

PORT OF OLYMPIA COMMISSION
Resolution ~~2015-12~~2026-XX

A Resolution of the ~~Port~~ Commission of the Port of Olympia, Thurston County, Washington, revising and adopting the ~~Port's~~**Port's** policies and procedures under the State Environmental Policy Act and implementing rules, Chapter 43.21C RCW and Chapter 197-11 WAC, and superseding the ~~Port's~~**Port's** current State Environmental Policy Act policies and procedures found in Resolution ~~2008-20~~**2015-12**.

WHEREAS, the State ~~Enviromental~~Environmental Policy Act (~~("SEPA")~~) sets forth an ~~envirommental~~environmental policy for Washington state and requires that the ~~envirommental~~environmental impacts of proposals be analyzed and, where appropriate, mitigated; and

WHEREAS, SEPA applies to state agencies, counties, and municipal and public corporations, including port districts; and

WHEREAS, ~~SEPA has been amended to require~~RCW 43.21C.110 directs the State Department of Ecology ~~to issue new~~("Ecology") to adopt and amend uniform statewide rules for ~~carrying out implementing~~ SEPA, and Ecology has promulgated Chapter 197-11 Washington Administrative Code (WAC) (~~"SEPA; Rules"~~); and

WHEREAS, ~~the Port is required to adopt~~RCW 43.21C.120 directs public and municipal corporations, including port districts, to adopt rules, ordinances, or resolutions integrating SEPA policies and procedures ~~that are into programs under their jurisdiction,~~ consistent with ~~the new~~ rules adopted ~~by the Department of Ecology (WAC 197-11) and may adopt by reference any or all of these rules under~~ RCW 43.21C.110; and

WHEREAS, the Port has provided public notice and opportunity for public comment on this Resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Port Commission of the Port of Olympia, Washington hereby adopts the Port SEPA ~~Enviromental~~Environmental Administrative policies and procedures contained herein.

1. Adoption of SEPA Rules

The Port of Olympia hereby adopts by reference ~~the following sections or subsections of Chapter 197-11 of the Washington Administrative Code (SEPA Rules):~~ WAC 197-11-010 through 197-11-990, except as specifically provided ~~herein in this Resolution. This Resolution constitutes the Port's agency SEPA procedures under WAC 197-11-902, 197-11-904, and 197-11-906.~~ Where ~~conflict exists between~~ a permissive, optional, or guidance ~~WAC section~~provision adopted by reference ~~herein and the conflicts with a specific local agency SEPA procedures adopted~~Port procedure in this Resolution, the ~~language of~~Port procedure controls to the Resolution extent permitted by WAC 197-11-906. The Responsible Official will ~~apply. The decision on~~determine whether to apply ~~an~~ optional state SEPA ~~provision rests with the Responsible Official~~provisions.

2. Authority

~~The following regulations concerning environmental policies and procedures are hereby established and adopted pursuant to Washington State law, Chapter 109, Laws of 1971, Extraordinary Session (Chapter 43.21C RCW) as amended, entitled the "State Environmental~~

~~Policy Act," and Washington State Administrative Code regulations, Chapter 197-11, entitled "SEPA Rules."~~

The Port adopts this Resolution pursuant to RCW 43.21C.120 and WAC 197-11-902, 197-11-904, and 197-11-906, and establishes these regulations to implement Chapter 43.21C RCW and Chapter 197-11 WAC.

3. Purpose, Applicability, and Intent

- 3.1 The purpose of this Resolution is to provide Port policies and regulations implementing Chapter 43.21C RCW, the State Environmental Policy Act ~~("SEPA"),~~ which are consistent with the SEPA Rules.
- 3.2 This Resolution is applicable to all Port of Olympia departments/divisions, committees, and the Port Commission.
- 3.3 The intent of this Resolution is to govern compliance by all Port departments/divisions, committees, and the Port ~~Commission~~Commission with the procedural and substantive requirements of Chapter 43.21C RCW, the State Environmental Policy Act.
- 3.4 This Resolution is not intended to govern compliance by the Port with respect to the National ~~Environmental~~Environmental Policy Act of 1969 ~~("NEPA"). In those~~. Situations in which the Port is required by federal law or regulations to ~~perform~~perform some element of compliance with NEPA, ~~such compliance~~ will be governed by the applicable federal statutes and regulations and not by this Resolution.

4. Substantive Environmental Policies

The substantive environmental policies of the Port of Olympia are the policies set forth in the following documents and statutes: the ~~Port's~~Port's Comprehensive Scheme of Harbor Improvements, as it is now identified and as it may be ~~re-named~~renamed or amended in the future, including all of its elements; Port of Olympia ~~Environmental~~Environmental Policies; and Chapter 43.21C RCW. Port of Olympia Environmental Policies is are available ~~in a package upon request~~ from the ~~Environmental Department and the~~ Port of Olympia and may also be posted on the Port's website.

S.5. Additional Definitions

In addition to those definitions contained within WAC 197-11-700, the following terms will have the following meanings, unless the context indicates otherwise:

"5.1 ~~"Department"~~ means any division, or organizational unit of the Port.

"5.2 ~~"SEPA Rules"~~ means WAC Chapter 197-11 adopted by the Department of Ecology, as it now exists and may be hereafter amended.

"

5.1—5.3 ~~"Responsible Official"~~ means the ~~Port's~~Port's Executive Director or

designee. The Responsible ~~Official's~~Official's duties may be delegated to appropriate staff ~~persons~~, but the Responsible Official will approve and is responsible for ~~the~~ Determination~~all Determinations~~ of ~~Non-Significance~~ ("Nonsignificance ("DNS");), Mitigated ~~Determination~~Determinations of ~~Non-Significance~~ ("Nonsignificance ("MDNS");

~~Determination~~”), Determinations of Significance (~~“(“DS”)”~~), and the adequacy of ~~an~~any Environmental Impact Statement (~~“(“EIS”)”~~).

”

5.4 “Port of Olympia ~~Envirommental~~Environmental Policies” means those ~~envirommental~~environmental policies approved by the Port Commission.

6. **Timing of the SEPA Process**

~~6.1~~ 6.1 The Port will integrate SEPA process will be integrated review with Port activities at the earliest ~~possible~~practicable time ~~to ensure that planning all decisions reflect envirommental values, to avoid delays later in the process, and to seek to resolve potential envirommental issues.~~

The timing and content of environmental review will follow WAC 197-11-055 and WAC 197-11-060, as adopted by reference in Section 1.

~~6.2~~ 6.2 The Responsible Official will prepare ~~the~~any required threshold determination and/or ~~Envirommental~~Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”), ~~if required, as soon as possible after the~~when the principal features of a proposal ~~all and~~ its ~~envirommental~~environmental impacts ~~can be reasonably identified.~~

~~A proposal exists when the Responsible Official is presented with a project or has a goal and is actively preparing to make a decision on one or more alternative means of accomplishing that goal and the environmental effects can be meaningfully evaluated. The fact that proposals may require future Port or other permitting approvals or envirommental review will not preclude current consideration, as long as proposed future activities are specific enough to allow some evaluation of their probable environmental impacts can reasonably be identified, consistent with WAC 197-11-055.~~

~~6.2.1~~ The ~~envirommental~~environmental process will commence upon receipt by the Responsible Official of ~~an~~an ~~envirommental~~environmental document. The Responsible Official may also ~~orgallize~~organize ~~envirommental~~environmental review in phases as specified in WAC 197-11-060(5).

~~6.2.2~~ Appropriate ~~consideration of envirommental information will be completed before the Port commits to a particular course of action, as provided in WAC 197-11-070.~~

7. **Public Notice**

Reasonable

7.1 Public Notice Methods. When public notice is required ~~pursuant to~~under this Resolution ~~, Chapter 197-11 WAC, and/or Chapter 43-21C RCW~~the SEPA Rules, the Responsible Official ~~must~~will use ~~reasonable~~one or more of the following methods to ~~inform~~inform the public ~~and other agencies that an envirommental~~an environmental document is being prepared or is available ~~and that public hearing(s), if any, will be held.~~

6.3 Notice Requirements.

(i) ~~Notice of the SEPA threshold envirommental determination will be published~~Publishing notice in a newspaper of general circulation within the area in which the ~~project~~proposal is located ~~and will be sent.~~

(ii) Posting notice on the Port of Olympia website;

6.3.1 ~~—~~ Sending notice via email to the Port of ~~Olympia's~~ Olympia's SEPA mailing list

(iii) as well as to the Port's standing email notification list of citizens and to persons who have requested notification of Port activities. ~~The electronic notice will include a copy of the determination~~

The Responsible Official will select the method or methods reasonably calculated to inform the public under the circumstances, consistent with WAC 197-11-510.

