

City of Seattle
Proposed City of Seattle Stormwater Code Revisions to SMC 22.800 through 22.808
Proposed City of Seattle Grading Code SMC 22.170
SEPA Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS)

Description of Proposal:

The State Department of Ecology has mandated that Seattle adopt additional stormwater control regulations as a condition of the City's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (or NPDES) permit for its stormwater systems. To comply with this permit, the City's regulations must be made equivalent to Ecology's Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington (2005). To meet these requirements, Seattle is revising the existing Stormwater, Grading and Drainage Control Code (SMC 22.800-22.808) and its associated Directors' Rules.

The City of Seattle is proposing three ordinances: A stand-alone Stormwater Code, SMC 22.800, a Grading Code which will be included as a subtitle of the Seattle Building Code, SMC 22.170 and a third ordinance that revises specific sections and subsections of the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) that currently reference the existing Stormwater, Grading and Drainage Control Code. The proposed ordinances are nonproject planning documents, which as a whole identify requirements for providing stormwater management systems that safeguard public health and property, and control flooding while protecting water quality and habitat in the City's streams and lakes, and in Puget Sound. Additionally, four Director's Rules which contain more detailed requirements specifying the methods to be used to comply with the Code are proposed.

The four Directors' Rules are:

- Volume 1: The Source Control Technical Requirements Manual
- Volume 2: The Construction Stormwater Control Manual Technical Requirements Manual
- Volume 3: The Stormwater Flow Control and Water Quality Treatment Best Management Practices Technical Requirements Manual
- Volume 4: The Stormwater Code Enforcement Manual

Seattle's proposed Stormwater Code includes requirements: to practice stormwater pollution prevention during construction; to reduce the introduction of pollutants into stormwater runoff as close to the source as possible; and to install stormwater flow control and/or water quality treatment facilities associated with development, depending on the size and nature of a development project. The three most significant revisions involve: (1) describing how the Stormwater Code is enforced; (2) incorporating requirements to install Green Stormwater Infrastructure; and (3) updating thresholds and performance standards for development projects.

The technical standards in the proposed Seattle Grading Code are designed mainly to improve the City's oversight of grading activities. The primary changes are the addition of new thresholds for activities requiring grading permits, which will give the City's Department of Planning and Development (DPD) additional opportunity to review construction activities

The third ordinance corrects current Municipal Code cross references to the existing Stormwater Grading and Drainage Control Code to reflect the proposed Stormwater Code, the proposed Grading Code, or both.

Proponent:

Seattle Public Utilities
Drainage and Wastewater Division
Seattle Municipal Tower
700 5th Avenue, Suite 4900
Seattle, WA 98124-4018

Attn: Robert Chandler, Project Manager

Location of Proposal, including street address, if any:

The affected geographic area for the proposed Stormwater Code is Seattle, Washington. Projects implemented under the proposed Stormwater Code may occur generally anywhere within Seattle's city limits.

Lead Agency:

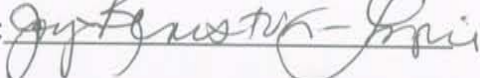
Seattle Public Utilities, the lead agency for this proposal, has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other related documents on file with the lead agency. This information may be examined at Seattle Public Utilities offices by contacting the Project Manager listed above.

This DNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the publication date below.

Comments must be submitted by July 16, 2009.

Responsible Official:

Joy Keniston-Longrie, SEPA Responsible Official
Environmental Permitting and Interagency Coordination Director
Seattle Public Utilities
Seattle Municipal Tower, Suite 4900
P.O. Box 34018
Seattle, WA 98124-4018
(206) 684-5972

Signature: 

Date: 6/25/2009

Date of Publication in the Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce: June 25, 2009

You may appeal this determination, in writing, no later than July 16, 2009 to:

City Hearing Examiner
P.O. Box 94729
Seattle, WA 98124-4729

There is a \$50 filing fee for the appeal. You should be prepared to make specific factual objections.

Contact the Hearing Examiner at (206) 684-0521 to ask about or to make arrangements to read the procedures for SEPA appeals.

