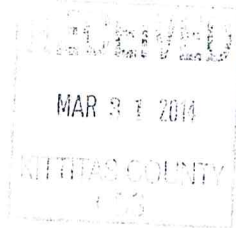




STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

15 W Yakima Ave, Ste 200 • Yakima, WA 98902-3452 • (509) 575-2490

March 28, 2014



Jeff Watson
Kittitas County Community Development
411 N. Ruby St., Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Re: CU-13-00008

Dear Mr. Watson:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the notice of application for the conditional use permit for an electrical substation on 52 acres, proposed by Central Washington University. We have reviewed the application and have the following comment.

SHORELANDS/ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE

Original SEPA documents upon which this action is based provided incorrect information in section 3 Water, stating that no wetlands were present on site. No wetland delineation was completed for this application, and no wetland mitigation is currently proposed for placement of this substation. Wetland impact information must be gathered for the project before the project is approved. The NWI maps show a large wetland system present on site, so the project area should be checked on the ground to locate the wetland boundaries.

A final SEPA determination must include mitigation for potential wetland impacts. A formal wetland delineation must be completed by a qualified wetland professional. (The NWI maps are based on aerial photo interpretation and are not accurate enough to be used for the purposes of project development and mitigation requirements.) Wetland impacts should be assessed and impacts to wetlands and their required buffers must be mitigated. The project size (and potential wetland impact area) is over one acre. Ecology would like a chance to review and comment on the wetland delineation report, wetland characterization and mitigation documents before the project is approved.

Wetlands provide water quality improvement and floodwater retention, as well as habitat. The water quality functions provide protection for downstream infrastructure and development. Loss of wetland area over time to provide this function puts the City at greater risk.

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Mention is made in sent documents regarding the presence of an infiltration swale along the southwest corner of the site. SEPA information should include a plan and cross section of this swale. If the swale would be placed in a wetland area, wetland mitigation may be required.

If you have any questions or would like to respond to these Shorelands/Environmental Assistance comments, please contact **Catherine Reed** at (509) 575-2616.

Sincerely,



Gwen Clear
Environmental Review Coordinator
Central Regional Office
(509) 575-2012

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