7.2 Notice ~~and a copy of the SEPA~~ Distribution for DNS and MDNS Determinations.

7.2.1 When a DNS or MDNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2), the Responsible Official will provide public notice using one or more of the methods in Section 7.1.

7.2.2 In addition to public notice, when a DNS or MDNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2), the Responsible Official will send the determination and the environmental checklist, ~~or a link to the location on the Port website where the SEPA checklist can be found. The Port will post all technical appendices to the SEPA checklist on the Port's website. All forms of notice described herein will also inform recipients where the~~ directly to the Department of Ecology, agencies with jurisdiction, affected tribes, and each local agency ~~SEPA records are located and or~~ political subdivision whose public services would be changed as a result of implementation of the proposal, as required by WAC 197-11-340(2)(b).

7.2.3 The date of issuance for a DNS or MDNS is the date the determination is sent to the Department of Ecology and agencies with jurisdiction and is made publicly available, ~~as provided in WAC 197-11-340(2)(d).~~

7.3 Notice ~~of administrative appeals, hearings, and actions on appeals~~ Distribution for Determinations of Significance and Environmental Impact Statements.

7.3.1 When a determination of significance (DS) is issued, the Responsible Official will ~~be provided as set forth~~ provide public notice using one or more of the methods in Section ~~9 of this Resolution~~ 7.1 and will circulate the DS to the applicant, agencies with jurisdiction and expertise, affected tribes, and to the public, as required by WAC 197-11-360(3).

~~Notice of determinations of significance, scoping, and~~

7.3.2 The Responsible Official will circulate draft and final EISs to those agencies and persons required by WAC 197-11-455 and WAC 197-11-460. Public notice of the availability of draft and final EISs will be ~~published in a newspaper of general circulation within the area in which the project is located and sent to the Port of Olympia's SEPA email list as well as to the Port's standing email notification list of citizens who have requested notification of Port activities.~~ provided using one or more of the methods in Section 7.1.

7.3.3 Parties who ~~comment~~ submit comments on a specific project's project's environmental ~~determination~~ determination or draft EIS will receive notice of the availability of ~~the draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement ("FEIS").~~ any subsequent draft or final EIS for that project.

7.4 Notice of Judicial Review. Notice of judicial review will be provided as set forth in Section 9 of this Resolution.

8. Public Comments

8.1 Public comments on ~~SEPA threshold determinations~~ a DNS or MDNS for which public notice and comment are required under WAC 197-11-340(2) must be submitted within fourteen (14) calendar days from the date the ~~SEPA threshold~~ determination is issued. Comments may be submitted via email to the email address identified on the applicable SEPA determination, decision, or notice, and may also be submitted to the Responsible Official by any ~~other~~ written method.

8.2 The Responsible Official will ~~respond in writing on behalf of the Port to consider all timely~~ written comments received on a ~~specific SEPA threshold determination~~. Responses will be provided within ten (10) calendar days after the close of the public comment period. DNS or MDNS issued under WAC 197-11-340(2) and will reconsider the determination in accordance with WAC 197-11-340(2)(f). The Responsible Official may respond to comments in writing, either individually ~~, or may address all or a portion of the comments~~ cumulatively. ~~All, within a reasonable time after the close of the public comment period.~~

~~6.4~~ 8.3 Public comments, the Port's and any written responses, and any resulting subsequent amendments or addenda to the SEPA threshold determination by the Responsible Official will be part of the Port's Port's SEPA administrative record and will be ~~posted on~~ available for public inspection in accordance with Chapter 42.56 RCW. The Port ~~website. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Responsible Official will not respond to public comments that are submitted anonymously. For purposes of this provision, "anonymously" means submitting a comment without including the commenter's legal name.~~

~~The Port will~~ may post public comments and the Responsible Official's responses on the Port's ~~Port's~~ website, and ~~will email a link to where the document can be found on the Port website to each person who submitted written comments to the Port for that specific SEPA threshold determination. When requested, the Port will mail a hard copy~~ may notify commenters of the availability of its the Port's response to comments ~~via standard first-class U.S. mail.~~ by email or other reasonable method. The Port's ~~Port's~~ issuance of a response to comments will not restart the ~~administrative public comment or appeal~~ judicial challenge period(s) pursuant to WAC 197-11-706.

8.4 If the Responsible Official ~~determines~~ determines that an Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") is required, then public comment, and responses to comment, on EIS scoping and Draft EIS ("DEIS") documents will be prepared and submitted pursuant to Chapter 197-11 WAC.

9. Appeals

- ~~6.5 — Decisions Appealable. For project actions, final threshold determinations, in the form of a Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance ("MDNS") or a Determination of Nonsignificance ("DNS"), as well as the adequacy of a Final Environmental Impact Statement ("FEIS") will be administratively appealable. For non-project actions, final threshold determinations, in the form of an MDNS or DNS, as well as the adequacy of an FEIS, will also be administratively appealable. Any appeal will be initiated by filing a Notice of Appeal and paying the appropriate fee with the Port Environmental Department no later than close of business twenty-one (21) calendar days following the close of the public comment period for the SEPA threshold determination or issuance of the FEIS, as applicable.~~
- ~~6.6 — Hearing Examiner Appeal. If an appeal is filed, it will be forwarded to a Hearing Examiner, who is hereby authorized and empowered to hear and decide SEPA administrative appeals. The Hearing Examiner will conduct an open record public hearing for all proceedings authorized by this Resolution.~~

~~(i) — 9.1 No Administrative Appeal Procedures~~

~~6.6.1 — Administrative Appeal Procedure/Fee.~~

- ~~(i) Procedure. To initiate an appeal, an Appellant must timely file a Notice of Appeal and pay the required filing fee as set forth in the Port of Olympia Proprietary Type User Charges for Port Goods and Services Resolution with the Environmental Department. The Environmental Department will process the appeal in accordance with the procedures set forth in this Resolution.~~
- ~~(ii) Standing. Any person aggrieved by a threshold determination (DNS or MDNS) or by the issuance of an FEIS may appeal; provided, however, if there is a comment period required by WAC 197-11-340, only parties who submitted written comments during the comment period may file an administrative appeal.~~
- ~~9.3.2 Time Requirement. An administrative appeal will be filed no later than close of business twenty-one (21) calendar days following the close of the public comment period for the SEPA threshold determination or issuance of the FEIS, as applicable. If the last day for filing an appeal falls on a weekend day or holiday, the last day for filing will be the next business day.~~

~~9.3.3 — Content of the Notice of Appeal. The Notice of Appeal will contain:~~

- ~~(i) — The name and mailing address of the Appellant(s) and the name and address of his/her/their representative, if any;~~
- ~~(ii) — The Appellant(s)' legal residence or principal place of business;~~
- ~~(iii) — A copy of the SEPA determination that is being appealed (or a copy of the first page only if the SEPA determination being appealed exceeds 10 pages);~~
- ~~(iv) — The grounds upon which the Appellant(s) relies;~~
- ~~(v) — A concise statement of the factual and legal reasons for the appeal;~~
- ~~(vi) — A statement describing the Appellant(s)' standing to appeal pursuant to Section 9.3.1(ii);~~
- ~~(vii) — The specific nature and intent of the relief sought;~~
- ~~(viii) — A statement that the Appellant(s) has/have read the Notice of Appeal and believes the contents to be true followed by his/her/their signature and the signature of his/her/their representative, if any. If any Appealing party is unavailable to sign, it may be signed by his/her representative;~~
- ~~(ix) — The appropriate fee, *see* above Section 9.3.1(i); and~~
- ~~(x) — If parties intend to file a combined appeal, all parties to be included in the appeal will be specifically identified and all information related to the combined appeal will be filed at one time. In all other cases, a separate appeal fee will be required for each appeal filing.~~

