



ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

INTRODUCTION

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply". Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

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.

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply". IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project", "applicant", and "property or site" should be read as "proposal", "proposer", and "affected geographic area", respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: **Gibson Pit**
2. Name of applicant: **Louie Gibson**
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: **1221 S. Thorp Highway (509) 728-8605**
4. Date checklist prepared: **10/7/2008**
5. Agency requesting checklist: **Washington Department of Natural Resources**
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): **Ongoing into indefinite future. Length of operation depends on future market and quality and quantity of product on site.**
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, directly related to this proposal. **Kittitas County Conditional Use Permit**
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**

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. **Department of Natural Resources Surface Mining Permit, Department of Ecology air and water quality permits.**

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.)

Mining, crushing and removal of approximately 3,000,000 cubic yards of basalt/basalt shale from an area of approximately 84 acres. At present rock crushing is not occurring on the site, but might possibly occur in the future. Upon completion of mining the site will be used as a shop and equipment storage area and house sites, therefore replacement of topsoil on either the pit floor or slopes is not anticipated or desirable. Also to include rock crushing, screening, washing operations, temporary concrete and asphalt plants.

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. **N1/2NE1/4, SW1/4NE1/4, Section 8, Township17 North,Range 20 East,WM, approximately 2 3/4 air miles east of Kittitas. Street address is 5121 Parke Creek Road, Ellensburg,WA 98926**

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

- a. General description of the site (circle one): **Rolling**
- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? **There is a vertical face on the site which resulted from previous mining. Steepest natural slope is approximately 60%**
- 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 prime farmland. **Vantage-Clerf complex, Marlic-Zenlaric complex, Terlan gravelly loam, Clerf very cobbly loam, Selah-Terlan complex**
- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. **No**
- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. **Removal of basalt/basalt shale. Reclamation to Washington State surface mining reclamation standards. Mining will involve removal of a ridge, reducing the groundline to an essentially flat surface with surrounding walls. Mining will also increase the gradient of a south facing slope and create a flat floor.**
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. **Minor surface erosion of disturbed areas. Most disturbed areas will ultimately be basalt bedrock and not subject to erosion**
- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? **None**
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: **Immediate reseeded of any stored topsoil. Annual precipitation for this area is 7-10 inches.**

2. **Air**

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. **Normal engine exhaust from heavy equipment, dust from processing and hauling rock. Possible dust from drilling and blasting. Also to include rock crushing, screening, washing operations, temporary concrete & asphalt plants.**

- 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: **None. Operation will create only minor amounts of dust.**

3. Water

a. Surface:

- 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. **There is an irrigation lateral canal to the south of the site.**
- 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. **Operation may be within 200 feet, but probably not closer than 100 feet of canal. Canal services proponents property.**
- 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. **None**
- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. **None**
- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. **No**
- 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**

b. Ground

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge. **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 storm water):

- 1) Describe source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. **Water entering mining site will be that which is generated on site from rainfall and snowmelt. All water generated on site will be contained on site. During operations and upon completion of mining the site will contain the 25-year, 24-hour precipitation event. There is a dry wash within the permit area, but not within the mining area on the north side of the site. Seasonal runoff into and from this wash will remain essentially natural.**
- 2) Could waste material enter ground or surface water? If so, generally describe. **No**

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any: **Containment within site**

4. Plants

- a. Check or circle 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
- 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? **Sagebrush, scattered grasses & forbs**
- c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. **None known**
- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: **Disturbed areas which are capable of supporting vegetation will be reseeded to grass**

5. Animals

- a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: **hawk, songbirds**

mammals: **deer, coyotes, rodents**

fish: salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other: **None**

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. **None known**
- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. **Unknown, but unlikely**
- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: **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. **None**
- 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: **None**

