



City of Seattle

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**Department of Planning and Development**  
D. M. Sugimura, Director

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

**Application Number:** 3011599  
**Applicant Name:** Sarah Telschow for Clearwire US, LLC  
**Address of Proposal:** 4020 Aurora Ave N

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION**

Land Use Application to allow a minor communication utility consisting of three panel antennas, two microwave dishes and one support equipment cabinet. All proposed antennas and microwave dishes are proposed within a screening enclosure addition to an existing roof stair tower. The screening enclosure is proposed to be painted match the existing stair tower architecture and cladding pattern.

The following Land Use approval is required:

**SEPA - Environmental Determination** Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) 25.05.

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

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Site and Vicinity Description

The midblock proposal site is located on the west side of Aurora Ave N between N 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> Streets and is approximately 18,500 sq ft. The site is located in a Commercial One (C1-40) zone with a forty foot height limit. Existing development on site is a 4-story mixed use (commercial/multifamily) structure constructed in 2002.

### Surrounding Zoning

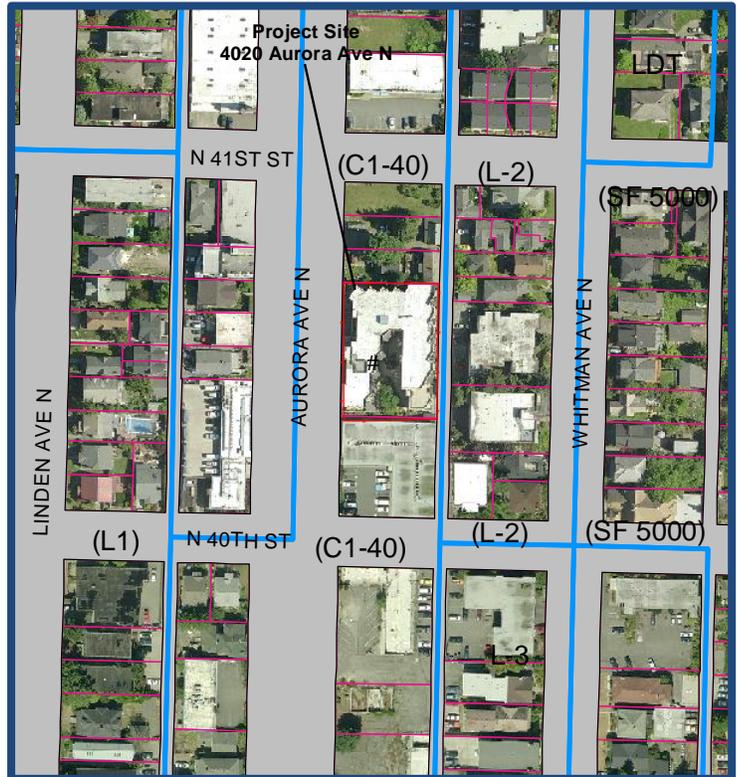
North and South: C1-40 zoning (typical zoning for properties along Aurora Ave in the vicinity)

East: Lowrise Two – L2 (multifamily) and Single Family 5000 beyond.

West: C1-40 zoning and L1 beyond with L2 to the north.

### Proposal Description

The proposed project consists of a minor communication facility for Clearwire US, consisting of three panel antennas, two microwave dishes and support equipment cabinet. The approximately 158 sq ft area proposed housing/screening structure is proposed to be painted to match the existing stair tower (dark grey) and designed to match the cladding pattern. Support equipment powering the installation is proposed in a 4' tall, 3'-3" wide by 2'-2" deep cabinet, to bolt directly against the east wall of the existing stair tower above the roof membrane.



### Public Comments

The public comment period for this project ended September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010. DPD received no written comment letters regarding this proposal.

### SEPA ANALYSIS

The initial disclosure of the potential impacts from this project was originally made in the environmental checklist dated August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010. The information in the checklist, applicant's statement of Federal Communication Commission Compliance, supplemental information and the experience of the lead agency with the review of similar projects form the basis for this analysis and decision.