~~9.3.4 — Effect of the Appeal. The filing of a valid appeal will stay the effect of the SEPA decision, and no major action in regard to a proposal may be taken during the pendency of an administrative appeal. A decision by the Hearing Examiner to reverse the threshold determination of the Responsible Official, or deeming an FEIS inadequate will further stay any decision, proceedings, or actions in regard to the project or proposal subject to the administrative appeal.~~

~~9.3.5 — Appeal Withdrawal. An appeal may be withdrawn only by the Appellant(s), by written statement filed with the Environmental Department. The Environmental Department will inform the Responsible Official and the Hearing Examiner of the withdrawal request. If the withdrawal is requested before any action by the Hearing Examiner on the appeal, the appeal will be dismissed with prejudice, and the filing fee will be refunded.~~

~~6.7 — Hearing Examiner Appeal Hearing.~~

~~6.7.1 — Scheduling and Procedural Rules. The public hearing on an appeal presided over by the Hearing Examiner will be expeditiously scheduled upon receipt of a valid appeal. The Hearing Examiner may prescribe general rules and procedures, as necessary, for the scheduling and conduct of all appeal hearings under this Resolution, and is further empowered to issue such orders as may be necessary to implement case schedules for the conduct of pre-hearing conferences, submittal of materials, exhibits, disclosure of witnesses, and presentation of evidence. If the Hearing Examiner elects to issue general procedural rules under this Resolution, then such rules will be reviewed and ratified by the Port Commission by Resolution and the ratified rules will also be made available to the public on the Port's website.~~

~~6.7.2 — Standard of Review – Hearing Examiner Appeals of Threshold Determinations. The Hearing Examiner may affirm the threshold determination of the Responsible Official; remand the case for further information; or may reverse the decision. Reversal of the decision will be based on a Hearing Examiner determination that the administrative findings, inferences, conclusions, or decisions of the Responsible Official are:~~

- ~~(i) — In violation of constitutional provisions as applied;~~
- ~~(ii) — Outside the statutory authority or jurisdiction of the Port;~~
- ~~(iii) — A result of the Responsible Official engaging in unlawful procedure or decision-making process, or failing to follow a prescribed procedure; or~~
- ~~(iv) — Clearly erroneous in view of the public Policy of the Act (SEPA).~~

~~6.7.3 — Standard of Review – Hearing Examiner Appeals of FEIS Adequacy. The Hearing Examiner will apply the same standard of review set forth in Section 9.4.2 herein for. There shall be no administrative appeals of Port SEPA determinations, including appeals of threshold determinations; except that for any conditions or denials by the Port under RCW 43.21C.060. The Port eliminates such appeals of the adequacy of an FEIS, the Hearing Examiner will apply the "rule of reason" standard in lieu of the "clearly erroneous" standard set forth in Section 9.4.2(iv).~~

~~6.7.4 — Evidence – Burden of Proof. On appeal, the Appellant(s) will have the burden of proof, and the determination of the Responsible Official will be presumed prima facie correct and will be afforded substantial weight.~~

~~6.7.5 — Continuation of Hearing.~~

(i) ~~Cause.~~ A hearing may be continued by the Hearing Examiner for the purpose of obtaining specific pertinent information relating to the project which was previously unavailable at the time of the original hearing.

(ii) ~~Notification.~~ The Hearing Examiner will announce the time and place of a continued hearing at the time of the initial hearing or by written notice to all parties of record.

6.7.6 ~~Conduct of proceedings.~~ All hearings will be conducted in an orderly manner. The Hearing Examiner will have the authority to rule on all procedural matters, objections and motions, and will have power of subpoena.

6.8 ~~Hearing Examiner Final Decision.~~

~~Final Decision.~~ Within ten (10) business days of the conclusion of the hearing, unless further extension is otherwise agreed to by the parties, the Hearing Examiner will issue a written Decision that includes (1) an analysis of why the Hearing Examiner rejected or accepted the threshold determination or deemed the FEIS adequate or inadequate; pursuant to WAC 197-11-680(2) a synopsis of the testimony and arguments presented; and (3) findings of fact and conclusions of law. The Hearing Examiner will email and mail a copy of the Final Decision to all parties of record on the date it is issued, and will include a list of the parties of record, together with their mail and email addresses. The Port will also post all Hearing Examiner decisions on its website within two (2) business days of issuance.).

6.8.1 ~~Request for Clarification and/or Reconsideration of Hearing Examiner Decision.~~ Any party may submit either a request for clarification and/or a motion for reconsideration on the Hearing Examiner's Final Decision.

(i) ~~Request for Clarification.~~

(a) Any party believing that the Final Decision of the Hearing Examiner is ambiguous, vague, or internally inconsistent may request clarification of the decision by the Hearing Examiner by submitting a request for clarification to the Port Environmental Department together with any required filing fee as set forth in the Port of Olympia Proprietary Type User Charges for Port Goods and Services Fee Resolution then in effect. The request will set forth the specific provision requiring additional clarity. The request must be filed within five (5) calendar days of issuance of the Hearing Examiner's Final Decision as provided for in Section 9.5.1 herein. The original of the request for clarification will be filed with the Port Environmental Department. At the same time, copies will be served via mail and email on all parties of record to the appeal.

~~(b) The Port Environmental Department will forward the request to the Hearing Examiner. Upon receipt of such a request, the Hearing Examiner may take action as the Hearing Examiner deems appropriate under the circumstances. The Hearing Examiner will notify the parties of any action or denial of the request within five (5) calendar days of the filing of the request for clarification. A Hearing Examiner decision on a request for clarification is a Final Decision and is not subject to a motion for reconsideration or further clarification.~~

~~(c) A request for clarification will be based on the existing record and will not provide an opportunity for reconsideration of a decision nor will it allow for introduction of new evidence.~~

~~(d) The Hearing Examiner's response to the motion for clarification will constitute a Final Decision for purposes of judicial review. The filing of a request for clarification is not a prerequisite for seeking judicial review.~~

~~(ii) Motion for Reconsideration.~~

~~(a) After issuance of a Final Decision any party may file a motion for reconsideration on an appeal to the Hearing Examiner in accordance with subsection (b) of this Section. Such motion must be filed within ten (10) calendar days of issuance of the Hearing Examiner's Final Decision as provided for in Section 9.5.1 herein. The original of the motion for reconsideration will be filed with the Port Environmental Department. At the same time, copies will be served on all parties of record to the appeal via mail and email. Within five (5) calendar days of filing of the motion for reconsideration, any party of record may file a response without direction or request from the Hearing Examiner. The party seeking reconsideration may file a reply to any response within five (5) calendar days, also without direction or request from the Hearing Examiner. All motions for reconsideration, responses and replies will be served on all parties of record via mail and email.~~

~~(b) A motion for reconsideration will be based on at least one of the following grounds:~~

- ~~1. Errors of procedure or misinterpretation of fact or law, material to the party seeking reconsideration;~~
- ~~2. Irregularity in the hearing before the Hearing Examiner by which such party was prevented from having a fair hearing;~~
- ~~3. Clerical mistakes in the Final Decision and order; or~~

~~4. Discovery of material factual evidence which could not have been reasonably discovered through due diligence and produced prior to the close of the record by the party seeking reconsideration. To be considered by the Hearing Examiner, a motion for reconsideration that includes a request on these grounds must include a supporting declaration or affidavit from the party seeking reconsideration that both includes and/or attaches a description of the evidence and sets forth facts establishing the party's reasonable exercise of due diligence to obtain such evidence prior to the close of the record.~~

- ~~(c) Except as provided for herein, a motion for reconsideration will be based on the existing record and will not allow for introduction of new evidence.~~
- ~~(d) In response to a motion for reconsideration, the Hearing Examiner may deny the motion, modify his or her decision, or reopen the hearing. The Hearing Examiner will take action within fourteen (14) calendar days of the filing of the motion for reconsideration. A Hearing Examiner order on a motion for reconsideration is a Final Decision and is not subject to a request for clarification or further reconsideration.~~
- ~~(e) The Hearing Examiner's response to the motion for reconsideration will constitute a Final Decision for purposes of judicial review. Copies of the Final Decision will be served on each party or the party's attorney or other authorized representative of record. The filing of a motion for reconsideration is not a prerequisite for seeking judicial review.~~

