



## **SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST**

### ***Purpose of checklist:***

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

### ***Instructions for applicants:***

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

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

### ***Instructions for Lead Agencies:***

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

### ***Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:*** [help]

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

## A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:  
*Revisions to WAC 197-11 (Rules implementing the State Environmental Policy Act RCW 43.21C)*
2. Name of applicant: *Washington State Department of Ecology*
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:  
*Fran Sant, SEPA Rule Writer  
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504  
Phone: (360) 407-6004*
4. Date checklist prepared: *February 4, 2016*
5. Agency requesting checklist: *Washington Department of Ecology*
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):  
*The Washington State Legislature directed the Department of Ecology to amend the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Rules in SHB 1851, enacted during the 2015 legislative session.*
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal?  
If yes, explain.  
*There are no immediate plans for further rulemaking.*
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.  
*Ecology's Staff Report for the proposed rulemaking contains additional background and analysis.*
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.  
*N/A*
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.  
*Adoption of this rule will need to comply with the requirements of the Washington State Administrative Procedures Act (Chapter 35.04 RCW).*
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.)

*Ecology proposes to adopt amendments to Chapter 197-11 WAC, State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).  
The rule changes include, but are not limited to the following:*

- *Creating a new categorical exemption for the replacement of a City, Town or County owned structurally deficient bridge.*
- *Minor updates and clarifications on other transportation related categorical exemptions.*
- *Updates, clarification and technical corrections to improve readability.*

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.

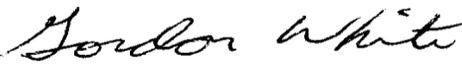
*This proposed rulemaking applies to all proposals in the state of Washington which can be defined as "actions" under SEPA and which are reviewed to determine if they are exempt under WAC 197-11; and proposals for which an environmental checklist must be prepared.*

**B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS**

*As specified in WAC 197-11-315(1)(e), for this nonproject proposal, the Department of Ecology has determine that the questions in Part B do not aid in the review of the proposal. See the associated Staff Report and analysis in Part D for additional information..*

**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: 

Date Submitted: February 10, 2016

**D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS**

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?

*In general, the proposed rule revisions increase the exemption levels for some proposals, which means that some proposals that would presently be reviewed under SEPA would become exempt from SEPA. These projects now undergo review for environmental impacts under a variety of other regulations, including development regulations adopted under Growth Management Act requirements and other laws. These other regulations provide for the identification of and mitigation for any impacts. Thus, there will be no additional impacts since the impacts will be addressed under other authorities.*

*For additional details on proposed rule changes, see the Staff Report.*

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

*Review of proposed projects is required by the city and county planning enabling statutes, the Growth Management and Local Project Review Acts, where applicable, and a variety of other laws. Impacts previously identified under SEPA are identified and mitigated under these other authorities.*

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

*See discussion under 1 above.*

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

*See discussion under 1 above.*

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

*See discussion under 1 above.*

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

*See discussion under 1 above.*

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?

*See discussion under 1 above.*

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

*See discussion under 1 above.*

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?

*See discussion under 1 above.*

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

*See discussion under 1 above.*

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

*See discussion under 1 above.*

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

*See discussion under 1 above.*

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

*No conflicts have been identified.*