

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. Background

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:
Copp Pit
2. Name of applicant:
Connell Sand and Gravel, Inc.
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:
P.O. Box 498, Kahlotus, Washington 99335
Project Contact: Steve Tomren @ (509) 521-1580
Environmental Contact: Betsy Cochran @ (509) 328-7500
4. Date checklist prepared:
October 28, 2022
5. Agency requesting checklist:
Washington Department of Ecology
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):
Immediately.
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.
No.
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.
Department of Ecology – NOC Application
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.
None pending.
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.
Department of Ecology – NOC Approval Order

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.)

Connell Sand and Gravel is a surface mining company that operates at Copp Pit and the adjacent Bauer Sand Pit near Connell, Washington. Operations include dry scalp, a wash plant, a sand plant, two track plants, two stationary diesel generators, and up to six crushers.

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.

Section 1, Township 13N, Range 32E in Franklin County, Washington

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site:

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

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

2%

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.

Silt, sand, weathered rock, and solid rock.

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

The site is a sand/gravel pit.

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 site is a sand/gravel pit where surface mining will continue.

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

Erosion could occur as a result of continuous mining.

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

No change from current, approximately 0%.

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

Grading is used to stabilize slopes during operation.

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.

Process emissions from the surface mining activities and diesel fuel combustion include PM, CO, NO_x, SO₂, and toxics.

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

No.

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

Water spray will reduce dust from surface mining activities.

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.

No.

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.

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.

Not applicable; no dredge material will be used.

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

No.

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

Part of the site is located in a flood hazard area. See Attachment 1-6.

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 material 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.

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.

None.

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.

No change in stormwater runoff will occur during this project.

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

No.

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

No.

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

None.

4. Plants

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

___ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

___ 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?
None.

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.
Castilleja levisecta, lupinus sulphureus ssp. kincaidii, arenaria paludicola, sidalcea nelsoniana, hackelia venusta, silene spaldingii, eriogonum codium, spiranthes diluvialis, sidalcea oregana var. calva, and physaria douglasii ssp. tuplashensis are considered endangered in Washington State, but the plants have not been observed on site.
Reference: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington State

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:
Proposed project will not affect vegetation.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.
There are no noxious weeds known to be on site.

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.

Examples include:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: rodents and badgers
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other _____

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Monarch Butterfly
Reference: IPaC – U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.
No.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:
None.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.
None.

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.

Diesel fuel for power.

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

No.

- 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 are no new proposed energy conservation features.

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.

Diesel fuel – spill hazard.

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

There is no known contamination at the site.

- 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 existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that could affect implementation of this proposal.

- 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.

Diesel fuel.

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

There are no changes to emergency service requirements due to this proposal. Normal fire and emergency response may be needed in case of fire or other life-threatening emergencies.

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

Training, good management practices, secondary containment system, spill cleanup supplies readily available.

b. Noise

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

Existing noise levels due to operation and traffic in the area are not anticipated to 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.

There will not be any noise increase from previous operations at the site as a result of this proposal.

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

Not applicable.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

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 current site is a surface mining pit. The proposed project will not affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties.

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?

No change in land use.

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:

No.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

No buildings are on site.

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

No.

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

The current zoning classification of the site is agricultural.

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

The current comprehensive plan designation of the site is a surface mining pit.

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?
Not applicable. No shoreline nearby.
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.
No.
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?
Approximately 28 full time employees.
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?
This proposal does not displace any people or affect staffing.
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:
This is not applicable because there is no risk of displacement.
- L. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:
None. There are no changes to the currently designated land use.
- m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:
None. There are no changes to plant operations that would affect agricultural and forest land as a result of this proposal.

9. Housing

- 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 project.
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
No housing units are eliminated by the project.
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:
Not applicable because there are not housing units as part of this project.

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?
40 foot – maximum height of sand plant.
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?
None. There are no physical changes to the site as a result of this proposal.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:
None. There is no effect on aesthetics as a result of this project.

11. Light and Glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?
None. There are no physical or operational changes to the site as a result of this proposal.
- 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?
There are no off-site light sources or glare that would affect this proposal.
- 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?
There are no known designated or informal recreational opportunities in the immediate vicinity.
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.
The project would 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:
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.
There are no known places or objects on or near the project site which are listed on or proposed for national preservation registers.
Reference: National Register of Historical Places.
- 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 known landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance on or near the site.
Reference: National Register of Historical Places.

- 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.

Not applicable. No evidence of historic or cultural importance on or near the site.

- 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.

Not applicable. There is no change in risk to historic resources as a result of this proposal.

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.

The site is accessed by Highway 260 and Copp Road.

- 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?

No.

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

No change in parking availability.

- 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.

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

No.

- 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?

Transportation demands will not be affected as a result of this proposal.

- 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 proposal will not be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on area roads.

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

There are no impacts on transportation resulting from the project.

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)? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable.

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:

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

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.

None.

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:

Toni M Hille

Position and Agency/Organization:

Secretary

Date Submitted:

10/31/2022



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Eastern Region Office
4601 North Monroe St., Spokane, WA 99205-1295 • 509-329-3400

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT
MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Date of Issuance: 11/9/2023

Lead Agency: Department of Ecology

Agency Contact: David Finley, (509) 342-5917, david.finley@ecy.wa.gov

Permit Number: Approval Order No. 23AQ-E061

Description of proposal:

Connell Sand and Gravel, Inc. operates a dry scalp plant, wash plant, sand plant, screening operations, crushing operations, and generators in the Copp Pit and Bauer Sand Pit. Connell Sand and Gravel, Inc.'s operations are a mixture of stationary and portable equipment.

Location of proposal:

Located along Copp Road, north of State Route 260, approximately 7 miles east of Connell, Washington, in Franklin County.

Applicant/Proponent:

Toni Hille, (509) 727-2618, toni@connellsandandgravel.com

Department of Ecology (Ecology) has determined that this proposal, as mitigated, 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 and Air Quality Notice of Construction application. This is available at:

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Events/Search/Listing>

This determination is based on the following findings, conclusions, and mitigation measures:

1. Connell Sand and Gravel, Inc.'s operations will be limited in the amount of hours the generators can operate annually.



2. The annual material throughputs of the dry scalp plant, wash plant, sand plant, screening operations, and crushing operations will be limited, as well.
3. Toxic Air Pollutant emissions from the operations will not result in unacceptable cancer and non-cancer risk. As a result, the project is approvable under WAC 173-460-090.

This Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance is issued under WAC 197-11-340. The comment period for this Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance corresponds with the comment period on Approval Order No. 23AQ-E061. All comments received prior to December 11, 2023, will be considered.

Responsible Official:

Karin Baldwin
Section Manager, Air Quality Program
Department of Ecology, Eastern Region Office
4601 N. Monroe St.
Spokane, WA 99205-1295
(509) 202-5819

Signature _____ Date _____

This SEPA decision may be appealed in conjunction with an appeal on the underlying agency action. In this case, the approval order may be appealed within 30 days after issuance.



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Responsible Official:

Karin Baldwin
Section Manager, Air Quality Program
Department of Ecology, Eastern Region Office
4601 N. Monroe St.
Spokane, WA 99205-1295
(509) 202-5819

Signature *Karin Baldwin* Date 10/31/2023

This SEPA decision may be appealed in conjunction with an appeal on the underlying agency action. In this case, the approval order may be appealed within 30 days after issuance.

