APPENDIX C

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

RECEIVED
March 15, 2024
Washington Geological Survey

SEPA[1] Environmental Checklist

Purpose of checklist

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization, or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

RECEIVED
March 15, 2024
Washington Geological Survey

Instructions for applicants

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. **You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown.** You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

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.

Instructions for lead agencies

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B, plus the Supplemental Sheet for Nonproject Actions (Part D). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in "Part B: Environmental Elements" that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

[1] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/Checklist-guidance

A.Background

Find help answering background questions[2]

1. **Name of proposed project, if applicable:**

   Shadow Valley Quarry

2. **Name of applicant:**

   Versatile Industries, Inc.

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

   P.O. Box 275, Ione, WA 99139

   Contact: Kory Hedrick, (509) 442-2444

4. **Date checklist prepared:**

   March 1, 2024

5. **Agency requesting checklist:**

   Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on behalf of Pend Oreille County via transfer of SEPA lead agency per WAC 197-11-940

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

   Summer 2024

7. **Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.**

   Not at this time.

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 are known.

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

    Pend Oreille County conditional approval for surface mining at the site; DNR approval and issuance of a surface mine reclamation permit; Site Management Plan for the Washington Department of Ecology Sand and Gravel General Permit.

    CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

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**

[2] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-A-Background

this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

The proposed project will consist of a bedrock quarry to provide crushed aggregate materials for local construction projects. The permit area will consist of 73.7 acres, of which approximately 53 acres will be disturbed by mineral extraction and related activities. Commercial access to the mine will be facilitated via an easement through the south project parcel (lot #2487 on Figure 2 of attached mine plans).

Project-related activities will consist of tree and brush clearing in advance of mining; soil excavation and storage in designated berms and storage areas; drilling and blasting to extract bedrock resource; loading and hauling pit run to the processing area; crushing, screening, and stockpiling in the processing area using a portable crusher; loading of rock products into commercial haul trucks; and occasional batching, loading, and hauling of asphaltic concrete using of a portable asphalt plant and haul trucks brought to the site as needed for paving projects. Mining equipment will include excavators, front-end loaders, and dump trucks.

Mining will start approximately in the middle of the northern parcel at an elevation of 2,570 feet above mean sea level (MSL). Refer to the topographic map shown on Figure 5, corresponding to mine segment M-1. An interim processing and sales area will be located immediately south of the extraction area on the south parcel, which will be graded to create the operations pad with side slopes at a 3 horizontal to 1 vertical (3H:1V) gradient.

After completion of mining in M-1, the mine will be advanced further down in elevation to a final floor of 2,360 feet MSL. When the mine floor is sufficiently large, processing and product stockpiling will be moved from the interim location to the mine floor. The location of processing, stockpiling, and sales will thereafter be relocated around the mine floor as needed during continued extraction, generally located in the western portion of the north parcel.

Mined slopes will be reclaimed as they reach their final configuration in general accordance with the sequence presented on Figures 4 through 6. Sinuous post-mining slopes in the bedrock will not exceed 2H:1V using a cut-slope method of mining. Benches will remain to support reforestation of the mined slopes and to incorporate vertical rock exposures similar to those indigenous to the area for raptor and other avian habitat. Final mine slopes and the finished floor will receive topsoil and be revegetated. As the final topography is achieved, and at the completion of mining, the site will be reclaimed back to forestry use.

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 site is located approximately 15 miles southwest of Newport and 6 miles southwest of the community of Diamond Lake in Pend Oreille County, Washington. Access to the quarry

is via gravel access road east of U.S. Route 2 at approximately milepost 318.7. The mine permit area is located in tax parcels 2316 and 2487 (Figures 1 and 2) in the following quarter-quarter sections:

- SW and SE quarters of the SW quarter of Section 13, Township 30 North, Range 43 East
- NW quarter of the NW quarter of Section 24, Township 30 North, Range 43 East

B.Environmental Elements

1. Earth

Find help answering earth questions[3]

a. General description of the site:

The site is located on the west and southwest flanks of an isolated hill near Rogers Pass east of U.S. Route 2 (Figure 1). The hill has discontinuous coverage of thin soil with significant exposures of quartz monzonite bedrock. Site elevations range from 2,310 to 2,830 feet MSL. The bedrock knob is partially to mostly vegetated with trees, bushes, and grasses.

