WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

## Purpose of checklist:

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 all 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.

# Instructions for applicants:

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.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

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:

## Lauderdale Tap Transmission Line To Lauderdale Substation

2. Name of applicant:

## Kittitas County Public Utility District #1

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

Kittitas County Public Utility District #1 1400 Vantage Highway Ellensburg, WA 98926 Mark Kjelland, Manager Phone: (509) 933-7200 D. Hittle & Associates 7515 West Deschutes Avenue Kennewick, WA 99336 Wayne Collop, P.E., Senior Engineer

Phone: 509-735-5350

- 4. Date checklist prepared: **February 7, 2008**
- 5. Agency requesting checklist:

## **Kittitas County Public Utility District #1**

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

Project to be completed in one phase starting 2008 with completion in 2009.

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.

#### 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.

#### None

- 10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.
  - US Bureau of Reclamation Permits To Access The Kittitas Reclamation District Right-Of-Way.
  - State of Washington Department of Natural Resources Power Line Easement.
  - State of Washington Department of Transportation Franchise and Permits to Access SR 97 and SR 970.
  - Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Point Of Connecting To BPA Transmission System.
- 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 consists of a 115,000 volt electric power transmission line northwest of Ellensburg, starting at a point along a BPA transmission line located east of the intersection of Smithson Road and Robbins Road; then heading west along Smithson Road approximately 6.0 miles to State Route 97 (SR 97); then generally following SR 97 approximately 8.0 miles to a point near the intersection of SR 97 and SR 970, more commonly known as Lauderdale Junction; then westerly along SR 970 terminating at a new electrical substation located approximately 0.5 miles west of Lauderdale Junction on Swauk Prairie Road.

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.

Beginning in Section 35 Township 19N Range 18E east of the intersection of Smithson Road and Robbins Road the new project transmission line will tap an existing Bonneville Power Administration transmission line. The project transmission line will extend westerly along Smithson Road generally following an existing Kittitas Public Utility District (KPUD) electrical distribution line for approximately 6.5 miles. The new line will cross over SR 97 approximately 0.7 miles north of the intersection of Smithson Road and SR 97 and then proceed northerly along SR 97 2.3 miles to a point 0.2 miles north of the intersection of SR 97 and Bettas Road; then the line will proceed westerly 1.0 miles to the west section line of Section 15, T19N, R17E, W.M.; then the line proceeds north along the section lines approximately 1.3 miles to a gravel pit located in Section 3, T19N, R17 E, W.M.; at this point the line will cross over SR 97 and head northerly within SR 97 right-of-

way approximately 3.0 miles the intersection of SR 97 and SR 970; then the line proceeds westerly 0.5 miles terminating at a new electrical substation. The substation will be constructed at the terminus of this line, and will consist of a fenced and graveled parcel of approximately one acre. Mineral oil filled electrical apparatus will be housed within the confines of the fenced yard. There will be an overhead electrical structure of height not exceeding 40 feet and a small unmanned control building to house electronic metering, electrical supplies and replacement parts.

During the routing study alternate routes for the transmission line were considered. An alternate route is proposed in the event there is difficulty in acquiring right-of-way for the line. An alternate route considered utilizes the same route alignment from the BPA tap point on Smithson Road to SR 97. It also utilizes the alignment along SR 97 from Smithson Road to a point were existing transmission lines cross SR 97 near Elk Springs Road. From this point the transmission line would travel northerly for approximately 5.0 miles at which point the line would go westerly to the intersection of SR 97 and SR 970. The line would proceed westerly 0.5 miles terminating at a new electrical substation

# B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

- 1. Earth
- a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other . . . . .

The project is located in the Kittitas Valley, in an area that is relatively flat and open, with a gradual south-to-north rise in elevation. In the southern half of the line route the relatively flat used for agricultural purposes and generally follows exiting KPUD overhead power lines.

In the north half of the line the area has small hilly areas that include some agricultural uses. The alternate route for the north half of the line includes small hilly areas that will be used to hide the overhead transmission line from view where possible.

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

The hilly areas range from approximately 5% to 15% slope.

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.

There are four general soil types located within the bounds of the project. They are Millhouse, Berson, Pachneum and Clint series soils. The location of the power poles and substation will have little disturbance to existing lands and their current uses.

