive animal species known to occur on the Project site; however, the Log Pond and nearby Columbia and Cowlitz rivers may contain invasive warmwater fish species.

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 (diesel, gasoline) will be used to power construction equipment. The completion of the Project will not have energy needs.

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

The Project will 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:**

There will be no energy impacts as a result of this Project; therefore, no conservation measures are proposed.

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.**

There are no environmental health hazards that could occur as a result of the Project. An unintentional release of fuel, lubricants, or hydraulic fluid from construction equipment could occur; however, BMPs will be implemented during construction to avoid or minimize such releases, including the preparation of an SPCC Plan.

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

Previous geotechnical investigations were performed in the Log Pond area and no contaminated sediment was discovered. PBS Engineering and Environmental performed an assessment of the IRCE corridor area in 2016 and did not find contamination in the vicinity of the Project site (PBS Engineering and Environmental 2016).

- 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.**

There are no known sources of hazardous chemicals or conditions in the footprint or immediate vicinity of the Project site. There are natural gas lines at the far west end of the Project site near the Fibre Way overpass and at the east end of the Project site that serves a building at the Cowlitz County landfill 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.**

No toxic or hazardous chemicals will be stored, used, or produced during the Project's development, construction, or at any time during the operating life of the Project.

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

It is unlikely that special emergency services would be required during or after Project construction.

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

BMPs described above will be implemented to avoid or control environmental health hazards during construction, including the maintenance of construction equipment and the preparation and implementation of the SPCC Plan.

b. Noise

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

Noise from the surrounding area will not impact this 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.**

Short-term increases in noise may occur from the Project construction, though noise levels generated from the Project are not anticipated to be significantly greater than background noise at the site. The most significant noise will result from construction activities, but this will be short-term. Long-term noise levels at the site will remain similar to existing levels after Project completion. Work will be conducted during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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

Construction will be completed consistent with applicable state (WAC 173-60 [Maximum Environmental Noise Levels]) and Cowlitz County noise regulations.

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 undeveloped and maintained as undeveloped wetland adjacent to an actively used Log Pond that was historically constructed to support timber mills. Surrounding properties are all in heavy industrial use. The Project is not anticipated to affect current land uses on this site or adjacent sites. Usage of the site will remain the same after the test fill.

- 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?**

There is no recent history of agricultural use on the site.

- 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 Project is not anticipated to affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.**

There are no existing structures at the Project site.

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

No existing structures will be demolished as part of this Project.

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

The zoning classification at the site is MH: Heavy Manufacturing¹.

¹ Cowlitz County, 2017. Cowlitz County Comprehensive Plan 2017 Update. Available at: <https://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/1309/Comprehensive-Plan>

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

The land use designation at the site is identified as Economic Resource Lands - Industrial (under Cowlitz County's Comprehensive Plan (Cowlitz County 2017)).

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

The Project site is not within shoreline jurisdiction.

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

Yes. The Project site is located in an area that has been delineated as wetland. Wetlands are critical areas and subject to regulation under the Cowlitz County Critical Areas Ordinance 19.15. As a result, the Project will likely require a Critical Areas Permit from Cowlitz County.

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

No people would reside or work in the completed Project.

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

No people will be displaced by the completed Project.

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

No people will be displaced by the completed Project; therefore, no measures to avoid or minimize displacement impacts are proposed.

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

The proposed Project is industrial in nature and is compatible with existing and projected land uses.

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

There will be no impacts to 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 by the proposed Project.

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

The proposed Project will not eliminate any housing units.

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

The proposed Project will not displace any housing units, and no measures are required.

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?**

No structures are proposed as part of the Project. The test fill mound will be approximately 23 feet in elevation above the existing grade.

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

The site and vicinity are dominated by industrial uses and railroad operations. The Project will not obstruct or alter existing views.

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

No aesthetic impacts are anticipated from the Project; therefore, no measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts are proposed.

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 proposed Project will not produce any long-term light or glare. Light sources may be used as part of construction if required for safety.

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

Light or glare from the proposed Project is not expected to create a safety hazard or interfere with views.

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

There are no known sources of off-site light or glare that may affect the proposed Project.

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

No light or glare impacts are anticipated from the Project; therefore, no measures to reduce or control light or glare impacts are proposed.

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

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

The surrounding area is privately owned and in industrial use.

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

The Project will not displace any existing recreational uses.

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

No impacts to recreation are anticipated; therefore, no measures to control or reduce impacts on recreation are proposed.

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 recorded buildings, structures, or sites in the Project area that are eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers.

The nearest register-eligible structure is the Longview Bridge, approximately 1.85 miles southwest of the Project area. The nearest site is the Monticello Convention location, a commemorative location about 0.5 mile northeast of the Project area. The nearest archaeological sites are 45CW006, a reported village site said to have been destroyed by the

Long-Bell Lumber Mill (1.05 miles southwest of the Project area), and 45CW236, an isolated precontact net weight about 1.1 miles southwest of the Project area).

- 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.**

Based on a desktop review by a professional archaeologist, there are no known landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation at this site.

- 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.**

The Project was reviewed by a qualified professional archaeologist. Sources consulted include the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's WISAARD database, historical maps and photographs, records from the Long-Bell Lumber Company, and historical and archaeological literature.

- 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.**

No impacts to cultural resources are expected, and no mitigation is proposed. An inadvertent discovery plan will be developed for this Project.

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.**

State Route 432 is the closest major highway to the Project site. Fibre Way runs south of the Log Pond, while Industrial Way supports the north end of the Log Pond. No changes to the existing street system are proposed as part of the Project.

- 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?**

Public transit does not serve the site. The closest bus stop is the RiverCities Transit system stop at 7th & Walmart approximately 2 miles to the north in the City of Longview.

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

The Project will not create or eliminate any parking spaces.

- 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 improvements or new roads are proposed as part of the Project.

- 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 is located south of the Longview Switching Company Yard, owned and operated by BNSF and UPRR. Side dump rail cars will be used to bring in fill material for the Project. The cars will be operated on Port-owned rail tracks, and all rail movement will be coordinated with Longview Switching.

- 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?**

The completed Project will not change the number of vehicles accessing the property per day.

- 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 proposed Project will not interfere with or affect the movement of agricultural and forest products.

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

No long-term transportation impacts are expected as a result of the proposed Project. All activities in the vicinity of the track or utilizing rail cars will be coordinated directly with the Port of Longview and Longview Switching Company for safety and to mitigate any operation interruptions.

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 will not result in an increased need for public services.

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

Impacts on public services are not anticipated; therefore, no measures to reduce or control impacts on public services are proposed.

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

- a. **Circle utilities currently available at the site:**

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

There are currently no utilities available in the Project area.

- 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.**

No new utilities are proposed as part of 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: Lisa A. Hendriksen

Position and Agency/Organization: Director of Planning and Environmental, Port of Longview

Date Submitted: 12/14/2020

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