Seattle Public Utilities

Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) 59 Outfall Cleaning
SEPA Determination of Non-Significance (DNS)

Description of Proposal

In some areas of the City of Seattle, sewage and stormwater runoff are collected in the same pipes, known as combined sewers. During storm events, sometimes the flow in these pipes exceeds the pipe system capacity. When this happens, the system overflows at combined sewer overflow (CSO) outfall structures designed for this purpose. There are currently 82 CSO outfalls in the City of Seattle where combined sewer overflows can occur. Such overflows are regulated by permits issued by Ecology under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). These outfalls require periodic cleaning to ensure their continued ability to convey flows for the duration of their service lives. Recent closed-circuit video (CCTV) and dive inspection showed evidence of significant sediment and debris accumulation in certain CSO outfalls.

The proposed project is maintenance cleaning and inspection at CSO 59 outfall. The outfall for CSO 59 is 36-inch diameter cast iron pipe constructed in 1958 and associated with Wastewater Pump Station 43. The outfall pipe is approximately 182 feet long and discharges to Salmon Bay of Puget Sound.

Depending on pipe condition, accessibility, and other variables, one option is that the outfall would be plugged by divers and the pipe contents then jetted and vactored without discharging pipe contents (sediment and debris) and jetting water into the receiving water. The other option is that the outfall would be surrounded by a floating containment boom (turbidity curtain) to reduce turbidity, but the pipe contents sediment and organic debris would be flushed to the receiving water. The cleaning operation would use dechlorinated water and remove an undetermined volume of sand, gravel, rock, and organic debris from the interior of each outfall pipe. Regardless of cleaning method selected, jetting and vactoring would be conducted by land-based vactor equipment using the nearest principal upstream maintenance hole structure in City of Seattle street rights-of-way accessible by land. Once cleaned, the outfall would be CCTV-inspected to document post-cleaning condition, structural issues, and serviceability. Inspection activity would be conducted by land-based equipment using the nearest principal upstream maintenance hole structure accessible by land.

Once this initial cleaning is completed, the outfall may need to be inspected and cleaned (re-jetted/vactored or flushed) in the future. SPU estimates maintenance cleaning and inspection would occur not more frequently than every 5 years over the remaining lifespan of the outfall (estimated to be 60 years). Maintenance jetting would be conducted by land-based vactor equipment using the nearest principal upstream structure accessible by land. Pipe contents would be jetted into Puget Sound with turbidity controls. The outfall would be CCTV'd periodically to document condition and serviceability. That inspection activity would be conducted by land-based equipment using the nearest principal upstream structure accessible by land.

Proponent

Seattle Public Utilities
Seattle Municipal Tower Suite 4900
P.O. Box 34018
Seattle, WA 98124-4018

Location of Proposal

The CSO 59 outfall is located in Salmon Bay and is associated with Wastewater Pump Station 43 located at 5641R Seaview Ave NW, which is in street right-of-way for NW 57th St. The CSO 59 outfall is on tax parcel 0467000985 owned by USACE in City of Seattle, King County, Washington.

Lead Agency

Seattle Public Utilities, the lead agency for this proposal, has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

This Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for fourteen (14) days from the issuance date below.

A copy of the environmental checklist is available online at
http://www.seattle.gov/utilities/neighborhood-projects/construction-impacts

Public and Agency Comments

Comments on this DNS must be submitted by July 7, 2022 and must be sent by email to:

Ingrid Wertz, SEPA Responsible Official
Seattle Public Utilities
ingrid.wertz@seattle.gov

Signature: Ingrid Wertz Digitally signed by Ingrid Wertz Date: 2022.06.15 17:59:02 -07'00'

Ingrid Wertz

Issue Date: June 23, 2022

Appeals

Appeals of this DNS must be accompanied by an $85 filing fee and must be filed by 5:00 p.m. on July 14, 2022. Please see the Office of the Hearing Examiner web site for Temporary Operating Rules During COVID-19: http://www.seattle.gov/hearing-examiner