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

#### None

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

#### None

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

It is very unlikely that any erosion will occur during construction. The project will be controlled to avoid any work when environmental factors could indicate erosion

might occur. No construction will occur in surface water sources. After construction, vehicle travel to the project will be infrequent for inspection or repair of the poles and wires. The substation site at Lauderdale Junction will be covered with crush rock and it is not anticipated to promote any standing surface water or erosion of the native soils

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

Perhaps 10% of the substation site, or about 1/10 acre will be covered with impervious surfaces. The 15 mile transmission line will not have any impervious surfaces.

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

During construction the project will be controlled to avoid any work when environmental factors could indicate erosion might occur.

- 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.

No air emissions will result from the Project following construction, other than that from vehicles used for maintenance and operation of the transmission line and substation. Some dust and vehicle emissions will occur during construction.

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

#### None

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

In consultation with Kittitas County Community Development Services staff, it is expected that controls would include covering and/or spraying exposed soils with water. Following construction, exposed areas that are not covered with gravel will be reseeded or planted to stabilize soils.

- 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.

Multiple drainages and creeks flow through the project. The larger creeks within the Project Area include Swauk Creek, Green Canyon, First Creek, Reecer Creek and Jones Creek. All of these creeks are tributaries of the Yakima River. Several wetlands are also located within the Project Area.

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.

Yes. The overhead electric transmission line will span over the drainages, creeks and possibly wetlands, however every attempt will be made to avoid any construction near these waters.

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, the project does not lie within a 100-year floodplain.

- 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.
- 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 water will be withdrawn or discharged to ground water.

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 material will be discharged into the ground. Containment vessels will be constructed to contain any accidental discharges from the project during operation.

- 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.

The only runoff will be stormwater. It is expected that this stormwater will flow in its traditional paths. The impervious surfaces in the project are very small compared to the total area of the project. Any unintended fluid runoff will be contained on the project site within containment to be constructed.

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

No

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

Containment vessels will be constructed to contain any unintended leakage from the oil filled equipment on the substation site.

- 4. Plants
- a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:
- \_X\_\_ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- X evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- X Shrubs
- $X_{\underline{}}$  grass
- \_X\_\_ pasture
- \_X\_\_ crop or grain
- X wet soil plants: cattails, buttercup, bull rush, skunk cabbage, other
- X water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- X\_\_ other types of vegetation
- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Some vegetation may be removed to limit exposure of the overhead lines to falling trees. The substation site will be cleared, fenced and graveled.

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:

Natural species will be used whenever re-vegetation is necessary on the project.

- 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, heron, eagle, songbirds, 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.

Bald eagle (definite)
Elk (probable)
Mule deer (probable)
Golden eagle (possible)
Prairie falcon (possible)
Northern Goshawk (possible)

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

The project is not believed to be a part of a migration route, however deer and elk may roam through the area.

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

Construction practices will be used that limit or eliminate any adverse effects on birds and other wildlife.

- 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.

This project is an electric power transmission line and substation to bring power into the area for use by existing and future growth in the area. No energy will be consumed by the project.

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

#### No adverse effect.

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:

The project owner, a supplier of electric energy is an advocate of conservation of our resources and has programs in place to advocate that conservation throughout its service territory in Kittitas County. This project will extend that commitment to new customers.

- 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.

There is a small risk of fire or exposure of workers to mineral oil which is contained within the electrical equipment. Spill containment is an integral part of the project design. Any equipment fire would be contained within the substation boundaries. There is a small possibility of an electrical arc on the transmission rout causing a fire. This would be likely only through an external event such as lightning, tree falling on the line or a vehicle accident. The electrical circuit protection system in use throughout the Northwest is designed to limit the existence and duration of these electrical arcs.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

The owner will respond to electrical outages on this project. Other services for fire would require the services of the local fire department.

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

The project is designed to National and local codes to eliminate health hazards.

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

There will be noise during the construction phase of the project. Most of that will occur at the substation. Transmission line work will also have short term vehicle noise associated with the placing of poles and wires. After construction and during

operation, the substation will emit a faint 60hz hum that will be audible near the substation. There may also be short mechanical noises as the electrical equipment adjusts voltages or circuits.

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.

The construction noise noted above will occur during the normal work day during daylight. The operational noises will occur at any time the project is in operation.

