



# City of Seattle

Department of Planning and Development  
Diane M. Sugimura, Director

## CITY OF SEATTLE ANALYSIS AND DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

**Application Number:** 3010330  
**Applicant Name:** Ronald Meckler for Clearwire  
**Address of Proposal:** 7750 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NE

### SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION

Land Use Application to allow a minor communications utility consisting of (3) panel antennas, (2) microwave dishes and one equipment cabinet all to be mounted on the rooftop of an existing building (Clearwire).

The following approval is required:

**SEPA - Environmental Determination** – Chapter 25.05, Seattle Municipal Code (SMC)

**SEPA DETERMINATION:**  Exempt  DNS  MDNS  EIS  
 DNS with conditions  
 DNS involving non-exempt grading or demolition or involving another agency with jurisdiction.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The subject site is located on the eastern block front of 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NE (just south of NE 80<sup>th</sup> St) and is zoned Neighborhood Commercial 2 (NC2) with a 40 foot height limit.

#### Proposal Description

The proposal entails the installation of “faux chimneys” for the installation of (3) panel antennas, (2) microwave dishes and one equipment cabinet all to be mounted on the rooftop of an existing building<sup>1</sup>.



<sup>1</sup> See revise plans date stamped March 19, 2010.

### Notice of Application and Comment Period

Public notice of the Land Use Application was given on July 16, 2009. The public comment period ended on July 29, 2009. The Land Use Application file is available at the Public Resource Center located at 700 Fifth Ave, Suite 2000 (<http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/PRC/LocationHours/default.asp>).

### SEPA ANALYSIS

The initial disclosure of the potential impacts from this project was made in the environmental checklist submitted by the applicant. The information in the checklist and the experience of the lead agency with review of similar projects form the basis for this analysis and decision.

The SEPA Overview Policy (SMC 25.05.554D) clarifies the relationship between codes, policies, and environmental review. Specific policies for each element of the environment, certain neighborhood plans, and other policies explicitly referenced may serve as the basis for exercising substantive SEPA authority.

The Overview Policy states, in part: *“Where City regulations have been adopted to address an environmental impact, it shall be presumed that such regulations are adequate to achieve sufficient mitigation,”* subject to some limitations. Under such limitations/circumstances (SMC 25.05.665 D1-7) mitigation can be considered. Thus, a more detailed discussion of some of the impacts is appropriate.

### Short-term Impacts

The following temporary construction-related impacts are expected: 1) decreased air quality due to the increase dust and other suspended particulates from building activities; 2) increased noise and vibration from construction operations and equipment; 3) increased traffic and parking demand from construction personnel; 4) blockage of streets by construction vehicles/activities; 5) conflict with normal pedestrian movement adjacent to the site; and 6) consumption of renewable and non-renewable resources. Although not significant, the impacts are adverse and certain mitigation measures are appropriate as specified below.

City codes and/or ordinances apply to the proposal and will provide mitigation for some of the identified impacts. Specifically, these are: 1) Street Use Ordinance (watering streets to suppress dust, obstruction of the pedestrian right-of-way during construction, construction along the street right-of-way, and sidewalk repair); and 2) Building Code (construction measures in general). Compliance with these applicable codes and ordinances will be adequate to achieve sufficient mitigation and further mitigation by imposing specific conditions is not necessary for these impacts. The other short-term impacts not noted here as mitigated by codes, ordinances or conditions (e.g., increased traffic during construction, additional parking demand generated by construction personnel and equipment, increased use of energy and natural resources) are not sufficiently adverse to warrant further mitigation or discussion.

### Greenhouse Gases

Installation activities including construction worker commutes and maintain/repair operations, resulting an increases in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions which adversely impact air quality and contribute to climate change and global warming. While these impacts are adverse, they are not expected to be significant due to the relative minor contribution of greenhouse gas emissions from this project<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> Estimated at 54 metric tons of carbon dioxide will be emitted (MTCO<sub>2e</sub>) over lifespan.

Long-term Impacts

Long-term or use-related impacts are also anticipated, as a result of approval of this proposal including: increased traffic in the area and increased demand for parking due to maintenance of the facility; and increased demand for public services and utilities. These impacts are minor in scope and do not warrant additional conditioning pursuant to SEPA policies.

Environmental Health

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has pre-empted state and local governments from regulating personal wireless service facilities on the basis of environmental effects of radio frequency emissions. As such, no mitigation measures are warranted pursuant to the SEPA Overview Policy (SMC 25.05.665).

The applicant has submitted an "Evaluation of Compliance with Guidelines for Human Exposure to Radio Frequency Radiation" report and engineering certification for this proposed facility giving the calculations of radiofrequency power density at roof and ground levels expected from this proposal and attesting to the qualifications of the professional engineer who made this assessment. This complies with the Seattle Municipal code Section 25.10.300 that contains Electromagnetic Radiation standards with which the proposal must conform. The City of Seattle, in conjunction with Seattle King County Department of Public Health, has determined that Personal Communication Systems (PCS) operate at frequencies far below the Maximum Permissible Exposure standards established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and therefore, does not warrant any conditioning to mitigate for adverse impacts.

**DECISION - SEPA**

This decision was made after review by the responsible official on behalf of the lead agency of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the responsible department. This constitutes the Threshold Determination and form. The intent of this declaration is to satisfy the requirement of the State Environmental Policy Act (RCW 43.21.C), including the requirement to inform the public of agency decisions pursuant to SEPA.

Determination of Non-Significance. This proposal has been determined to not have a significant adverse impact upon the environment. An EIS is not required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(C).

**CONDITIONS - SEPA**

None.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (signature on file) Date: April 22, 2010  
Colin R. Vasquez, Senior Land Use Planner  
Department of Planning and Development

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