Many environmental concerns have been addressed in the City's codes and regulations. The SEPA Overview Policy (SMC 25.05.665) discusses the relationship between the City's code/policies and environmental review. The Overview Policy states, in part, "Where City regulations have been adopted to address an environmental impact, it shall be presumed that such regulation are adequate to achieve sufficient mitigation" subject to some limitations. It may be appropriate to deny or mitigate a project based on adverse environmental impacts in certain circumstances as discussed in SMC 25.05.665-D.1 to 7. In consideration of these policies, a more detailed discussion of some of the potential impacts is appropriate.

### Short - Term Impacts

The following temporary or construction-related impacts are expected; decreased air quality due to suspended particulate from building activities and hydrocarbon emissions from construction vehicles and equipment; increased traffic and demand for parking from construction equipment and personnel; consumption of renewable and non-renewable resources. These impacts are expected to be very minor in scope and of very short duration considering the installation process. No conditioning of these impacts pursuant to SEPA authority is warranted.

### Construction and Noise Impacts

Codes and development regulations applicable to this proposal will provide sufficient mitigation for most impacts. The initial installation of the antennas and construction of the equipment room may include loud equipment and activities. This construction activity may have an adverse impact on nearby residences and residences in the subject building on site. Due to the close proximity of nearby residences on site and the residents east of the site in the L2 zoning across the alley, the Department finds that the limitations of the Noise Ordinance are inadequate to appropriately mitigate the adverse noise impacts associated with the proposal. The SEPA Construction Impact policies, (SMC 25.05.675.B) allow the Director to limit the hours of construction to mitigate adverse noise and other construction-related impacts. Therefore, the proposal is conditioned to limit construction activity to non-holiday weekday hours between 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

### Long - Term Impacts

Long-term or use-related impacts are also anticipated as a result of approval of this proposal, namely increases in demand for energy and increased generation of electromagnetic radiation emission. These long-term impacts are not considered significant or of sufficient adversity to warrant mitigation. However, due to the widespread public concerns expressed about electromagnetic radiation, this impact is further discussed below.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has been given exclusive jurisdiction to regulate wireless facilities based on the effects of electromagnetic radiation emissions. The FCC, the City and County have adopted standards addressing maximum permissible exposure (MPE) limits for these facilities to ensure the health and safety of the general public. The Seattle-King County Department of Public Health has reviewed hundreds of these sites and found that the exposures fall well below all the maximum permissible exposure (MPE) limits. The Department of Public Health does not believe these utilities to be a threat to public health.

The City is not aware of interference complaints from the operation of other installations from persons operating electronic equipment, including sensitive medical devices (e.g. - pacemakers). The Land Use Code (SMC 23.57.012-C2) requires that warning signs be posted at every point of access to the antennas noting the presence of electromagnetic radiation. In the event that any interference was to result from this proposal in nearby homes and businesses or in clinical medical applications, the FCC has authority to require the facility to cease operation until the issue is resolved.

The information discussed above, review of literature regarding these facilities, and the experience of the Departments of Planning and Development and Public Health with the review

of similar projects form the basis for this analysis and decision. The Department concludes that no mitigation for electromagnetic radiation emission impacts pursuant to SEPA policies is warranted.

Other long term impacts such as height, bulk and scale, traffic, and air quality are minor and adequately mitigated by the City's existing codes and ordinances, provided that the proposal is constructed according to approved plans, no further mitigation pursuant to SEPA is warranted.

### **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).
- Determination of Significance. This proposal has or may have a significant adverse impact upon the environment. An EIS is required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(C).

### **CONDITIONS - SEPA**

#### During Construction

The following condition to be enforced during construction shall be posted at the site in a location on the property line that is visible and accessible to the public and to construction personnel from the street right-of-way. If more than one street abuts the site, conditions shall be posted at each street. The conditions will be affixed to placards prepared by DPD. The placards will be issued along with the building permit set of plans. The placards shall be laminated with clear plastic or other waterproofing material and shall remain posted on-site for the duration of the construction.

1. In order to further mitigate the noise impacts during construction, the hours of construction activity shall be limited to non-holiday weekdays between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. This condition may be modified by DPD to allow work of an emergency nature or allow low noise interior work or to permit low noise exterior work after approval from the undersigned Land Use Planner (Lucas DeHerrera – 206.615.0724).

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature on file) Date: October 4, 2010  
Lucas DeHerrera, Senior Land Use Planner

LD:bg