

**Snoqualmie Pass Utility District  
Kittitas County, Washington**

# **SNOQUALMIE PASS UTILITY DISTRICT**

## **PHASE 1 MEMBRANE BIOREACTOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**

### **STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT**

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST**

Prepared by



HLA Project No. 19216C

March 2020

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

**ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST**

**A. BACKGROUND**

1. *Name of Project:* Phase 1 Membrane Bioreactor Wastewater Treatment Plant
  
2. *Name of Proponent:* Snoqualmie Pass Utility District  
*Phone Number:* (425) 434-6600  
*Address of Proponent:* 370 Treatment Plant Road  
PO Box 131  
Snoqualmie Pass, WA 98068
  
2. *Person Completing Form:* Dean P. Smith, PE  
*Phone Number:* (509) 966-7000  
*Address:* HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc.  
2803 River Road  
Yakima, WA 98902
  
3. *Date Checklist Submitted:* March 2020
  
4. *Agency Requiring Checklist:* Kittitas County
  
5. *Name of Proposal, if Applicable:* Snoqualmie Pass Utility District Facility and General Sewer Plans
  
6. *Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):*  
Construction scheduled to begin in May 2020 with completion in November 2020
  
7. *Do you have any plans for future additions, expansions, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.*  
The Facility Plan identifies future plant construction phases to support growth which are anticipated to begin in May 2022, and to be completed in 2025 as follows:
  - Phase 2 – Process Plant Expansion to 250,000 gpd facility – 2022 through 2023
  - Phase 3 – Lagoon 1 Rehabilitation (new liner and aeration system) – 2024
  - Phase 4 – Lagoon 2 Rehabilitation (cleaning and aeration system) - 2025
  
8. *List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.*  
None.
  
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 governmental approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.*  
Department of Ecology - Approval of planning and design documents.  
Snoqualmie Pass Utility District – Approval of design, authorization to advertise for bids, and award of construction contract.

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.

Construction of a building approximately 60-feet x 60-feet for Snoqualmie Pass Utility District offices and housing of the Phase 1 Membrane Bioreactor WWTP equipment skid and ancillary equipment. Some portions of the project are sized for the future buildout of the WWTP scheduled to begin expansion in 2022. One of these components is a new MBR screening building located near the existing WWTP control building.

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 application related to this checklist.

The proposed wastewater system improvements are located on the existing Snoqualmie Pass Utility District Service Area and are shown in the General Sewer and Facility Plans.

## **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)?  
The wastewater treatment facility area sits on slopes that range from 0% to 5%.
- 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.  
Four soil types are found within the wastewater system service area, and these soil types are discussed below:
1. Chinkmin sandy loam: This soil is typically 20 to 40 inches deep and is moderately well drained with a low to moderately low capacity to transmit water of 0.01 to 0.06 in/hr. Depth to water is about 18 to 36 inches. The available water storage in profile is about 3.1 inches.
  2. Index loamy sand: This soil is typically found on 30 to 65 percent slopes in the area. These areas are not where the collection system piping or wastewater treatment facilities will be located, and therefore, are not anticipated to be encountered. This soil is well drained with a capacity to transmit water of 5.95 to 19.98 in/hr. The depth of these soils are 40 to 70 inches deep and typically are on bedrock. The depth to water is more than 80 inches.
  3. Jonas gravelly silt loam: This soil is found on 65 to 90 percent slopes in the area, are well drained and are more than 80 inches deep. The capacity to transmit water is from 0.57 to 1.98 in/hr. As with the Index loamy sand soils, the collection system piping and wastewater treatment facilities are not located in these areas and will be outside our project work areas.
  4. Klapatche-rock outcrop complex: This soil is found on 45 to 90 percent slopes in the area, are well drained and are 30 to 40 inches deep. The capacity to transmit water is from 1.98 to 5.95 in/hr. As with the Index loamy sand soils, the collection system piping and wastewater treatment facilities are not located in these areas and will be outside our project work areas.
- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

There has been no recent indications of unstable soils or earth movement at the Snoqualmie Pass WWTP.

- e. *Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.*  
The WWTP building foundation will require excavation of unsuitable materials and structural fill of approximately 3,000 CY for the total project. Phase one is estimated to be 1,000 CY. Fill is expected to be hauled in from pits located in Easton or Cle Elum.
- f. *Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.*  
No.
- g. *About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or building)?*  
The WWTP will cover approximately 10% of the site and will be impervious.
- h. *Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:*  
BMPs.

## 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.*  
During construction, dust and vehicle emissions will be present during the excavation, backfill, and building erection phases of the project.
- 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:*  
Dust suppression practices will be performed during excavation and backfill using water trucks.

## 3. WATER

- a. *Surface:*
- 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.*  
Coal Creek and adjacent drainages are adjacent to the current and future WWTP.
  - Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) of the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.*

Yes, an existing Type 4 stream is located to the north across the street from the project. In addition, the County GIS Compass 3.0 map shows a Type 4 stream passing through the project which was apparently relocated in the 1980's to flow around the west side of the WWTP to the north. See attached sketch showing the actual location of the Type 4 stream near the WWTP.

The planned work is an extension of the sewer main across an area of this stream which is currently running in a culvert. The Overall Site Plan shows the location of this gravity sewer main.