~~6.9 — Appeal of Final Decisions.~~

- ~~6.9.1 — Judicial Appeal of Hearing Examiner's Final Decision. The Hearing Examiner's Final Decision will be appealable to the Thurston County Superior Court pursuant to RCW 43.21C.075. Any court action to set aside, enjoin, review or otherwise challenge the Hearing Examiner's decision will be filed in Thurston County Superior Court within twenty-one (21) calendar days of the latter of either: (1) the Hearing Examiner's Final Decision; or (2) the Final Decision on the underlying governmental action.~~
- ~~6.9.2 — Standing for Judicial Appeal. Only the parties to the Port's administrative appeal may appeal the Hearing Examiner's decision to Superior Court.~~
- ~~6.9.3 — Costs of Copying Administrative Record on Judicial Appeal. The costs of copying the Administrative Record for any judicial appeal will be borne equally by the Port and Appellant(s). Appellant(s)' portion of the costs will be paid to the Port at or prior to the date set by the Court for filing the record, and will be a condition precedent to perfecting the appeal. At the conclusion of the judicial appeal, if the Superior Court determines that Appellant(s) substantially prevailed on appeal, the costs paid by Appellant(s) will be refunded to the Appellant(s).~~

~~6.10 Refund Where Appellant(s) Substantially Prevails. If Appellant(s) substantially prevails in any administrative appeal provided for pursuant to this Resolution, any appeal fee paid will be refunded.~~

~~6.11~~

~~9.2 No Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies. Because there are no administrative appeals, a person is not required to request reconsideration or exhaust an administrative remedy before filing a judicial appeal under SEPA.~~

~~6.12~~
~~9.3 Informal Reconsideration. Any person may request, either orally or in writing, the Responsible Official to reconsider a SEPA determination during the applicable comment period. The Responsible Official may reconsider the determination and provide a written response. A request for reconsideration is not a formal appeal under RCW 43.21C.075 or WAC 197-11-680 and does not toll any applicable appeal or other deadline.~~

~~9.4 Judicial Review. Judicial review shall be brought in Thurston County Superior Court when that court has jurisdiction. When a statute or ordinance establishes a time limit for challenging the underlying governmental action, judicial review of accompanying SEPA determinations must be commenced within that same time period. When no such time limit applies — as will often be the case for nonproject actions of the Port, including adoption or amendment of plans, policies, and programs — the Responsible Official should evaluate whether to file a Notice of Action under RCW 43.21C.080 to establish a twenty-one-day judicial challenge period. The Port may also use any other procedure allowed by RCW 43.21C.075 or WAC 197-11-680. A request for informal reconsideration under Section 9.3 does not toll any applicable deadline. A judicial challenge does not stay the Port's action unless a court orders a stay.~~

~~9.5 Computation of Time. In computing any period of time related to public comment or appeals prescribed or allowed by this Resolution, the date of the act or event from which the designated period begins to run shall not be included. The last day of the designated period will be included, and will terminate at 5:00 p.m., unless, if the last day is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday as defined in RCW 1.16.050, in which case the designated period will run until 5:00 p.m. on the next business day.~~

~~9.6 Service on the Port Environmental Department. Where this Resolution provides for submittal to or service of documents or the payment of fees to the Port Environmental Department, the, service will be effective if made by one of the following procedures shall apply methods:~~

- ~~(i) Email service or submittal shall be effective if submitted by Email to or to the Responsible Official at the email address of the then-current Director of Environmental Programs by 5:00 p.m. identified on the~~

- a ble ~~deadline~~; SEPA determination, decision, or notice, by 5:00 p.m. on
- p the applicable deadline.
- p
- l(ii) Personal ~~service or submittal shall be effective if made to the~~
- i ~~receptionist~~ delivery at the Port of Olympia's Olympia's Administrative
- c Offices, ~~606 Columbia Street NW, Suite 300, Olympia, Washington,~~
- a ~~98501~~ by 5:00 p.m. on the applicable deadline.

~~10.~~

10. Categorical Exemptions

- 10.1 Adoption of Exemptions. The Port adopts by reference all categorical exemptions in WAC 197-11-800 through -890, subject to WAC 197-11-305 and all applicable exceptions and limitations. The Port will also apply all applicable statutory exemptions in Chapter 43.21C RCW.
- 10.2 Flexible Thresholds. The Port adopts and shall apply any flexible threshold for categorical exemptions that may be adopted by the city or county in which the proposal is located.
- 10.3 Exempt Activities of the Port. Examples of Olympia adopts activities of the respective Port that are categorically exempt levels for minor new construction as allowed from threshold-determination and EIS requirements include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - (i) Adoption of the Port budget. The Port's annual budget is a financial plan and does not authorize a capital project. Major project actions must be separately and specifically authorized by Commission action. Budget adoption is categorically exempt under WAC 197-11-800(14)(c).
 - (ii) Planning and research activities that do not commit the Port to proceed with a proposal are categorically exempt as information collection and research under WAC 197-11-800(17).
 - (iii) The ~~1~~ adoption, approval, and promulgation of Port tariffs are categorically exempt under WAC 197-11-800(14)(i).
 - (iv) Leases or contracts that do not authorize a change in use and do not otherwise commit the Port to a nonexempt action are categorically exempt, subject to WAC 197-11-305 and WAC 197-11-070.
 - (v) Borrowing of funds, issuance of bonds, and related financing agreements and approvals are categorically exempt under WAC 197-11-800(14)(d). Environmental review, if required, must be completed before approval of construction or another nonexempt action.
 - (vi) Planning documents, studies, and similar activities that do not contain standards controlling use or modification of the environment, do not govern the

development of a series of connected actions, and do not constitute the adoption or amendment of a comprehensive land use plan or zoning ordinance. Such documents do not qualify as nonproject actions under WAC 197-11-774.

(ii)(vii) Administrative established by the cities of Olympia and Tumwater or any, fiscal, and personnel activities of the Port, including hiring, termination, and other jurisdiction wherein the Port activity is located, personnel actions; revenue-raising actions such as rates, charges, and fees; and other internal administrative actions that do not directly alter the physical environment are categorically exempt under WAC 197-11-800(14)(a) and (b).

10.4 Documentation. A decision that a proposal is categorically exempt need not be documented under WAC 197-11-305(2). The Port may note the exemption in its files, including by noting the exemption in a register or SEPA exemption form.

11. Emergencies

Actions ~~which~~that must be undertaken immediately ~~(, or within a time too short to allow full compliance with this Resolution),~~to avoid an imminent threat to public health ~~and~~or safety, ~~to~~prevent an imminent danger to public or private property, or ~~to~~prevent an imminent threat of ~~serious environmental~~serious environmental degradation, ~~will be~~exempt from the procedural requirements of this Resolution under WAC 197-11-880. The Responsible Official or designee will determine on a case-by-case basis ~~emergency actions that satisfy the general requirements of this Section~~whether an action qualifies.

12. Port SEPA Public Information Responsibilities

~~11.1—~~12.1 The Port will ~~maintain a DNS register.~~

~~11.2—~~ The Port will maintain an EIS register including for each proposal the location, a brief description of the nature of the proposal, the date first listed on the register, and a contact person or office from which further information may be obtained.

~~The~~retain all SEPA documents ~~will be maintained at the information center for seven (7) years, will be available for public inspection, and in accordance with applicable records retention schedules and Chapter 42.56 RCW.~~ Copies will be provided upon request, and the Port may charge ~~for copies in the manner provided~~fees as permitted by Chapter 42.56 RCW (Public Records Act) ~~and for the cost of mailing, consistent with adopted Port fees for such service. It will be the responsibility of the Responsible Official to respond to requests received from other local, regional, State, or Federal agencies that request consultation and consent from a specific Port department/division.~~

~~The Port~~

12.2 The Port will submit environmental documents to the Department of Ecology for the statewide SEPA register as required by WAC 197-11-508.