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. **Possible fuel spill in the event of equipment upset. No extraordinary hazards. Possible occasional rock blasting**
 - 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required. **Ambulance in event of accident. Fuel cleanup in event of equipment upset.**
 - 2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: **None**
- 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)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site. **Possible short term rock crusher noise in the event one is sited on the project. Otherwise intermittent rock loading into trucks and hauling.**
- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: **None. Nearest houses are owned by proponent.**

8. Land and Shoreline Use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? **Mining (on proposed site), dispersed residences.**
- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe. **Probably grazing only**
- c. Describe any structures on the site. **One Residence owned by proponent within permit area, but not within disturbance area.**
- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? **No**
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? **Rural 3**
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? **Rural**
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? **N/A**
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify. **No**
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? **None**
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? **None**
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: **None**
- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: **Kittitas County CUP already in place.**

9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. **Mining will provide sites for equipment shop and houses, however none will be constructed as part of this proposal. Any structures constructed during life of mining permit will be treated as separate proposals.**
- 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: **None**

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? **No structures. Some temporary equipment might be as high as 25 feet.**
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? **A low ridge on the site would be removed resulting in a depressed flat mine floor of approximately 5 acres and the**

gradient of a south facing slope will be steepened also resulting in a flat mine floor of approximately 7 acres.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: **None**

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? **N/A**
- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? **None**
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, If any: **None**

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? **Dispersed hunting**
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. **No**
- c. Proposed measures so reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: **None**

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe. **None known**
- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site. **None**
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any: **None**

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any. **Parke Creek Road, East Kittitas Road, I-90**
- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? **N/A**
- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate? **None**
- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). **No**
- e. Will the project 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? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur. **None upon completion. Several trips per day on an intermittent basis during operations.**
- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: **None**

15. Public Services

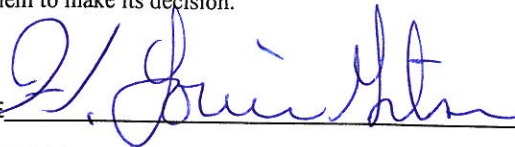
- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe. **No**
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. **None**

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other. **Electricity, which will not be used for this proposal.**
- 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 

DATE SUBMITTED _____



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources



DOUG SUTHERLAND
Commissioner of Public Lands

MEMORANDUM

November 17, 2008

File No. 08-111701

TO: Kittitas County, Planning Director
Spokane Indian Tribe
Gary Bell, DFW
Gretchen Kaehler, DAHP
Yakama Indian Tribe
Louie Gibson, Proponent

Environmental Coordinator, DOE
D. Temple / B. Renfrow/ P. Harvester, DFW
John Storman, DOE
Colville Confederated Tribes
Meg Decker, WEC
Mary Ann Shawver / Matt Brookshire, DNR

FROM: Elizabeth L O'Neal, SEPA Center

SUBJECT: **SEPA LEAD AGENCY & DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE**

This is to advise you that pursuant to WAC 197-11-900 (922 through 948), the Department of Natural Resources has determined that it is Lead Agency for the following:

Surface Mining Reclamation Permit Application #70-013123 is a reclamation plan for a 60 acre basalt mine. Mining will occur to an elevation of 1890 feet above mean sea level (msl). Reclamation will be completed to accommodate a maintenance shop, equipment storage and housing sites as the subsequent use. Located in Section 08, Township 17 North, Range 20 East, W.M., Kittitas County.

Information about this proposal including the Threshold Determination, SEPA Checklist and Application for Reclamation Permit can be viewed on DNR's website at:

<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/sepa/Pages/Home.aspx>

Pursuant to WAC 332-41-504, this proposal was filed in the department's SEPA Center at the Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, P.O. Box 47015, Olympia, Washington; on **November 17, 2008** We will consider comments on this proposed DNS received by 4:30 p.m. on **December 01, 2008**. Comments should be submitted to the SEPA Center at, sepacenter@dnr.wa.gov or P.O. Box 47015, Olympia, Washington 98504-7015 for distribution to the responsible official. Please **include the file number** listed above on all comments.