Circle or highlight one: Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other:

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

Approximately 100 to 200 percent with some near-vertical rock exposures in the northeastern-most site; elsewhere less than 100 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 agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

The US Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service's Web Soil Survey (https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx) maps the project area as being Rock outcrop-Moscow complex, 8 to 65 percent slopes. Rock outcrops compose more than 50 percent of the map unit. The Moscow soil unit description includes up to 10 inches of combined O and A soil horizons. Based on site observations, topsoil is mostly absent or thin where present to a maximum of 10 inches. The site area is not identified as agricultural land of long-term commercial significance.

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

None are known and none have been observed.

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

The site will be mined for bedrock aggregate resource (quartz monzonite). The permit area will consist of 73.7 acres, of which approximately 53 acres will be disturbed by

[3] https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-earth

mineral extraction and related activities. The total volume to be excavated including topsoil, overburden, and resource is approximately 9.18 million cubic yards. Topsoil removed in this area will be stored in temporary stockpiles and berms, which will be replaced on the final mine benches and floor during site reclamation.

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

Erosion of limited topsoil could occur along actively mined sections prior to reclamation. However, the site will be mined to direct stormwater and any potential erosion toward the incised mine floor.

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.

Mining activity will take place such that any potential erosion from disturbance of native materials will be directed back into the active mining area and infiltrated. Stockpiles of topsoil and overburden (if encountered) will be located in designated storage areas. These storage piles will be seeded with an erosion control mix to stabilize the piles and prevent erosion.

2. Air

Find help answering air questions[4]

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Emissions from equipment operating on the site (i.e., loaders, excavators, and trucks) will occur during operating hours. Aggregate processing operations (crushing and screening) will occur episodically to prepare product stockpiles. A portable asphalt plant will be brought to the site as needed for paving projects. No emissions will occur at the completion of the project.

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:

Mobile equipment will utilize requisite emission control devices. Processing equipment and the asphalt plant will use best management practices to reduce fugitive dust and emissions in accordance with state standards, such as using fog nozzles to wet the material during crushing and stockpiling. Access roads will be wetted as needed using a water truck.

[4] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-Air

3. Water

Find help answering water questions[5]

a. Surface:

Find help answering surface water questions[6]

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.**

   Surface streams and wetlands are not located on the site. A fish-bearing stream is mapped on the other (west) side of U.S. Route 2 from the site and flows south parallel to the highway, according to the DNR Forest Practices Application Mapping Tool (FPAMT). Two discontinuous streams (identified as "unknown" by FPAMT) are mapped in drainages southeast of the site, but they terminate after running less than 1,000 feet, apparently draining to an enclosed valley (Figures 3 to 6).

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 fish-bearing stream, but it is located on the opposite side of U.S. Route 2 from the site and will not be impacted. One of the two "unknown" drainages is mapped within 200 feet of the site, but the project will be developed to drain internally to avoid impacted runoff from leaving the site.

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 a 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.

---

[5] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water

[6] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-Surface-water

b. Ground:

Find help answering ground water questions[7]

1. **Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

   No groundwater withdrawals are proposed. Stormwater runoff in the mine disturbance area will be directed to the mine floor and infiltrated into the underlying bedrock.

2. **Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (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 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.**

   Runoff will be limited to stormwater from precipitation and seasonal snowmelt that will be collected from disturbed areas and contained on site. It will be directed to the mine floor where stormwater will infiltrate into the underlying bedrock.

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

   There will be no waste materials on site. Any potential sediment from runoff will be contained on site.

3. **Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.**

   Yes, some stormwater runoff will be directed into the mine excavation to infiltrate rather than run to the stormwater ditch along the east side of the highway.

