

## SEPA DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE (DNS) OF PROPOSED ACTION (NON-PROJECT ACTION)

### *Adoption of Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy*

The Port of Seattle has completed an environmental analysis, including review of pertinent and available environmental information and preparation of a Non-Project State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Checklist for the following proposal:

#### **Description of the Proposed Action:**

The goal of the *Northwest Ports Clean Air Strategy (Strategy)* a collaborative strategy led by the Ports of Seattle and Tacoma in Washington State and the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority in British Columbia (the Ports), is to reduce air emissions from current and future port and other maritime-related operations in the Pacific Northwest through specific strategies, performance measures and menus of actions within each category of port operation. In addition, all future port development would be defined in terms of "green" growth, emphasizing reduced emissions and long-term sustainability. The Ports are committed to working with their tenants and stakeholders to implement these and other actions, on an on-going basis and during construction of new terminals and facilities. Performance measures are included for each sector and progress will be tracked relative to the [2005 Puget Sound Maritime Air Emissions Inventory](#), which will serve as the baseline for the *Strategy*. The initial emphasis of the *Strategy* is on the three major ports in the region, taking into account each port's unique development plans and emissions reduction opportunities with a focus on continuous improvement. The performance measures and menus of actions identified in the *Strategy* are meant to address three primary emissions reduction objectives:

- 1) Reduce maritime and port-related air quality impacts on human health, the environment, and the economy.
- 2) Reduce contribution to climate change through co-benefits associated with reducing air quality impacts, and
- 3) Help the Georgia Basin – Puget Sound airshed continue to meet air quality standards and objectives.

**Location of Proposed Action:** The geographic area covered by the Strategy includes shoreline, marine, and upland areas within the Georgia Basin/Puget Sound Airshed. In general, the marine areas include the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the greater Puget Sound area, the Strait of Georgia, Haro Strait, Boundary Pass, Rosario Strait, and other relevant regional waterways. The uplands include rail yards, railways, and freight corridors within the Georgia Basin/Puget Sound Airshed that are used for the transportation of port-related cargo.

**Lead Agency:** Port of Seattle (SEPA No. 07-11)


**Determination:** The Port of Seattle completed an environmental evaluation including review of pertinent and available environmental information, following the provisions of the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) under Chapter 43.21C, Revised Code of Washington (RCW), Chapter 197-11, Washington Administrative Code (WAC), and Port Commission Resolutions 3028, 3211, and 3539, Port of Seattle SEPA Policies and Procedures. On November 26, 2007, as lead

agency, the Port determined the proposal will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). Any action to set aside, enjoin, review, or otherwise challenge such action on the grounds of noncompliance with the provisions of Chapter 43.21C RCW (State Environmental Policy Act) shall be commenced within 21 days from the date of last newspaper publication of the notice or be barred. Port Commission Resolutions 3028, 3211 and 3539 contain the procedures for appealing a SEPA decision of the Port of Seattle.

**Supporting Information:** Information used to reach this determination, and applicable State laws and Port of Seattle policies, regulations, and procedures, along with the *Strategy* documents, are available for public review at the Port of Seattle office, at the Engineering Services Dept., Second Floor Bid Counter, Pier 69, 2711 Alaskan Way, Seattle. The *Strategy* document is also available for review online at <http://www.portseattle.org/community/environment/>.

**Public and Agency Comment:** No action will be taken on this proposal until after the 14-day public comment period expires at 4:00 PM on December 14, 2007, after which the Port will (1) formally adopt this Determination of Non-Significance; (2) clarify or review the proposal; or (3) complete additional environmental analyses, as appropriate. The Port will accept public and agency comments until 4:00 PM on December 14, 2007. Please refer any questions relating to this determination or to the proposed actions to Barbara Cole, Port of Seattle, Environmental Services, P.O. Box 1209, Seattle, WA 98111, Tel: 206-728-3326 or the Port of Seattle electronic mail Internet address at [SEPA.p@portseattle.org](mailto:SEPA.p@portseattle.org). Include your mailing address when submitting comments to the electronic Internet address.

**Appeals:** This SEPA DNS determination may be appealed by filing a writ of review in King County Superior Court within twenty-one (21) days of the date the Port formally adopts this determination pursuant to Port of Seattle Resolution No. 3211 and RCW 43.21C.080.



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Charles Sheldon  
Managing Director Seaport  
November 26, 2007