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.*  
No.
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. However, the treated wastewater will be discharged to the existing outfall to Coal Creek. Ecology is in the process of approving this treated water discharge to Coal Creek as a foreign water right credit for the District. In addition, after completion of Phase IV, Lagoon 2 will be able to be used to store treated water to be released to augment the stream flow during fish passage periods.

b. *Ground:*

1. *Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? 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 storm water):*

1. *Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will the water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.*  
BMP will be initiated during construction of the facility. Stormwater swales with detention and infiltration basins will be constructed for the facility.
2. *Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.*  
Construction debris will need to be managed to prevent materials from entering ground or surface waters.
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 impacts, if any:*  
BMPs.

4. PLANTS

- a. *Check or underline type of vegetation found on the site (within the Snoqualmie Pass Utility District Service Area):*

- 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?*  
The WWTP site has already been cleared and has minimal grasses and vegetation which will be affected from the project.
- c. *List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site (Snoqualmie Pass Utility District Service Area).*  
There are no know endangered species in or near the District service area
- d. *Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:*  
None.

## 5. ANIMALS

- a. *Underline any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site (Snoqualmie Pass Utility District Service Area):*
- Bird: hawk, heron, eagle, songbird, other  
Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other  
Fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other
- b. *List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site (Snoqualmie Pass Utility District Service Area).*  
None.
- c. *Is this site part of a migration route? If so, explain.*  
The Snoqualmie Pass Utility District Service Area may be within a migratory route for some bird species.
- 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.*  
Electric. Used for heating and process equipment.
- 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:*  
High efficiency motors, lighting, and HVAC systems. Building insulation.

## 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.*  
No.
1. *Describe special emergency services that might be required.*  
None.
  2. *Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:*  
None.
  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.*  
None.
  4. *Describe special emergency services that might be required.*  
Emergency medical aid may be required should an injury occur during construction.
  5. *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)?*  
Equipment operation during construction.
  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.*  
Work hours are expected to be from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Noise types will primarily be from the construction equipment motors and back-up alarms.
  3. *Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:*  
Restrict construction activities from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m..

## 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 use of the site is a lagoon type wastewater treatment plant and buildings which the Snoqualmie Pass Utility District staff store equipment and work from to perform the operation and maintenance activities associated with their water and wastewater service area. The adjacent properties is a combination of, residential, commercial, recreational, public, and school land uses.
- b. *Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest land? 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 non-forest use?*  
Historically, land within the Snoqualmie Pass Utility District Service Area has been used for recreational forest related purposes.

- c. *Describe any structures on the site.*  
Pre-engineered steel or cast concrete building.
- d. *Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?*  
No.
- e. *What is the current zoning classification of the site?*  
The Snoqualmie Pass Utility District WWTP site is light industrial.
- f. *What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?*  
Light Industrial.
- g. *If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?*  
Not applicable.
- h. *Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area?*  
No.
- i. *Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?*  
6 to 8.
- j. *Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?*  
None.
- k. *Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:*  
Not applicable.
- l. *Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:*  
None.
- m. *Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:*  
Not applicable.

## 9. HOUSING

- a. *Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high-, middle-, or low-income housing.*  
None.
- b. *Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high-, middle-, or low-income housing.*  
None.
- c. *Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:*  
Not applicable.

## 10. AESTHETICS

- a. *What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?*  
30 feet.



- b. *What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?*  
None.
- 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?*  
Perimeter security lighting will be provided for the new WWTP.
- b. *Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?*  
No.
- c. *What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?*  
None.
- d. *Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:*  
Lighting will be pointed down to minimize visibility from neighboring residences.

#### 12. RECREATION

- a. *What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?*  
The Snoqualmie Pass Utility District Service Area contains four ski areas and numerous summer-time hiking areas. Numerous informal recreational opportunities such as fishing, bird watching, walking, jogging, bicycling, etc., exist within the service area.
- b. *Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.*  
No.
- c. *Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:*  
None.

#### 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 located on or near the site? If so, specifically describe.*  
No.
- b. *Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Is 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.*  
No.
- 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.*  
EZ-1 Form and Area of Potential Effect correspondence will be submitted to DAHP and Yakama Nation as necessary to initiate consultation.
- 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.*

None anticipated.

#### 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.*  
The Snoqualmie Pass Utility District Service Area contains numerous county roads, and State Route 906 and Interstate 90. Public streets are shown on maps in the General Sewer Plan.
- b. *Is the site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?*  
No public transit service is provided within the Snoqualmie Pass Utility District Service Area.
- c. *How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?*  
Not applicable.
- 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.*  
I-90 and State Route 906 traverses the Snoqualmie Pass Utility District Service Area.
- 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?*  
No change to vehicular traffic.
- 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.*  
No effect.
- h. *Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:*  
During construction, traffic signing and/or detouring will be necessary at the south end of the project.

#### 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. *Underline the utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, irrigation, cable TV, drains, other.*  
Available at numerous locations within the Snoqualmie Pass Utility District Service 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.*

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.

---

Dean P. Smith, PE  
Project Engineer  
HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc.

Date

**DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)**

*Description of Proposal:*

Phase I Membrane Bioreactor Wastewater Treatment Plant

*Proponent:*

Snoqualmie Pass Utility District Service Area

*Location of proposal, including street address, if any:*

Snoqualmie Pass Utility District  
370 Treatment Plant Road  
PO Box 131  
Snoqualmie Pass, WA 98068

*Lead Agency:*

Kittitas County

*The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does 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). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.*

   *There is no comment period for this DNS.*

  X *This DNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date below. Comments must be submitted by*

\_\_\_\_\_.

*Responsible Official:*

Mark Cook

*Position/title:*

Public Works Director; Kittitas County

*Address:*

411 N Ruby St, Suite 1  
Ellensburg, WA 98926

*Phone:*

(509) 962-7523

*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Signature:* \_\_\_\_\_