

**Pump Station 38 Conversion Project
SEPA Determination of Non-Significance (DNS)**

Description of Proposal

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) operates 13 airlift-type wastewater pump stations. These stations use airlift pumps that inject compressed air at the bottom of a discharge pipe immersed in the liquid to be pumped. The compressed air mixes with the liquid causing the air-water mixture to be less dense than the surrounding liquid. Airlift pumps were installed primarily due to solids (in the pumped liquid) that tend to plug and wear-out other types of wastewater pumps. However, these airlift pumps are obsolete and deteriorated—demanding frequent maintenance and subject to unavailability of replacement parts and equipment.

The *SPU Airlift Replacement Project – Options Analysis Technical Report* (September 2015) evaluated each of SPU’s 13 airlift-type wastewater pump stations. Each evaluation included background information including contributing area, parcels served, flow projections, and an options analysis comparing a ‘Do Nothing’ option, a new pump station option, and a retrofit option. The recommended option for Pump Station 38 was a retrofit of the existing facility. Pump Station 38 was identified as the highest priority for retrofit along with Pump Station 56, which is addressed in SPU’s separate Pump Station 56 Conversion Project.

Constructed in 1959, Pump Station 38 is buried in the street right-of-way for Alki Ave SW. The only above-ground or at-grade structures include access hatches and one electrical cabinet. Proposed improvements would completely remove the existing airlift system; install centrifugal pumps and mechanical piping; divide the existing structure into a separated wet well and dry well configuration; replace the existing 8-inch diameter force main with a 6-inch diameter force main; upgrade electrical and structural components to prolong the useful life of the station; and install underground ventilation ducting, and drainage and irrigation pipe. The station would update instrumentation, improve code compliance, and enhance maintenance access by installing new access hatches. Site improvements would include a concrete pad with public art, a protective guardrail atop the adjacent seawall, and landscape plantings featuring plants native to the Seattle area.

Construction is scheduled to begin during the second quarter of 2022 and conclude by the end of the first quarter of 2023. Construction is anticipated to require approximately 225 working days, assuming typical Northwest weather conditions prevail during that time.

Proponent

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

Location of Proposal

The project is in the street right-of-way for Alki Ave SW in Seattle WA and has a street address of 1411 Alki Ave SW. A portion of the project area is also on Seattle Parks and Recreation property at 1141 Alki Ave SW, which contains a seawall along Puget Sound.

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

<https://www.seattle.gov/utilities/neighborhood-projects/pump-station-38-improvements>

Public and Agency Comments

Comments on this DNS must be submitted by August 5, 2021 and must be sent by email to:

Kevin Buckley, SEPA Responsible Official

Seattle Public Utilities

kevin.buckley@seattle.gov

Signature:

Kevin Buckley

Issue Date: July 22, 2021

Appeals

Appeals of this DNS must be accompanied by an \$85 filing fee and must be filed by 5:00 p.m. on August 12, 2021. Please see the Office of the Hearing Examiner web site for Temporary Operating Rules During COVID-19: <http://www.seattle.gov/hearing-examiner>