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

Segmental mining/reclamation and best management practices such as site grading and onsite infiltration; ditching and check dams, as needed; and topsoil replacement for revegetation will be incorporated to control surface runoff. Runoff from undisturbed areas will be redirected around active mining areas where practical.

[7] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-Groundwater

4. Plants

Find help answering plants questions

4. DNR special concerns report list the Sections as containing Douglas Fir, Ponderosa Pine, and Western Hemlock vegetation zones. No T&E species listed (Comment by Nicole Damer, DNR 08/21/2024).

a. Check the 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**
- ☐ **orchards, vineyards, or other permanent crops.**
- ☐ **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?

As mining proceeds, approximately 53 acres of vegetation (mostly trees) will be removed. The site will be revegetated according to the reclamation plan at the completion of mining.

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

None are known.

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

Any areas requiring revegetation will be reclaimed according to DNR standards and requirements for the prescribed subsequent use.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

None are known.

5. Animals

Find help answering animal questions[8]

a. **List any birds and other animals that have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.**

Examples include:

- **Birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: crows, jays, vultures**
- **Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: rodents**
- **Fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:**

5. DNR special concerns report does not list any T&E species within the Sections (comment by ND, DNR 08/21/2024).

b. **List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.**

None are known. No critical habitats are identified at the site.

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

Yes – Pacific flyway (along with all of Washington State).

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

As mining progresses, the site will be reclaimed to forestry use, providing habitat for wildlife. Benches will remain on reclaimed slopes for raptor and other avian habitat.

e. **List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.**

None are known.

6. Energy and natural resources

Find help answering energy and natural resource questions[9]

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.**

Petroleum products (diesel and gasoline) will power mining and hauling equipment, a portable crusher, and a portable asphalt plant as needed.

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.

[8] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-5-Animals
[9] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-6-Energy-natural-resou

7. Environmental health

Health Find help with answering environmental health questions[10]

a. **Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur because of this proposal? If so, describe.**

Petroleum products will be used for mobile equipment, a portable crusher, and a portable asphalt plant. Asphalt-related petroleum products will be stored with the plant when on site. Accidental fuel or oil spills are possible, but a Spill Control Plan (SCP) will be followed and revised as necessary throughout the life of the project.

1. **Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.**

   None are known.

2. **Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.**

   None are known.

3. **Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.**

   Fuel and oil for mining equipment will be used on the site. Mining equipment will require occasional refueling and maintenance.

4. **Describe special emergency services that might be required.**

   None.

5. **Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any.**

   Best management practices (BMPs) described in the SCP will be employed to reduce the potential for accidental fuel or oil spills during equipment refueling. BMPs will also be used to clean up any spills quickly and completely and remove any spill-contaminated materials to an approved disposal site.

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)?**

[10] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-7-Environmental-health

Sporadic noise will be generated by mining equipment and haul trucks during operating hours. The level of noise associated with this project is not expected to produce disturbances beyond what the adjacent, 4-lane highway currently produces. Rare blasting will occur to extract bedrock as required by market demands.

HOURS OF OPERATION WILL BE SET AT CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT HEARING GS

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

   A 30-foot setback will be maintained from all property lines, including a topsoil-storage berm around some of the site perimeter. The mine will be incised into the isolated hillside over time, further reducing potential offsite noise. Appropriate mufflers will be used on all mining equipment and truck traffic.

8. Land and shoreline use

Find help answering land and shoreline use questions[11]

a. **What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.**

   The site is currently used for commercial forestry with one rural residence and several ancillary buildings located on the south parcel. The site is bordered to the north, east and south by commercial timberlands or undeveloped land with sparse rural residences. The west side of the site is bordered by U.S. Route 2 with commercial timberland, rural residences, and a county park further west. The proposed project will have potential impacts similar to the highway use west of the site except for occasional blasting and periodic operation of portable crushing and asphalt plants. The reclaimed site will be similar in character to surrounding land use.

b. **Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses because of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?**

   The site has previously been used for commercial forestry. The site will be returned to commercial forestry use at the completion of mining.

   1. **Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how?**

      No.

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

   One rural residence and several ancillary buildings are located on the south parcel, outside of the proposed mining activities. These will remain and are separated from the proposed project.

