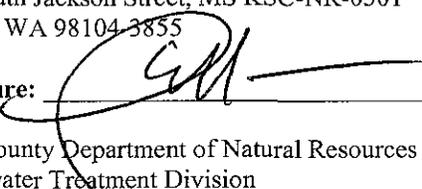


DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)**TITLE OF PROPOSAL:** North Beach Force Main Coupon Inspection Project**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:** The King County Wastewater Treatment Division proposes to perform coupon testing on the North Beach Force Main. Coupon testing consists of the removal of a small piece of pipe for analysis of the pipe's condition. The North Beach Force Main is an existing 14-inch diameter sanitary sewer pipeline that conveys wastewater from the North Beach Pump Station to the Carkeek Pump Station and Storm Weather Treatment Plant. The force main is located in the intertidal zone of Puget Sound. To perform the coupon testing the pipeline would be exposed by excavating an area approximately 6-feet long by 6-feet wide by 6-feet deep in four different locations. Excavation and coupon testing will be performed at low tide to prevent in-water work. The work would be performed during optimal low tides during the 2.5 month work period.**LOCATION OF PROPOSAL, INCLUDING STREET ADDRESS, IF ANY:** The North Beach Force Main is located in the Blue Ridge area of north Seattle between the North Beach Pump Station and the Carkeek Pump Station and Storm Weather Treatment Plant. The coupon testing will occur at FM stations 3+70, 12+00, 13+80 and 31+41.

Responsible Official: Pam Elardo, P.E.

Position/Title: Director, King County Wastewater Treatment Division

Address: 201 South Jackson Street, MS KSC-NR-0501
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

Date: 16 May 2012 **Signature:** 

Proponent and Lead Agency: King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division

Contact Person: Katherine Fischer, Water Quality Planner
King County Wastewater Treatment Division
201 South Jackson Street, MS KSC-NR-0505
Seattle, WA 98104
phone: 206-263-3197; e-mail: katherine.fischer@kingcounty.gov

Issue Date: May 18, 2012

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) 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.

This Determination of Nonsignificance is issued under WAC 197-11-340 (2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 17 days from the issue date. **Comments must be submitted by June 4, 2012.** Submit comments to Wesley Sprague, Supervisor, Community Services and Environmental Planning, King County Wastewater Treatment Division, 201 South Jackson Street, MS KSC-NR-0505, Seattle, WA 98104-3855.

The King County Wastewater Treatment Division has submitted permit applications to the City of Seattle for this project; thus there is no administrative appeal of this DNS pursuant to RCW 43.21C.075, WAC 197-11-680, KCC 20.44.120 and King County Public Rule 7-4-1. The public rule may be viewed at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/operations/policies/rules/utilities/put741pr.aspx>, or contact Katherine Fischer at 206-263-3197 or katherine.fischer@kingcounty.gov to obtain a copy of the rule.

[Statutory authority: RCW 43.21C.110, 84-05-020 (Order DE 83-39), §197-11-970, filed 2/10/84, effective 4/4/84.]

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

North Beach Force Main Coupon Inspection Project

2. Name of applicant:

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division

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

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division
201 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104

CONTACT: Katherine Fischer, Water Quality Planner, 206-263-3197

4. Date checklist prepared:

May 15, 2012

5. Agency requesting checklist:

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division

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

The proposed inspection work will be performed on four different days between August 1st and October 14th 2012.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansions, 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.

A Biological Evaluation has been prepared by Environmental Science Associates.

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 government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.**

- US Army Corps of Engineers – Nationwide Permit
- Washington Fish and Wildlife – Hydraulic Project Approval
- City of Seattle – Shoreline Exemption
- Department of Ecology – 401 Water Quality Certification
- Department of Ecology – CZM Certification

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).**

King County WTD is proposing to perform coupon testing on the North Beach Force Main. The North Beach Force Main is an existing 14-inch diameter sanitary sewer pipeline that conveys wastewater from the North Beach Pump Station north to the Carkeek Pump Station and Storm Weather Treatment Plant. The pipeline is in excess of 50 years old. Coupon testing consists of the removal of a small piece of pipe for analysis of the pipe's condition.

The pipeline was recently assessed using SmartBall technology to detect leaks or air pockets. The assessment concluded that there were no leaks, but that seven different air pockets were present. Air pockets can create opportunities for internal corrosion. Coupon testing is now proposed to try and determine the condition of the pipe in the location of the air pockets. Removal of coupons from the force main will involve the use of a tapping machine that removes a small section from the crown of the pipe while it is in service and then installs a tapping sleeve and gate valve assembly that will re-seal the pipe and stay in place permanently, buried in the location of the coupon. The small piece of pipe would be analyzed to determine the pipe condition and the remaining service life of the pipe.

The force main is located in the intertidal zone of Puget Sound. To perform the coupon testing the pipeline will be exposed by excavating an area approximately 6-foot long by 6-foot wide by 6-foot deep in four different locations. Excavation and coupon testing will be performed at low tide to prevent in water work. The work will be performed during optimal low tides during the 2.5 month work period. The contractor will mobilize to the site, perform the coupon test, and restore the work area to pre-excavation conditions within one tidal cycle (an approximately 8 hour window).

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.**

The North Beach Force Main is located in the Blue Ridge area of north Seattle between the North Beach Pump Station and the Carkeek Pump Station and Storm Weather Treatment Plant (see attached vicinity map). The coupon testing will occur at FM stations 3+70, 12+00, 13+80 and 31+41.

The project site is located in the SE ¼ of Section 26, Township 26 North, Range 03 East, and the NE and NW ¼ of Section 35, Township 26 North, Range 03 East, W.M.