12.3 The Responsible Official will maintain a list of ~~recommended federal, state, regional, local, and private agencies/agencies and~~ organizations and their addresses for use by the Port's responsible officials in making scoping requests and circulating draft EISs and circulation of environmental documents.

13. Critical Areas

~~The Port adopts the exclusions of categorical exemptions for projects within one (1) or more~~
The Port will respect "critical areas as adopted" and modified categorical exemption criteria adopted and displayed by the local government(s), governments, pursuant to the Growth Management Act, Chapter 36.70A RCW, and WAC 197-11-908, within which the jurisdiction where the Port activity is located~~and as those exclusions now exist or are adopted or amended in the future.~~

14. Lead Agency — Responsibilities

~~The Port, when acting in the capacity of as the lead agency, will be the only perform the responsibilities assigned to the lead agency responsible for complying with the threshold determination procedures of and Responsible Official under WAC 197-11-300 through 197-11-390 as adopted by reference, and the Responsible Official of the Port will be responsible for the supervision or actual preparation of draft EISs pursuant to and WAC 197-11-400 through 197-11-455460, as adopted by reference, including the circulation of such statements and the in Section 1. The Responsible Official will supervise or prepare required draft and final EISs, coordinate their circulation, and conduct of any public hearings required by this Resolution. The Responsible Official will also prepare or supervise preparation of any required FEIS pursuant to WAC 197-11-360 through 197-11-640 as adopted by reference the SEPA Rules or this Resolution.~~

15. Severability

If any provision of this Resolution or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this Resolution or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances will not be affected.

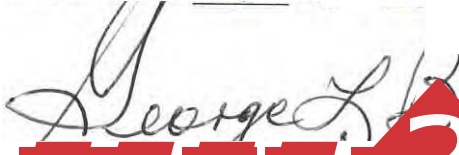
16. Repealer

All prior Port Resolutions dealing with compliance to the State Environmental Policy Act and Chapter 197-11 WAC are hereby repealed by the adoption of this Resolution.

17. Effective Date

This Resolution will be effective for all SEPA ~~determinations~~determinations issued subsequent to Commission adoption of this Resolution.

ADOPTED by the ~~Port~~ of Olympia Commission on 2 ☐ on this _____ day of June, 2015, 2026.


~~George L. McGregor~~  ~~t~~

George L. McGregor, Vice President

~~Michelle Morrice~~ ☐
Michelle Morrice, Secretary

~~Appendix A to Resolution 2015-12~~

~~SEPA and Climate Change~~

~~Climate is one element of the environment that SEPA requires agencies to evaluate prior to making a decision on a proposal. WAC 197-11-444(1)(b)(iii). In recognition of the evolving science addressing climate change and the identification of the Washington Department of Ecology as an agency with special expertise relating to that category of the environment under WAC 197-11-920(1)(a), the Port expressly adopts any then-current guidance, regulation, or other formally adopted policy by the Department of Ecology on greenhouse gases for its consideration of greenhouse gas emissions and the effect of climate change on proposed actions in SEPA environmental review, except that the Port will evaluate biogenic carbon dioxide emissions of proposed actions in the same manner as fossil carbon dioxide emissions of proposed actions are evaluated under the Department of Ecology guidance then in effect.~~

~~The Department of Ecology's current guidance (June 3, 2011), as of the date of adoption of this resolution, is attached, and is available at: (last visited October 16, 2014).~~

~~{Remainder of Page Intentionally Left Blank; Guidance Begins on Following Page}~~

~~Guidance for Ecology Including Greenhouse Gas Emissions in SEPA Reviews~~

~~The purpose of this document is to assist Ecology staff in determining which projects should be evaluated for greenhouse gas emissions and how to evaluate those emissions under SEPA when Ecology is the lead agency. This document does not attempt to provide a comprehensive overview of SEPA—see the [SEPA Handbook](#) and Ecology's [SEPA Intranet page](#) for more general information about SEPA. This internal guidance is intended to answer specific questions about including greenhouse gases in a SEPA analysis. It is not an adopted rule and SEPA decisions on whether a project has significant impacts must still be made on a case-by-case basis. It also is not intended to take the place of the procedure for considering greenhouse gas emissions already being used by the Nuclear Waste Program for projects at the Hanford site.~~

~~This document will be revised as agency staff recommend improvements and to reflect any relevant decisions by the Shorelines Hearing Board or other tribunals. Questions and suggested improvements should be sent to both Janice Adair at and Brenden McFarland at Gail Sandlin in the Air Quality Program is available to assist with the SEPA GHG reviews.~~

~~A. SEPA and climate change~~

~~SEPA requires state and local agencies to identify, disclose, and consider the probable environmental impacts that may result from their decisions. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions adversely affect the environment by contributing to global climate change. In turn, global climate change results in environmental impacts in Washington such as rising sea levels and changes in water supply. These changes can impact the built environment, and SEPA requires these types of impacts to be disclosed, too.~~

~~Thus, two different climate change impacts of a proposal should be considered.~~

- ~~1. New GHG emissions caused by the proposal~~
- ~~2. The effects of a changing climate on the proposal's new infrastructure as a result of:~~
 - ~~a. Increased sea levels~~
 - ~~b. Reduced snowpack~~
 - ~~c. Changes in water availability~~
 - ~~d. Changes in stream flow timing~~
 - ~~e. Increased forest fires~~
 - ~~f. More extreme precipitation events and flooding~~

~~8. Ecology's role in SEPA reviews~~

~~Ecology plays one of three roles in reviewing a SEPA analysis.~~

- ~~1. Lead agency~~
- ~~2. Agency with jurisdiction (where another governmental entity is the lead agency, but Ecology will be issuing permits for the project)~~

~~3. Other – no agency action on proposal (we are an agency with expertise, a commenting agency, or no review or comment)~~

~~This document is to be used when Ecology is either the lead agency or an agency with jurisdiction. It is not expected that Ecology will review SEPA analyses solely for GHG emissions.~~

~~C. Greenhouse gases in brief~~

~~Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), Nitrous oxide (NO_x), nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃), hydrofluorcarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆).~~

~~In a very simple sense, GHG emissions are air pollutants. However, there are distinctive features about these emissions that make them different from other air pollutants.~~

~~GHGs, and in particular carbon dioxide, are emitted by a vast number of sources, both natural and anthropogenic, in amounts ranging from trivial to massive. These emissions mix rapidly and uniformly in the atmosphere. They contribute equally to global concentrations no matter where they are emitted. A ton of CO₂ emitted from Seattle has the same effect on global concentrations as a ton emitted in Clarkston. Unlike many conventional air pollutants, local concentrations of GHGs are not greater near large sources than they are in areas far away.~~

~~Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) is the preferred measure for determining GHG emissions rates for any combination of these GHGs. Emissions of greenhouse gases are typically expressed in a common metric, so that their impacts can be directly compared, as some gases have a higher global warming potential (GWP) than others.~~

~~How will I know if a particular project will result in GHG emissions?~~

~~GHG emissions come from multiple sources in widely varying levels. The majority of GHG emissions are produced by the burning of fossil fuels. The most common sources are:~~

- ~~• Energy production and use, including transportation (e.g. vehicles)~~
- ~~• Industrial manufacturing processes, including¹:~~
 - ~~○ Cement~~
 - ~~○ Glass~~
 - ~~○ Steel~~
 - ~~○ Aluminum~~
 - ~~○ Lime~~
 - ~~○ Pulp and Paper~~
 - ~~○ Oil and gas refining~~
 - ~~○ Silicon production~~

¹ These industrial facilities are typically energy intensive and will include a number of boilers. The manufacturing process itself will also create greenhouse gas emissions.