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

During construction attention will be paid to maintain noises at a minimum and early morning or late night work will be limited to only that work absolutely necessary during those times. The owner will specify and purchase equipment designed to limit ongoing noise at the project.

- 8. Land and shoreline use
- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

The surrounding properties are currently used for agricultural production, cattle grazing, rangeland, and rural residential development. There is an existing East-West high-voltage electric transmission corridor paralleling the project route. This project will interconnect with and generally parallel this existing electrical power corridor.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

Yes, and it will continue to be used as such. The project will not affect the existing land use.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

#### None

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

No structures will be demolished.

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

The land traversed or passing by this project is currently zoned Agriculture 20, Forest and Range, Commercial Forest and Rural 3 by the Kittitas County Code.

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?

#### None

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

The Kittitas County Code identifies Wetlands, Erosion hazard areas, Floodplains, Riparian habitat, Big game winter range, Streams and rivers and other areas containing species of local importance. If these areas are found, a critical areas review study will be performed to determine any impacts related to the project.

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

## None related to the project.

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

#### None

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

### None

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

#### None

- 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:

#### 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?

The tallest height will be that of the transmission poles at 75 feet. The poles will be wood or steel. The substation will be made of galvanized steel, painted steel and concrete.

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

The transmission line route, when finalized will be optimized to hide the line behind natural barriers as much as possible. Attempt will be made to eliminate visual impact. Where the new transmission line parallels existing KPUD distribution pole lines the existing lines will be transferred to the new transmission poles where appropriate. The substation will be situated so as to blend into the environment.

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

#### See 10. b. above.

- 11. Light and glare
- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

There will be small on-site high-pressure sodium lighting at the substation for safety of the electrical workers. This is the familiar orange-yellow light of modern street lights. During electrical outages there will be added portable lighting during repairs. There will be no lighting on the 15 mile transmission line.

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

All permanently mounted high-pressure sodium lights will be aligned to limit any objectionable stray light from the substation.

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 needed

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

Activities include camping, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, off-road vehicle use, hunting, snowmobile use, and cross-country skiing.

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

The project will not alter these activities.

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 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.

There are no known places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers within the bounds of this project.

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

There are no landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be affected by this project with the exception of the Dunford Barn located on east side of SR 97 approximately 1.5 miles south of the intersection of SR 97 and SR 970. Members of the Yakama Indian Nation have historically inhabited the project area.

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

Care will be used during excavation to verify that no evidence of historical activity is disturbed.

- 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 project is near Smithson Road, State Route 97, Bettas Road, Elk Springs Road, Swauk Prairie Road, and the junction of State Route 97 & State Route 970

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

#### None

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

There will be parking within the substation for all large vehicles. In addition there will be space for one or two automobiles to park outside the gated substation. There will be no public parking as there is no public access to the project. In addition pullout space will constructed so that large vehicles can be pulled off the public road before entering the substation yard.

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 new permanent roads or street will be constructed for this project. The current turnout off of SR 970 will be used to access the substation site. During construction of the transmission line temporary construction roads will be built to access the pole sites. After construction, vehicle travel to the pole sites will be infrequent for the purpose of inspection or repair of the poles and wires.

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.

# Fewer than one trip per day.

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.

Yes, there may be a slight increase in the probability of fire protection. See 7.a. Environmental health above.

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

The project is designed to be self protecting on the electrical inputs and outputs. It is unlikely that a significant fire would occur. The yard is designed to be non-flammable to limit any fire propagation beyond the confines of the substation. The transmission line is likewise designed to be self protecting.

- 16. Utilities
- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

Electrical and telephone lines currently run through the substation site.

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.

Construction of a new pole line in areas where the Kittitas PUD has existing poles and lines may require transfer of utility cables to the new pole line. Telephone service may be requested at the substation site. No other utilities are needed.

### 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:

Mark Kjelland, General Manager

Kittitas County Public Utility District No. 1

1400 East Vantage Highway

Ellensburg, WA 98926

Motor

Date Submitted:

214/08

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(do not use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

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? **Does not apply.** 

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

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

### Does not apply.

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

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

# Does not apply.

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

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?

## Does not apply.

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

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?

## Does not apply.

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

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

### Does not apply.

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

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

Does not apply.