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 beach is sloped in the project area at approximately five percent.

- 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.**

The beach substrate in the project area consists of sand or sand/small gravel mix.

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

No.

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

A total of approximately 32 cubic yards of beach material will be excavated to perform the coupon testing, approximately 8 cubic yards in each location.

Sediment will be sidecast during construction and then utilized to backfill the excavations in each location following completion of the coupon testing.

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

A minor amount of turbidity could occur when the tide rises over the restored excavation areas following the completion of the coupon testing.

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

None.

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

The excavated areas will be kept to the minimum necessary to complete the coupon testing and work will be conducted at low tide.

2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile emissions, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.**

The backhoe utilized to remove sediment from the excavation locations, the small generator utilized to power the hot-tapping machine and a small pump would generate fossil fuel combustion by-products.

- 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:**

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, or wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.**

The force main is located waterward of the mean higher high water (MHHW) line of Puget Sound.

- 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 force main is located in the intertidal zone of Puget Sound waterward of the MHHW line. Coupon testing would be performed at low tide to avoid in water work.

- 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.**

A total of 32 cubic yards of sediment would be excavated to perform the coupon testing, 8 cubic yards in each proposed location. The sediment would be sidecast and used to backfill the excavations when the coupon testing is complete.

- 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. The contractor would be required to fuel equipment off site, prior to starting work for the day. In addition all equipment would be inspected daily (during active work periods) for leaks.

b. Ground:

- 1) **Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to groundwater? 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 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.**

A small trash pump would be utilized to keep the excavations free of water during the coupon testing. Water would be pumped to beach areas sufficiently landward of the excavation to allow discharge to infiltrate into beach sediments and not runoff into Puget Sound.

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

Fuel or other fluids from construction equipment could enter surface waters due to accidental spills, mechanical failures, or if construction activities were performed outside specified conditions.

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

The following measures would be implemented to minimize the potential for waste materials entering Puget Sound:

- A Spill Prevention and Control Countermeasure (SPCC) plan will be implemented.
- Construction equipment will be fueled off-site and prior to use at the project site(s). No re-fueling of equipment will be allowed on the beach or in adjacent intertidal habitats.
- All equipment will be inspected daily for leaks.

King County develops contingency plans for certain types of inspection work on active pipelines located in or immediately adjacent to waterbodies to address any unanticipated incidents (e.g. spills) associated with the work. A contingency plan has been developed for this project.

4. Plants

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

- _____ 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?

None.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

None.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

N/A.

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.

The following endangered species may be present in the project area:

- Bocaccio Rockfish – *Sebastes paucispinis*
- Southern Resident Killer Whale – *Orcinus orca*

The following threatened species may be present in the project area:

- Puget Sound ESU Chinook Salmon – *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*
- Puget Sound DPS Steelhead – *Oncorhynchus mykiss*
- Coastal-Puget Sound DPS Bull Trout – *Salvelinus confluentus*
- Yelloweye Rockfish – *Sebastes ruberrimus*
- Canary Rockfish – *Sebastes pinniger*
- Southern DPS Eulachon – *Thaleichthys pacificus*
- Marbled Murrelet – *Brachyramphus marmoratus*
- Stellar Sea Lion – *Eumatopias jubatus*
- Humpback Whale – *Megaptera novaeangliae*

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

The entire Puget Sound is part of the Pacific flyway migration route.

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

Measures to protect threatened and endangered species include implementation of measures to protect Puget Sound from accidental spills or leaks from construction equipment and timing the project to occur at low tides so in water work is avoided.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, woodstove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

None.

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

No.

c. What kind 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.

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 proposed.

b. **Noise**

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

None.

- 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.**

During the coupon testing the contractor may utilize equipment such as a backhoe to perform the excavation, trash pump to keep the excavation dry, and a small generator to power the hot-tapping tool. These types of equipment would generate noise at 85 dBA at a distance of 50 feet. The increase in noise would be temporary and would occur on four different days between August 1st and October 14th, 2012.

- 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?**

The project site is a beach. The beach is bounded to the east by BNSF railroad tracks and single-family residential areas beyond. To the north, south and west is Puget Sound.

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

No.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.**

None.

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

No.

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

The project area is currently zoned Single Family Residential.

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?**

The current comprehensive plan designation of the site is Urban Residential.

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

The current shoreline master program designation of the site is Urban Residential.

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

N/A.

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

N/A.

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

N/A.

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

N/A.

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:**

N/A.

10. Aesthetics

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

N/A.

- b. **What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or blocked?**

N/A.

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

N/A.

11. Light and Glare

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

None.

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

N/A.

- 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:

N/A.

12. Recreation

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

East of the BNSF railroad tracks, at the south end of the project area is Blue Ridge Park, a private, covenant-restricted, members-only park. The beach where the project will occur is utilized for passive recreational activities such as walking.

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

Small areas of the beach (approximately 700 square feet) would be unavailable for recreational use during each one-day coupon test.

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

None proposed.

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.

No.

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 known sites of historic, archaeological, scientific or cultural importance on or next to the project area.

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

None proposed.

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.**

No streets or highways serve the site. The site will be accessed from Puget Sound. Some contractor employees may access the site on foot through Blue Ridge Park.

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

Public transit is available on Triton Drive NW, a few hundred feet to the east of the project area.

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

N/A.

- 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.**

Equipment may be transported to and from the beach by a small landing craft. There will be no disturbance of the BNSF railroad tracks to the east of the project area.

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

None.

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

N/A.

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:

N/A.

16. Utilities

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

- 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.

Signature: Wesley Sprague

Date Submitted: 5/15/12