- ~~Waste disposal and wastewater treatment~~
- ~~Electricity or natural gas distribution~~
- ~~Permanent deforestation~~
- ~~Cattle manure management~~

~~While nearly every project will have some level of GHG emissions, not every project will produce emissions to a level that warrants disclosure.~~

~~It is important to note that under current state law (RCW 70.235.020(3)), emissions of carbon dioxide from industrial combustion of biomass in the form of fuel wood, wood waste, wood by-products, and wood residuals are not considered a greenhouse gas.~~

~~D. Which emissions need to be disclosed?~~

~~"New" emissions that are expected to average 10,000 metric tons or more of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) per year and that are "proximately caused" by the proposal should be disclosed. We expect the majority of projects to be below this level of emissions.~~

~~10,000 metric tons is the equivalent of the emissions produced by 2,092 passenger cars in one year. Attachment 1 is a screening table that can be used by staff to determine if a proposal is likely to emit greater than 10,000 metric tons per year.~~

~~"New" emissions are any emissions that will result from the project that are additional ("above and beyond" current emission levels). For example, replacing an existing boiler with a more efficient boiler might result in no "new" emissions if the new boiler decreases emissions whereas an industrial development on land currently used for agriculture would likely result in some quantity of "new" emissions. A proposal that will improve or replace infrastructure but not add any new business or throughput would not be expected to result in "new" operational or transportation emissions. Relocating an operation could result in additional emissions, or might reduce emissions depending on the specifics of the relocation. Relocating a supply route from one location to another, such as between ports or distribution centers, may not result in new emissions.~~

~~"Proximate cause" means a "reasonably close causal relationship between the environmental effect and the alleged cause." It is the standard that the United States Supreme Court adopted under NEPA.² Although Washington courts have not ruled on this issue as it relates to SEPA, we have used the same standard in the state because it presents a reasonable approach to defining the scope of impacts that need to be considered. Proximate cause requires a showing that the proposal is the cause of the emissions in a direct sequence, unbroken by any superseding cause. The courts have further defined proximate cause as whether the action and the impacts (emissions) are "two links of [the same] chain." If the environmental impact is linked to the action, then it should be considered under SEPA.~~

² *Dept. of Transp. v. Public Citizen*, 541 U.S. 752, 754 (2004)

Generally, Ecology believes that only larger development projects such as new industrial facilities and electricity generation units will have emissions to a level that will necessitate their specific disclosure. For example, a proposal to redevelop a site into an industrial park would likely have emissions that would require disclosure. On the other hand, a building permit for a small business enterprise would not be expected to have emissions that necessitate disclosure even though the completed project will use energy and there may be traffic associated with the business.

~~E. How should GHG emissions be quantified?~~

When quantifying new emissions that are caused by the project, proponents should use accepted protocols and emissions factors such as those outlined in Attachment 2. We have also developed a simple tool that will be helpful in quickly estimating emissions from specific projects. It is available online: [SEPA GHG Calculation Tool](#).

~~F. What are the boundaries of the project for which emissions must be disclosed?~~

For all impacts, [WAC 197-11-060\(4\)\(b\)](#) states that "In assessing the significance of an impact, a lead agency shall not limit its consideration of a proposal's impacts only to those aspects within its jurisdiction, including local or state boundaries." If the emissions are proximately caused by the project, they should be disclosed regardless of their location.

The project proponent should carefully consider any transportation emissions associated with movement of products related to the operation of the project. At a minimum, the analysis should include the emissions that occur within Washington state, including the nautical three-mile boundary if transporting products by ship. For projects with ongoing operations that include transporting products from outside the state, such as a port, a more thorough and perhaps more defensible analysis would include the transportation emissions from the source location outside of Washington to the final destination *if either is known and the extent to which either is known*. Whether or not SEPA requires the transportation analysis to include these out-of-state transportation emissions is an unsettled question under SEPA case law.

Remember that this document does not supersede or otherwise replace the current SEPA handbook and provisions prohibiting piecemealing and other requirements on defining the scope of the project still apply.

~~G. What level of detail is needed for emissions disclosure?~~

For projects that are expected to annually produce an average estimate of at least 10,000 but less than 25,000 metric tons CO₂e, proponents should at least *qualitatively* disclose the GHG emissions caused by the project. A qualitative disclosure should include a general description of the project's expected source(s) of the emissions, as well as any proposed GHG mitigation measures incorporated or designed into the project.

Proponents of projects that are expected to produce an average of 25,000 or more metric tons CO₂e each year should include a *quantitative* disclosure of GHG emissions. The screening table included as Attachment 1 can be used by staff to estimate if a proposal is likely to require this quantitative analysis. The quantitative analysis should include GHG emissions from all phases of the project. Emissions from the operation of the completed

project should be disclosed separately from emissions associated with the project construction including site preparation and any demolition. This will allow the agency to better understand the difference between short term and long term emissions. In addition, the proponent should average the annual estimated operational emissions over the lifespan of the project. Remember that the SEPA rules require the official to consider mitigation measures which the proponent proposes to implement as part of the proposal, including any mitigation measures required by other existing environmental rules or laws.

The GHG analysis should include emissions in the following categories:^{3,4}

Scope 1 Emissions

- ~~Direct stationary combustion of fossil fuels once the project is complete.~~
- ~~Vehicle fleet emissions once the project is complete.~~
- ~~Loss of carbon storage from the permanent conversion of forested lands.~~
- ~~Methane emissions from new landfills, wastewater treatment plants, or manure management systems.~~

Scope 2 Emissions

- ~~Purchased electricity or steam consumed by the project.~~

Scope 3 Emissions

- ~~Heavy machinery emissions during site preparation, construction, or clean-up activities.~~
- ~~New on-going product transportation emissions that are caused by the project; as noted above in F, this will at a minimum include emissions that occur within Washington state and its three mile nautical boundary.~~
- ~~Vehicle trips generated by the project during construction and operation, including those of employees, customers, vendors, or residents.~~

H. ~~How can the current SEPA checklist be used to disclose emissions and effects on the built environment?~~

The current ~~SEPA environmental checklist (WAC 197-11-960)~~ can be used to identify and disclose sources of GHG emissions as well as the impacts on the built environment expected as a result of global climate change.

Section B2 of the checklist requires the proponent to identify air emissions associated with the project during construction and when the project is completed, as well as any measures proposed to avoid, minimize, or mitigate those emissions. These questions can be used to help disclose GHG emissions.

The checklist includes other questions that may be useful in identifying other potential GHG emissions, such as the number of people residing or working in the completed project (under "Land and Shoreline Use"), vehicle

³25,000 metric tons is the greenhouse gas reporting threshold for the US Environmental Protection Agency. It is the equivalent of 4,545 average passenger cars or 60,749,347 kilowatt hours of electricity.

⁴GHG measurement tools group emissions into three categories. Scope 1 may also be referred to as direct emissions and Scopes 2 and 3 as indirect emissions. However, since "direct" and "indirect" are also used in SEPA and mean something different, we recommend refraining from using those terms to refer to emissions.

trips per day and other demands on transportation (under "Transportation"), and energy use (under "Energy and Natural Resources").

Projects with a long lifespan should consider their vulnerability to a changing climate. This is especially true for buildings and infrastructure along coastlines and in floodplains, as well as large water users. By 2050 sea level in Washington is projected to increase between 1 and 22 inches, depending on location and future emissions. Major storms and floods are also projected to increase in the future, increasing the flooding danger to projects located within existing flood plains. Climate change will also affect future water availability and should be considered for projects that will be large water users.

Section B.3 of the checklist concerning surface water could be used to disclose a project's vulnerability to climate change. Additional information of the effects of climate change can be found on Ecology's climate adaptation website.

J. When are emissions considered "significant"?

The SEPA rules include a process for determining when impacts are considered significant (WAC 197-11-330). Under this rule, the responsible official is tasked with taking into account whether or not the proposal conflicts with local, state or federal rules or laws. The official is also directed to consider mitigation measures which the proponent proposes to implement as part of the proposal, including any mitigation measures required by other existing environmental rules or laws.

The SEPA rules also state, in defining significance, that it involves context and intensity and does not lend itself to a formula or quantifiable test (WAC 197-11-794). However, we believe that we can identify what level of greenhouse gas emissions would not be significant, especially taking into account the state's greenhouse gas reduction targets and other legal requirements to reduce or mitigate emissions.

RCW 70.235.020 establishes greenhouse gas reduction targets for Washington. By 2020, we are to return to 1990 levels. While there are also reduction targets for 2035 and 2050, at this point we are concentrating on meeting the 2020 targets. Based on Ecology's most recent Comprehensive Plan to meet those targets, the state must reduce its emissions by 11%⁵ in order to return to 1990 levels by 2020⁶.