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

[11] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-8-Land-shoreline-use

No.

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

Natural Resource Lands 20 (NR20).

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

Natural Resource Lands.

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

Not applicable.

h. **Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.**

Geologically hazardous areas are mapped on the site due to the presence of steep slopes.

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

Three to five employees will work on the site.

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

None.

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

Not applicable.

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

The proposed project and anticipated post-mining use are compatible with surrounding land use and zoning.

m. **Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:**

Reclamation of the site back to commercial forestry use.

9. Housing

Find help answering housing questions[12]

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.

[12] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-9-Housing

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

Not applicable.

10. Aesthetics

Find help answering aesthetics questions[13]

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

No permanent structures are proposed. A portable trailer office will seasonally be brought to the site, which is about 10 feet tall. The trailer office will be removed when not needed and when mining is complete.

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

The mine will be incised into the isolated bedrock hill occupying the site, limiting view of the site from the north, east, and south. Some homes west of the site and across from U.S. Route 2 may be able to view the upper extraction area. Exposed rock occurs elsewhere in the site vicinity and is characteristic of the area.

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

The site will be reclaimed to forestry, resulting in a mixture of forest and bedrock exposures that will blend in with the surrounding area.

11. Light and glare

Find help answering light and glare questions[14]

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

Excavation and hauling will generally take place during daylight hours. Therefore, lighting will not normally be required. Occasional maintenance or seasonal work may require work after daylight hours. Overhead lighting and head lights will be utilized on haul trucks and loading equipment as needed.

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

No. If lights are required at the site, they would only be visible from the west, where traffic along U.S. Route 2 will be visible and also use headlights.

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:**

---

[13] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-10-Aesthetics

[14] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-11-Light-glare

In addition to the 30-foot setback and berms, temporary sources of overhead lighting will be hooded and directed at the specific work area to avoid the escape of glare.

12. Recreation

Find help answering recreation questions

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

Hunting and fishing are likely available within a half-mile of the site. Pend Oreille County Park is located southwest of the site across U.S. Route 2.

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

No.

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

No mining activities will affect existing recreational opportunities. The park will be shielded from impacts by the natural hillside and the incised nature of the proposed mining.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

Find help answering historic and cultural preservation questions[15]

a. **Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe.**

None are known.

b. **Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.**

None known or observed.

c. **Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.**

No evidence of pre-contact human use or disturbance is apparent from site observations and review of lidar-derived hillshade maps.

d. **Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.**

13. DNR special concerns report lists GLO springs within 5,280-feet of Section 13 and GLO trails within 2,640-feet of both Sections (comment by ND, DNR 08/21/2024).

[15] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-13-Historic-cultural-p

If cultural resources are encountered during mine excavation, site activities will be immediately suspended in the vicinity of the discovery; and the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historical Preservation will be contacted for guidance in compliance with regulations.

14. Transportation

Find help with answering transportation questions[16]

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

The site is served by a gravel access road off of U.S. Route 2.

b. **Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?**

No. The nearest transit stop is about 27 miles to the south.

c. **Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle, or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).**

No.

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

No.

e. **How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?**

The proposed mine (not the completed project) may generate up to 20 truck trips per day, depending on local projects and market demand.

f. **Will the proposal interfere with, affect, or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.**

None are anticipated.

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

The existing entrance off of the highway will be widened and resurfaced to accommodate haul traffic for the proposed project.

[16] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-14-Transportation

15. Public services

Find help answering public service questions[17]

a. **Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.**

No.

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

None.

16. Utilities

Find help answering utilities questions[18]

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

Electrical lines run along the west edge of the south parcel and could supply electricity to the project, if needed.

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.**

Electricity may be used to power the portable trailer office.

C.Signature

Find help about who should sign[19]

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.

X _____

RECEIVED
March 15, 2024
Washington Geological Survey

Type name of signee: Kory Hedrick

Position and agency/organization: Vice President – Versatile Industries, Inc.

Date submitted:
3/14/2024

[17] https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-15-public-services
[18] https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-16-utilities
[19] https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-C-Signature