



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Seattle Public Utilities

Ray Hoffman, Acting Director

June 25, 2009

Subject: SEPA Determination of Non-significance for
Proposed City of Seattle Stormwater Code Revisions (SMC 22.800 - 22.808) and
Proposed City of Seattle Grading Code (SMC 22.170)

Dear Interested Party:

You have provided your contact information to Seattle Public Utilities or the Department of Planning and Development indicating that you wanted to receive information regarding the ongoing process to update the City's Stormwater, Grading and Drainage Control Code.

This letter is to inform you that Seattle Public Utilities has issued an Environmental Checklist and Threshold Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) in compliance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) under RCW 43.21C and the Seattle SEPA Ordinance, Chapter 25.05 of the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC). The City of Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is the project proponent and lead agency.

Description of Proposal:

The Washington State Department of Ecology has mandated that the City of Seattle ("City") must adopt additional stormwater control regulations as a condition of the City's NPDES¹ municipal stormwater discharge permit ("Permit"). To meet this requirement, the City is proposing changes to the existing Stormwater, Grading and Drainage Control Code (SMC 22.800-22.808). The proposed revisions include completely revising the Stormwater Code, removing grading portion of the existing code and creating a Grading Code in another section of the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC 22.170). The revision process also includes completely rewriting the Directors' Rules that are associated with the Stormwater Code and Grading Code. These Directors' Rules, which contain more detailed requirements specifying the methods to be used to comply with the codes, will be administered jointly by the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) and Seattle Public Utilities (SPU). Ecology has reviewed the City's proposed regulations and rules and determined that they meet the regulatory requirements of the Permit.

The DNS and Environmental Checklist discuss the need for the nonproject action, associated environmental impacts, and mitigation measures. Comments are invited and should be postmarked by the comment deadline date of July 16, 2009. Written comments should be addressed to:

Joy Keniston-Longrie, SEPA Responsible Official
Environmental Permitting and Interagency Coordination Director
Seattle Public Utilities
Seattle Municipal Tower, Suite 4900
PO Box 34018
Seattle, WA 98124-4018

Attn: Robert D. Chandler, Project Manager

¹ NPDES, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, is a component of the federal Clean Water Act.

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Copies of the DNS and Environmental Checklist are available for public review at the Seattle Public Utilities, Director's Office Main Reception Area, Seattle Municipal Tower, Suite 4900, 700 Fifth Avenue, Seattle.

Additionally, copies of the DNS and Environmental Checklist are available at the Seattle Central Library, Government Publications Section, 1000 4th Avenue, Seattle. Electronic copies are also available at the project's website:

http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/Stormwater_Grading_and_Drainage_Code_Revisions/Overview/

This determination may be appealed, in writing with a \$50 filing fee, to the Seattle Hearing Examiner Seattle Municipal Tower, Suite 4000; PO Box 94729; Seattle WA 98124-4729, no later than the appeal deadline date shown in the DNS, by written appeal. You should come prepared to make specific factual objection. Contact the Hearing Examiner at 684-0521 to read or ask about the procedures for SEPA appeals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Chandler', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert D. Chandler, Ph.D., P.E.
Project Manager