There are also some legal requirements to reduce or mitigate GHG emissions. These include:

- Facilities subject to Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) requirements under the Clean Air Act that have been determined to meet "Best Available Control Technology" for GHGs.
- New fossil-fueled thermal electric generating facilities required to offset a portion of their CO₂ emissions under RCW 80.70.
- Baseload power generation facilities subject to the state Emissions Performance Standard (RCW 80.80).

⁵ The agency is required to update the emissions inventory every even-numbered year, and the percentage reduction needed to reach the statutory targets will be updated accordingly.

⁶ Ecology is still considering how and when to use the percentage reduction required to meet the 2035 statutory target.

A proposal will be presumed to be not significant for greenhouse gas emissions and thus no further mitigation for greenhouse gas emissions will be necessary if it is:

- ~~expected to result in fewer than 25,000 metric tons a year;~~
- ~~subject to a legal requirement to reduce or mitigate GHG emissions; or~~
- ~~expected to result in emissions of 25,000 metric tons or more a year and has incorporated mitigation measures to reduce its emissions by approximately 11% below what its emissions would have been without those mitigation measures.~~

~~These proposals should still disclose their emissions as outlined in Section D of this document and at the appropriate level of detail as outlined in Section G.~~

~~For projects that have incorporated mitigation measures to reduce emissions by 11%, the project proponent should use a reasonable amount of effort to demonstrate that those measures will get as close to the 11% reduction as possible, however it is not necessary to mitigate emissions by exactly 11%.~~

~~By identifying the level of emissions that would be presumed to be not significant, the agency is not taking the position that emissions exceeding those levels would be presumed to be significant. It is unlikely that a proposal would be considered significant based solely on its greenhouse gas emissions. We would expect a project with high GHG emissions to also have other environmental impacts.⁷~~

~~It is important to remember that a project may still be found to be significant because of other impacts even if the greenhouse gas emissions are not significant.~~

~~K. How can a project proponent mitigate emissions?~~

~~For proponents who wish to mitigate emissions, there are many options. A number of these are outlined in Attachment 2.~~

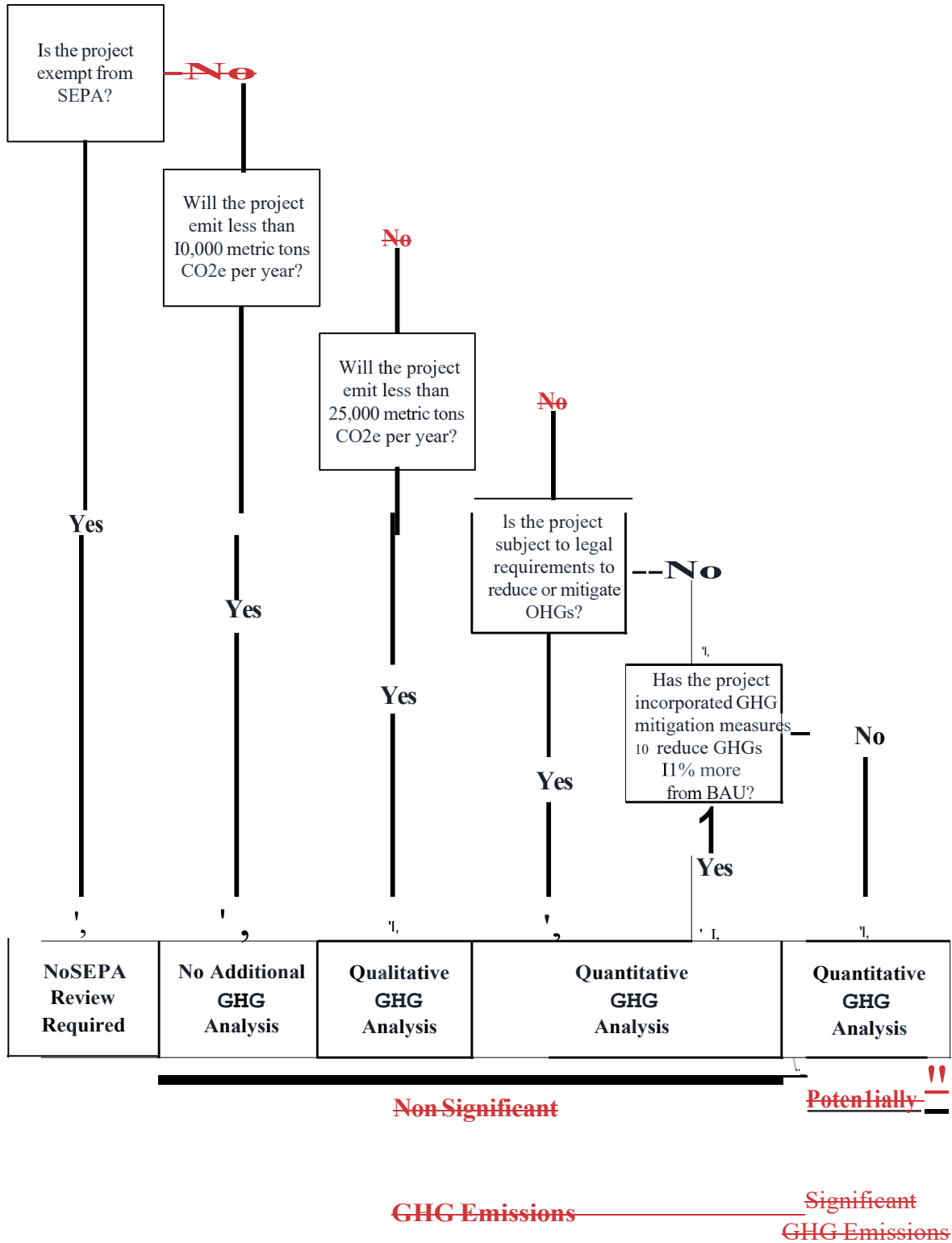
~~If a proponent chooses to mitigate GHG emissions by including energy efficiency or other design features that will reduce GHG emissions, the proponent should quantify and disclose the expected emissions from the project both with and without those design features.~~

~~Mitigation may occur at a different location or at a different source than the emissions associated with the project. Greenhouse gases mix rapidly in the atmosphere and persist for a number of years, therefore a reduction in any location will reduce the overall atmospheric burden. Some ideas for off-site mitigation that have been suggested include energy efficiency improvements in schools, low income housing, or other public or community buildings, as well as projects that will capture methane from landfills or manure management systems. These are just examples.~~

⁷ Some electronic manufacturing, such as photovoltaic solar cell and film silicon modules, may use fluorinated gases with a very high global warming effect. These projects could have extremely high levels of GHG emissions without other environmental impacts.

~~If a project proponent proposes to mitigate emissions by purchasing a GHG offset project from a third party, you should contact Ecology's Climate Policy Group for assistance. These types of projects can be controversial and it is important to ascertain that the offset project meets the necessary criteria.~~

Ecology SEPA and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Significance Flow Chart



Attachment 1: GHG Screening Table

The following table can be used to screen projects in order to determine the level of additional greenhouse gas emissions analysis that should be done by the project proponent. For each category the table estimates the size of a project that would be expected to produce emissions at annual levels of 10,000 and 25,000 metric tons during operation. Projects that are near the threshold may require additional project-specific analysis to determine if emissions may trigger GHG analysis.

For development projects, emissions are included from direct combustion and induced transportation emissions. For development projects the table uses national and regional estimate of energy use compiled by the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Estimated emissions from development projects also include induced transportation emissions based on the Fehr and Peers VMT spreadsheet with default values for Puget Sound.

