

WAC 197-11-970 MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE

Description of Current Proposal: The Port is addressing environmental cleanup requirements at the Georgia Pacific West Site under an Agreed Order (as amended) with the Washington State Department of Ecology. The project action will be conducted as an interim action under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), and will include the excavation and off-site disposal of approximately 450 tons of mercury-impacted soil from the vicinity of the Mercury Cell Building, the excavation and off-site disposal of approximately 8,000 tons of petroleum-impacted soil from the former Bunker C tank area, and the demolition and off-site disposal of mercury-impacted building materials from the Mercury Cell Building.

The interim action is intended to remove contaminated soil and building materials from the Site, reducing the potential for impacts to stormwater, groundwater and adjacent surface water resources in Bellingham Bay. All excavated materials will be transported off-site for disposal in appropriately permitted facilities. The excavations will be backfilled to the current site grade and topped with clean sand, gravel and/or crushed rock. The work will be performed on upland portions of the site. Construction activities will take place in two phases. The Bunker C soil excavation will be completed in the fall of 2011. The mercury soil excavation and cell building demolition will be completed in the spring of 2012.

Proponent: Port of Bellingham

Location of Current Proposal: The Site is located within the City of Bellingham at 300 Laurel Street on the south side of the Whatcom Waterway, including property within the planning area known as the "Waterfront District". The Site is located within portions of Sections 25 and 36, Township 38N, Range 02E and Section 30, Township 38N, Range 02E of the Willamette Meridian.

Lead Agency: Port of Bellingham

The lead agency of this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment, provided the proponent complies with the mitigation measures listed below. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). The 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 upon request.

Mitigation Requirements: Mitigation measures to protect public health and the environment include:

1. Use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for erosion control during construction consistent with the Washington State Department of Ecology Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington.

2. Use of BMPs to prevent the uncontrolled release of excavated soils and construction debris from upland portions of the Site to adjacent shoreline and Bellingham Bay.
3. Use of BMPs to suppress the release of airborne dust from excavated soil and construction debris generated at the Site.
4. Use of standard handling procedures and BMPs in accordance with MTCA site requirements to protect human health and the environment, including contractors and agency personnel providing oversight of construction and monitoring activities.

Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance (MDNS) Comment Period: This MDNS is issued under 197-11-340(2). The lead agency will not act on this proposal for 30 days from July 5, 2011, the date this document is being made publicly available. **Comments must be submitted by August 3, 2011 to the Responsible Official.**

Responsible Official: Michael G. Stoner
Director of Environmental Programs
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Signature

6/29/11
Date

Appeals: There is no agency appeal.