

**Routine Maintenance & Repair of Publicly Owned Drainage System Facilities
SEPA Determination of Non-Significance (DNS)**

Description of Proposal

SPU conducts routine operation, maintenance, and repair of publicly owned drainage system facilities (routine drainage maintenance) throughout the City of Seattle. Some of this work is conducted wholly or in part on lands covered by water and must be reviewed for environmental impacts. For efficiency, SPU has chosen to conduct a system-wide environmental review for three categories of drainage system facilities: open channel drainage system facilities, enclosed drainage system facilities, and drainage system pond facilities. SPU's drainage system includes approximately 58 open channel drainage facilities, 52 enclosed drainage facilities, and 19 drainage system pond facilities located throughout the municipal limits of the City of Seattle.

Work would be performed at each site using one or more of eight routine types of maintenance and repair activities, as summarized below:

- Sediment and Debris Removal
- Vactoring and Jetting
- Vegetation Control
- Anchoring Large Woody Material (LWM)/Habitat Restoration
- Beaver Dam Management
- Mechanical Improvements and Repairs/Replacements
- Safety Improvements
- Monitoring Equipment Installation, Repair/Replacement

The eight types of maintenance activities summarized above may include implementation of the seven methods and BMPs summarized below:

- Delineation of Work Areas
- Temporary Bypass of Streamflow
- Vactoring and Jetting
- Excavating
- Bank/Retaining Wall Stabilization
- Addition or Maintenance of Habitat Elements
- Site Restoration/Landscaping

Maintenance activities and methods use BMPs designed to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts on waterbodies and aquatic life. In addition, the Seattle Biological Evaluation (<https://www.seattle.gov/utilities/construction-resources/standards-and-guidelines/seattle-biological-evaluation>) and City of Seattle's 2021 Stormwater Manual (<https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/SDCI/Codes/StormwaterCode/2021SWCodeFinalClean.pdf>) would be used to select and implement appropriate BMPs to minimize disruption to the natural environment. Work would also comply with other regulations protecting water quality, endangered species, shorelines, and ECAs.

Proponent

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

Location of Proposal

Subject facilities are located throughout the City of Seattle. Location information for each facility is grouped by category and provided in Exhibits A (Drainage System Facility Information Summary Tables), B (Drainage System Facility Addresses), and D (Overview Location Maps & Representative Facility Data Sheets) of the SEPA Checklist.

The currently identified drainage system sites (approximately 58 existing open channel sites, 52 existing enclosed sites, and 19 existing drainage system ponds) are listed in Exhibit A by site reference name, drainage facility description, maintenance activities, and methods. Exhibit D includes an overview map showing the facility locations, and a representative photo and data sheet for each individual facility.

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 <http://www.seattle.gov/utilities/neighborhood-projects/construction-impacts>

Public and Agency Comments

Comments on this DNS must be submitted by October 26, 2023 and must be sent by email to:

Nathan Hart, SEPA Responsible Official
Seattle Public Utilities
nathan.hart@seattle.gov

Signature: _____
Nathan Hart

Issue Date: October 12, 2023

Appeals

Appeals of this DNS must be accompanied by an \$85 filing fee and must be filed by 5:00 p.m. on November 2, 2023. Please see the Office of the Hearing Examiner web site for Temporary Operating Rules During COVID-19: <http://www.seattle.gov/hearing-examiner>