	10,000 MT CO ₂ e Per Year	25,000 MT CO ₂ e Per Year	Data Unit
Energy Usage			
Gasoline	1,136,708	2,841,769	Gallons
Diesel	983,367	2,458,418	Gallons
Natural Gas	1,881,255	4,703,138	Therms
Electricity Consumption	24,300	60,749	MWh
Commercial or Industrial Boilers			
Natural Gas Fired	22	54	Heat Input (MMBtu/hr)
Fuel Oil Fired	15	38	Heat Input (MMBtu/hr)
Coal Fired	12	30	Heat Input (MM Btu/hr)
Biomass Fired (carbon neutral CO ₂)	578	1,446	Heat Input (MM Btu/hr)
Residential Development (Includes Transportation and Operation)			
Single Family	409	1,023	Dwelling Units
Multi-Family	575	1,438	Dwelling Units
High-Rise Condo	854	2,135	Dwelling Units
Commercial Development (Includes Transportation and Operation)			
General Retail	185	463	Thousand Square Feet
Supermarket	75	187	Thousand Square Feet
Fast-Food Restaurant	18	45	Thousand Square Feet
Office Space	399	998	Thousand Square Feet
Medical Office	160	399	Thousand Square Feet
Hotel	565	1,411	Hotel Rooms
Movie Theatre	30	75	Movie Screens
Educational Facility Development			
Grade School	5,050	12,624	Number of Students
High School	3,662	9,154	Number of Students
College	2,644	6,610	Number of Students
Industrial Development			
Warehouse/Distribution Center	119	298	Thousand Square Feet
Conversion of Forested Lands			
Deforestation (Western WA)	83	207	Acres
Deforestation (Eastern WA)	213	532	Acres
Waste and Wastewater Treatment			
Landfill	74,830	187,075	Tons MSW Disposed per Year
Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant	26	65	1000 People Served
Dairy Cattle Manure Management (Open Lagoon)	2,046	5,115	Head Cattle
Beef Cattle Manure Management (Open Lagoon)	6,063	15,158	Head Cattle

Attachment 2: Sources of GHG Emissions Mitigation Options

The following table lists various sources of GHG emissions as well as potential quantification methodologies and mitigation options for each source. These emissions sources can be evaluated quantitatively or qualitatively to address greenhouse gas reduction strategies. Not all categories must be quantified or mitigated.

GHG Emission Sources	Definition and Examples	Emissions Scope	Quantification Methodologies, Tools, and Emission Factors* (see last page for links to all of these tools)	Potential Mitigation Options†
On-Road Mobile Sources	Mobile sources owned by the project proponent operating both within the proponent's facility and off-site.	Scope 1	• TCR • WRI/WBCSD • Seattle Climate Partnership • Ecology • EIA • URBEMIS • Ca/EEMod	• Highly efficient vehicles • Alternative fuel vehicles • Site location • Video conferencing • Anti-idling technology
Non-Road Mobile Sources	Non-road mobile sources owned by the project proponent used for construction, maintenance, and facility operation (e.g. heavy machinery, maintenance equipment, trains, and boats)	Scope 1	• TCR • WRI/WBCSD • Seattle Climate Partnership • Ecology • URBEMIS • Ca/EEMod	• Highly efficient vehicles • Alternative fuel vehicles • Site location • Anti-idling technology
Stationary Combustion	On-site combustion of fossil fuels	Scope 1	• TCR • WRI/WBCSD • EPA Reporting Rule • EIA • URBEMIS	• Building design and operation • Energy efficiencies

GHG Emission Sources	Definition and Examples	Emissions Scope	Quantification Methodologies, Tools, and Emission Factors* (see last page for links to all of these tools)	Potential Mitigation Options†
Industrial Processes	Non-combustion emissions resulting from certain industrial processes such as oil refining, cement production, aluminum production, and steel manufacturing	Scope 1	• TCR • EPA Reporting Rule • WRI/WBCSD • IPCC	• Facility operation • Methane capture and use or destruction • High global warming potential gas destruction
Fugitive Emissions	Non-combustion emissions from owned resources (e.g. landfills, natural gas transmission, electricity transmission, and wastewater treatment plants)	Scope 1	• TCR • EPA Reporting Rule • WRI/WBCSD • IPCC • CCME	• Facility operation • Methane capture and use or destruction • High global warming potential gas destruction
Agricultural Emissions	Non-combustion emissions from agriculture (e.g. manure management, fertilizer application, enteric fermentation, and soil preparation)	Scope 1	• WRI/WBCSD • IPCC • DOE 1605b • CAR • CCME	• Methane capture and use or destruction • Waste reduction • Organic or low input agriculture
Land Use Change	Emissions from lost carbon storage from the permanent conversion of forested land to other uses	Scope 1	• DOE 1605b • U.S Forest Service • WRI/WBCSD • IPCC • CAR	• Site design and location • Low impact development

GHG Emission Sources	Definition and Examples	Emissions Scope	Quantification Methodologies, Tools, and Emission Factors* (see last page for links to all of these tools)	Potential Mitigation Options†
Purchased Electricity and Steam	Off-site emissions produced to generate purchased electricity or steam	Scope 2	• TCR • EPA eGRID • Seattle Climate Partnership • EIA • URBEMIS • Ca/EEMod	• Building design and operation • Energy efficiencies
Road and Non-Road Mobile Sources	Combustion emissions from leased or contractor on-road and non-road mobile sources used as part of construction, maintenance, and facility operation (e.g. heavy machinery, maintenance equipment, trains, and boats)	Scope 3	• TCR • WRI/WBCSD • Ecology • URBEMIS • Ca/EEMod	• Highly efficient vehicles • Alternative fuel vehicles • Site Location • Anti-idling technology
Generated Vehicle Trips	Combustion emissions from vehicle trips generated by the project during construction and operation including those of employees, customers, vendors, and residents.	Scope 3	• TCR • CTR • Seattle Climate Partnership • URBEMIS • Fehr & Peers • Ca/EEMod	• Highly energy efficient or alternative fueled vehicles and infrastructure • Site location • Public transit infrastructure and incentives • Bike/ped accessibility • Anti-idling technology

GHG Emission Sources	Definition and Examples	Emissions Scope	Quantification Methodologies, Tools, and Emission Factors* (see last page for links to all of these tools)	Potential Mitigation Options†
Water Use and Wastewater Disposal	Combustion and fugitive emissions created to provide water and dispose of wastewater (e.g. pumping energy and POTW fugitive methane)	Scope 3	• TCR • WRI/WBCSD • IPCC	• Low impact development • Site location • Methane capture and use or destruction • Water conservation/efficiencies (fixtures, appliances) • Water reuse
Supply Chain Transportation Emissions	Supply chain transportation emissions generated to transport feedstocks to the completed project, finished products away from the project, and any additional new shipping emissions that are caused by the project.	Scope 3	• TCR • WRI/WBCSD • <i>URBEM/5</i> • <i>Ca/EEMod</i>	• Highly efficient or alternative fueled vehicles and infrastructure • Site location • Anti-idling technology

*The following list is illustrative showing some good sources for quantification tools, protocols, and emissions factors that can be used to quantitatively assess emissions from each of these sources. It is not meant to be exhaustive. We are not advocating the use of these methodologies for determining acceptable error rates for assessing emissions. Tools in italics are simple models that can be used to estimate the magnitude of future emissions.

†These are general examples of mitigation options for various emissions sources. This list is not meant to be comprehensive.

Quantification Methodologies, Tools, and Emissions Factors

- ~~Athena Institute EcoCalculator (Athena)–~~
- ~~CalEEMod–~~
- ~~CCME–~~
- ~~Department of Commerce GHG Emissions Planning Tools (Commerce)–~~
- ~~Ecology Mobile Source Tool (Ecology)–~~
- ~~Energy Information Agency End Use Consumption Data (EIA)–~~
- ~~EPA Reporting Rule–~~
- ~~EPA WARM Model–~~
- ~~Fehr & Peers VMT spreadsheets–~~
- ~~IPCC Emissions Factor Database (IPCC)–~~
- ~~National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) Life cycle Inventory Database–~~
- ~~Seattle Climate Partnership–~~
- ~~The Climate Action Reserve (CAR)–~~
- ~~The Climate Registry (TCR)–~~
- ~~U.S Department of Energy 1605b (DOE 1605b)–~~
- ~~U.S Forest Service Carbon Lookup Tables (U.S Forest Service)–~~
- ~~URBEMIS–~~
- ~~World Resources Institute/World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WRI/WBCSD)–~~
- ~~WSDOT Commute Trip Reduction Program (CTR)–~~

President

Vice-President/Commissioner

Secretary/Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner
