

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

Terminal 18 – Fender System Repair & Maintenance Terminal 25 – Riparian Improvements

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

Description of the Proposed Action: The project includes two components: 1) repair and maintenance of the fender system at Terminal 18 (T-18), and 2) installation of riparian improvements at Terminal 25 (T-25). The purpose of the work at T-18 is to permit the ongoing operation of cargo facilities at T-18, which are dependant on the proper functioning of the fender systems. The riparian improvements are coupled with the T-18 project to contribute to compliance with the Port’s Sustainable Asset Management policy (EX-15) and to further the environmental objectives of the Port, which include ongoing implementation of the Duwamish Restoration Plan and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction.

T-18 Fender System Repair and Maintenance - Work at T-18 will include the repair and maintenance of approximately 1200 l.f. of existing creosote timber fender along the south portion of the T-18 cargo pier. Existing fender components include +/-122, 14- to 18-inch creosote-treated piles, horizontal compression components, steel hardware and the fender “eyebrow”. The fender “eyebrow” is a continuous horizontal component covering the space between the top of the fender piles and the bullrail. This project proposes to replace fender components in the project area, using up to 65, 16-inch diameter steel piles fitted with plastic friction sleeves and rubber or plastic compression components. The fender eyebrow will be removed but not replaced in order to permit better light transmission through the structure to the water surface.

It should be noted that the replacement fender system will be designed to meet modern structural standards consistent with its current use. As such it will be slightly larger and result in a waterward expansion of approximately 12”-14” inches. However, by leaving off the fender eyebrow, the slight change in footprint will be offset. Additionally, the change will be offset by a 50% reduction of fender piles in the new system.

The Port also proposes to replace two (2) timber fender piles at sta. 43+40 and 44+30 which were damaged during a maintenance dredging event undertaken in 2008/09. These piles will be ACZA timber piles, 14- to 18-inch diameter, fitted with UHMW wear strips.

Installation of riparian improvements at T-25 - As part of this project, the Port will improve riparian conditions by importing soil, plant material and habitat logs to install in the north portion of T-25. The riparian improvements will occur in an area that averages 8’ wide and 275’ long. The design includes that a shallow swale will be shaped along the top of slope, then filled with topsoil and compost, followed by installation of drip irrigation, habitat logs, and plantings. The project will be maintained as necessary by landscape personnel within the Port of Seattle Marine Maintenance Division. The riparian improvements will contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with repair and maintenance work at T-18, and contribute to ongoing implementation of the Duwamish Restoration Plan and Port Policies regarding sustainable asset management (EX-15). The riparian improvements are anticipated to sequester approximately 27 metric tons of carbon over a 75 year period. This sequestration benefit will reduce the carbon footprint associated with the T-18 fender work by almost ten percent.

Location of Proposed Action: T-18, located on Harbor Island in south Elliott Bay, consists of approximately 196 acres of marine industrial area built and committed for use in transshipment of container cargo, receiving and shipping of other bulk and liquid bulk commodities, and providing other marine, water-dependent marine industrial services. T-25 is located on the opposite side of the East Waterway, north of the Southwest Spokane Street corridor and west of East Marginal Way South. T-25 includes approximately 16 acres of existing area built and committed to marine industrial cargo terminal facilities.

Lead Agency: Port of Seattle (SEPA No. 09-03)

Determination: The Port of Seattle completed an environmental evaluation including review of pertinent 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 July 17, 2009, as lead agency, the Port determined the proposal would 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 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 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 August 21, 2009, 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 August 21, 2009. Please refer any questions relating to this determination or to the proposed actions to Jon Sloan, Port of Seattle, Seaport Environmental Programs, P.O. Box 1209, Seattle, WA 98111. Tel: 206-728-3675 or the Port of Seattle electronic mail Internet address at 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.

Signature On File

Charles Sheldon
Managing Director Seaport
August 6, 2009