**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:

**Pend Oreille County Solid Waste Management Plan Update (includes Moderate Risk Waste Plan Update).**

1. Name of applicant:

**Pend Oreille County**

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

**Pend Oreille County**

**Public Works Department**

**P. O. Box 5041**

**Newport, WA 99156**

**Contact: Ron Curren – Public Works Director – Tel: 509-447-4513**

4. Date checklist prepared:

**December 21, 2009**

5. Agency requesting checklist:

**Northeast Tri-County Health District and Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology)**

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

**Planning document review and approval by March 31, 2010; and implementation of recommendations over a five (5) year period.**

1. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.
   1. **Expansion of Usk Drop Box Site (Central County) facility area for construction of new operations building and scale installation.**
   2. **Recycling Building and baler at Deer Valley (South County) Transfer Station.**
   3. **Construction, demolition, and land clearing (CDL) diversion area at Deer Valley Transfer Station (South County).**
   4. **Computerized scales at all three (3) facilities.**
2. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

**Previous Solid Waste and Moderate Risk Waste Management Plan Update (2002)**

**Solid Waste Transfer Station Operations Plan (July 2005)**

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 pending applications**

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

**Permit from Northeast Tri-County Health District, with review and approval from Ecology.**

1. 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.)

**Pend Oreille County (current population of approximately 12,800) collects and transfers approximately 8,000 tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) and approximately 650 tons of recyclable materials on an annual basis. The County owns three (3) disposal and transfer facilities and subcontracts operations. Two (2) franchise haulers collect and transport solid waste from customers (residential and commercial) to the County facilities. The South County (Deer Valley) transfer station consolidates franchise hauler waste (comprising approximately 50 - 55% of the County waste stream) and public disposal from the southern portion of the County (an additional 30 - 35% of the waste stream). Attended drop box sites are located in the northern portion of the County at Ione and in Central County at Usk. Drop box waste comprises the remaining waste stream balance of 10 - 20%, with collected waste hauled to the transfer station at Deer Valley (Newport).**

**Regional Disposal Company (Allied Waste, Seattle) consolidates all County MSW at the Deer Valley (Newport) transfer station into 40-cubic yard trailers and transports (by truck) to Spokane. The trailers are then rail transported for disposal at the Klickitat County Roosevelt Landfill (Regional Disposal).**

**Collection boxes for scrap metal, newspaper, cardboard, aluminum cans, tin cans, and container glass are provided free of charge at the transfer stations. The public cleans, separates, and delivers components to the correct collection box. Various vendors, as well as church and civic groups, also collect individual components at the sites. The Deer Valley transfer station is also a collection site for electronic waste (e-waste).**

**Household hazardous waste (HHW) is collected at all of the County MSW facilities and processed at the Deer Valley (Newport) transfer station. Disposal of HHW occurs prior to MSW drop-off and is provided as a free service to County residents. Processed waste is shipped to various locations, with some items reused locally (example—waste oil in shop heaters). Countywide average annual volumes are approximately 37.5 tons of Moderate Risk Waste, which includes approximately 12.7 tons of waste oil.**

**This Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) Update (2009) proposes primarily operational changes, with associated maintenance and upgrade work within the boundaries of and on existing facilities to improve existing collection and processing operations. The SWMP also proposes improvements in the recycling of cardboard, metal, and CDL (construction, demolition, and land clearing) debris. The County is proposing to continue operations of the existing facilities, with the following changes: construction of a recycling building and baler, e-waste collection, and CDL diversion area at the South County (Deer Valley) Transfer Station, limited expansion of approximately one acre of the operational area and installation of a scale at the Central County (Usk) Drop Box Site, and conversion to electronic scaling at all three facilities (Ione, Deer Valley, and Usk).**

1. 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.

**Refer to the SWMP Update (2009) for specific details.**

**Rural Pend Oreille County is located in the extreme northeastern corner of Washington State. The County geography is narrow (22 miles in width and 66 miles long) and generally follows the north-flowing Pend Oreille River. Spokane County adjoins the south boundary, the eastern boundary is the Washington-Idaho state line, Stevens County forms the west boundary, and the northern boundary is at the U.S.-Canada border (British Columbia).**

**The South County Transfer Station, located on Deer Valley Road approximately 5 miles southwest of Newport, occupies about 10 acres. The Usk Drop Box site is on the Jared Road (about 3 miles southwest of Usk), and the Ione Drop Box site is on Sullivan Lake Road (about 3 miles southeast of Ione). Both Drop Box sites occupy about 2 acres.**

B. environmental elements

**The goals of the SWMP Update are to reduce waste and improve recycling, resulting in less waste disposed of in a regional landfill. The proposed changes in operations and facilities consist of improvements to the existing facilities: Recycling building and baler, e-waste collection, computerized scaling, and CDL diversion area at the South County (Deer Valley) Transfer Station; computerized scaling at the North County (Ione) Drop Box Site; and limited expansion of the operational area, installation of a scale, and computerized scaling at the Central County (Usk) Drop Box Site. Refer to the SWMP Update (2009).**

**The following is referenced to a proposed expansion of the Usk facility onto property immediately to west of the existing facility along the Jared Road. Work will generally involve movement of the perimeter fence to the west and north several hundred feet to expand the existing facility by approximately one acre onto previously disturbed ground, remove a few small evergreen trees and some topsoil (less than 500 cubic yards), and place permeable gravel to provide a hard surface for solid waste containers and vehicles. Scale installation will be within the current operational area.**



1. **Earth**

a. General description of the site: **Flat**, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other

1. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? **Approximately 2% to the North**
2. 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. **Dalkena fine sandy loam (approximately 60% sand with a clay component).**

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so,   
 describe. **No history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity. Dalkena fine sandy loam is not considered erodible at the proposed flat grades.**

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed.  
Indicate source of fill. **Minimal grading for operations and access. Fill available through County sources. A tree and vegetation buffer will be preserved and maintained on the north side before the drainage ditch that provides the boundary restraint.**

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. **Minimal erosion during grading, but will be surfaced with gravel.**

1. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project   
    construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? **No additional impervious surfaces.**
2. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: **Buffer and drainage ditch will be preserved.**

1. **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. **Minimal dust during grading.**

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so,   
generally describe. **None anticipated.**

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: **None proposed.**

**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. **Drainage channels and wetland areas associated with Calispell Lake are located northwest of the Usk facility.**

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. **None of the work is within 200 feet of the above.**

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. **Area designated as Zone X – determined to be outside the 500-year flood and protected by levee from 100-year flood.**

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. **None**

**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. **None**

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 this water flow?   
Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. **Storm water runoff will be controlled onsite during construction activities through berms, ditches and onsite infiltration areas.**

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. **Storm water runoff from construction areas will be segregated from operational areas and controlled onsite.**

**d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any: Maintain tree and vegetative buffer at Usk and work within existing footprints at other sites.**

**4. Plants**

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

\_\_\_X\_\_\_evergreen tree: fir, cedar, **pine**, other

\_\_\_X\_\_\_shrubs

X grass

pasture

crop or grain

wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, 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? **Shrubs, trees, and grass (less than 1 acre).**

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: **None, tree removal at Usk is de minimis.**

**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. **None known.**

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

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: **None proposed.**

**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 required.**

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 required.**

**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. **None anticipated.**

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

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

b. Noise

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

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.

**Construction operations during daylight hours only and temporary (short-term – construction duration).**

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: **None proposed.**

**8. Land and shoreline use**

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? **Expansion site is open space, adjacent to existing Usk drop box site. Surrounding properties agricultural, open space, and rural residential.**

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

c. Describe any structures on the site. **None**

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? **None**

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? **N/A**

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? **Agriculture (Open Space)**

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? **NA**

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

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? **1 to 2 County staff/contractors**

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? **None**

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: **None required.**

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land   
 uses and plans, if any: **None proposed.**

**9. Housing – Not Applicable**

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high,  
middle, or low-income housing.

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

**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? **Single-story scale house.**

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 proposed.**

**11. Light and glare**

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? **No changes from existing facility.**

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? **None anticipated**.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? **None anticipated.**

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: **None proposed.**

**12. Recreation – Not Applicable**

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

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

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

**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**

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 proposed.**

**14. Transportation – Not Applicable – no changes from existing facility**

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

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

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

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).

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

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

**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 increased need.**

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. **None proposed.**

**16. Utilities**

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other. **None within expansion area. Electricity and portable toilet available at existing facility.**

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 proposed.**

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