WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: Monroe Street Dam Rock Removal and Relocation
2. Name of applicant: **:** Avista Corporation (Avista)
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

PO Box 3727, MSC-1
Spokane, WA 99220-3727
Contact: Meghan Lunney, 509-495-4643, meghan.lunney@avistacorp.com

4. Date checklist prepared: October 12, 2009
5. Agency requesting checklist: Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW)
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

The dredging/rock removal and relocation would be restricted to low flow conditions and would occur during one continuous, six-to-eight week time period, which would include both the pre-dredging analysis (2-3 weeks) and the actual dredging activities (2-5 weeks). Our first opportunity to dredge would begin as early as March, and would extend no later than the end of September.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

Yes (further activity). Periodic dredging of the accumulated material is required to prevent failure of the intake structure and turbine trash rack and to restore the generation capacity. Since the amount of

accumulated material depends upon high Winter or Spring flows, Avista proposes to continue periodic dredging of the accumulated material as necessary on an annual basis.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

2008 Dredging Activities

Maintenance dredging at the Monroe Street dam was conducted in August 2008 as a result of accumulation of coarse grained sediments (primarily sand, gravels and cobbles) in front of the Monroe Street Dam intake structure. Northwest Hydraulic Consultants (nhc) conducted pre- and post-dredge bathymetric surveys which estimated 1,450 cubic yards (yd^3) of material were removed during the August 2008 dredging event. As required by the WDFW Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) Permit (issued on November 21, 2007) and the Army Corp of Engineers (COE) Section 404 Permit (No. 1997-4-00098 issued in 1997) all dredged material was reintroduced into the Spokane River downstream of the dam. Nhc completed a sediment size characterization of the dredged material. Lab and field sieving indicated that 99.9% of the dredged material was sand to cobble sized particles, with the largest percentage being gravel.

Two sediment samples (MSH-01 and MSH-02) consisting of medium to fine sand, silt, and clay particles were collected by Anchor Environmental, LLC (Anchor) during the August 2008 maintenance dredging activity. The sediment samples were submitted for chemical analysis of the applicable parameters identified on Table 6-1 of the COE Dredged Material Evaluation and Disposal Procedures (User's Manual) dated July of 2008. Analytical results indicated that zinc was the only constituent detected in one sediment sample (MSH-01) at a concentration, 420 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg), above the zinc screening level, 410 mg/kg. However, the concentration of zinc detected in the second sediment sample (MSH-02) was below the identified screening level. In addition, the calculated bulk sediment fraction (including all grain sizes) did not exceed the COE screening levels.

Previous Dredging Activities

Photos and internal correspondences dating back to the 1970s indicate the need to conduct dredging at the Monroe Street dam as a result of seasonal accumulation of sands, gravels and cobbles which settle on the dam intake structure. The periodic dredging activities are required to maintain adequate flow at the intake structure and prevent failure of the turbine trash rack.

Future Dredging Activities

The Monroe Street Dam, located in Spokane, Washington is one of five facilities regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) under the Spokane River Hydroelectric Project. FERC issued a license for the Spokane River Hydroelectric Project on June 18, 2009, for a term of 50 years. The FERC license identifies specific requirements in accordance with the May 2009 Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) 401 Water Quality Certification for dredging at Monroe Street Dam including completing a sediment management plan and pre-dredge sampling of the accumulated material for physical and chemical parameters prior to the first and second dredging activities scheduled after issuance of the FERC license. The sampling activities will also occur on or after every tenth anniversary of license issuance. The sampling analysis, methods, and protocols will be outlined in a Sediment Management Plan to be approved by Ecology in consultation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

No.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

Permits that are required, and have been received:

- Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) 401 Certification, dated May 8, 2009
  The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) issued a Final 401 Certification-Order for the Spokane River Hydroelectric Project (HED) on May 8, 2009. The conditions identified in the 401 Certification were incorporated into the FERC license issued on June 18, 2009 for the Spokane River HED.

- Army Corp of Engineers (COE) 404 Permit, dated July 15, 2007
  The COE issued a 404 Permit (Number 1997-4-00098) for the Monroe Street Dam rock removal on July 1997. The permit was scheduled to expire on July 7, 2007, however following a written request the permit expiration date was extended to July 7, 2017.

Permit currently in application/review status:

- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA)
  The WDFW issued a HPA permit (Control Number 111066-1) for the Monroe Street Dam rock removal project on November 21, 2007. The HPA permit expired on September 30, 2008. Avista is reapplying for a five year permit to remove up to 10,000 cubic yards of accumulated sediment from the Monroe Street dam on an annual basis. This work will be completed within the Spokane River's incised bedrock channel.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

The Monroe Street Dam is located within an incised bedrock channel. The Spokane River transports a variety of sediment ranging in size from fine grained material to coarse sized gravels and cobbles. Fine grained sediment tends to remain suspended in the River and is either carried over the dam or passed through the penstock. The coarser grained sands, gravels, and cobbles often accumulate in front of the dam intake structure with the amount of accumulation largely dependent upon Winter and Spring flows. Periodic dredging of the accumulated material is required to prevent failure of the turbine trash rack and to restore the generation capacity of the dam. Avista proposes to continue periodic dredging of the accumulated material as necessary on an annual basis.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if

reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The proposed work area is located on the south shore of the Spokane River at River Mile 74, adjacent to the Monroe Street Dam in Spokane County, Washington. The proposed work area is located on Spokane County Assessors tax parcel number 35185.0053 which consists of 31 acres, a portion of which extends into the Spokane River. Avista owns the land on which the proposed work activities would take place, as well as the property in the immediate vicinity of the proposed work area.

The proposed work location is located in:

Section 18 (SW), Township 25N, Range 43E. The enclosed Direction Map (Figure 1), Vicinity Map (Figure 2), and Plan View Map (Figure 3) display the project location.

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B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other . . . . . .

Basalt, incised bedrock channel.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

NA

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c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

Solid basalt bedrock.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

NA.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Does not apply, no filling or grading is proposed or planned.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

No.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

NA, no changes to the Site from existing conditions.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

NA

a. **Air**

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Emissions from dredging equipment are likely to occur during the dredging activities. If dust becomes a problem, dust control will be accomplished by employing water trucks, if necessary.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

Avista is not aware of any off-site sources of emission or odor that might affect the proposed work activities.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

The incremental impact of exhaust from heavy excavation and other vehicles during the maintenance dredging activities should be negligible in the urban environment.

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

3. **Water**

a. Surface:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Yes, the Spokane River, which is a tributary to the Columbia River.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Yes. The proposed dredging activities will occur within the Spokane River adjacent to the Monroe Street Dam. This portion of the river channel is incised basalt bedrock. A Plan View Map (Figure 3) of the proposed project area is enclosed.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

Avista proposes to dredge up to 10,000 cubic yards of material accumulated on the Monroe Street Dam intake structure on an annual basis, as needed. The dredged material will be placed downstream of the dam to allow for natural redistribution of the native materials, unless the results of the required chemical analysis indicate constituents of concern are detected above the applicable water quality standards. Under this condition, the dredged material will be profiled, transported, and properly disposed of at a permitted facility.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

Yes, dredging activities would occur within the Spokane River. The attached Plan View Map (Figure 3), displays the location of the proposed dredging activities.

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No.

b. Ground:

1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No.

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

NA.

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EVALUATION FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

NA

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

NA.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

NA

4. **Plants**

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site: Not applicable.

———— deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

———— evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

———— shrubs

———— grass

———— pasture

———— crop or grain

———— wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

———— water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

———— other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

None, work is being completed in an incised bedrock channel.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. None.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: Not applicable.

5. **Animals**

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: None have been observed recently.

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: Marmots.

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other: Suckers, northern pike minnow, and rainbow trout.

Area provides little or no habitat due to solid basalt substrate.

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. None.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

No.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

NA

6. **Energy and natural resources**

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

NA

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

None. The dam itself generates clean, renewable indigenous energy from the Spokane River.

7. **Environmental health**

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

No.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

NA

b. **Noise**

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

The project will not be affected by surrounding noise sources.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Short term excavation noise would occur from heavy equipment.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

None.

8. **Land and shoreline use**

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

The Site is used for hydroelectric generation.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

No.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

The following structures are located on the site: dam, powerhouse, intake structure, penstock, and turbine.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

According to the City of Spokane Planning Services Department Official Zoning Map (available online at: http://www.spokaneplanning.org/) the site appears to be located on the border between zoning classifications CBD-1 and CBD-6.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Conservation Open Space.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Central Falls Intensive Urban.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

The site is a shoreline of statewide significance.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

None.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

NA.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

This project will not alter existing land uses in any way.

9. **Housing**

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

NA

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

NA.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

NA

10. **Aesthetics**

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

No changes to the area aesthetics will result from the proposed work activities.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

None.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

NA

11. **Light and glare**

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

None.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No, not applicable.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

None.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

NA

12. **Recreation**

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Huntington Park is located adjacent and south/southwest of the proposed work, and the City of Spokane's Riverfront Park is located east of the Site.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

NA

13. **Historic and cultural preservation**

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

Yes, the Monroe Street Bridge and Post Street Substation are listed on preservation registers.

The Post Street Substation was constructed in 1909 and designed by the famed architect Kirtland Cutter. The substation consists of a Romanesque brick structure with large, recessed arch windows which display Spokane's early industrial architecture.

The Monroe Street Bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. The current bridge is the third bridge in this location with the most recent reconstruction extending from 2003 to 2005. The first bridge was built in 1889 and consisted of a wooden structure which burned down in 1890. The bridge was replaced with a steel structure, which was deemed unsafe in 1905. The third bridge built was the largest concrete arch in the United States, at the time the bridge was constructed.

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

None.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

None, not applicable.

14. **Transportation**

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

From Interstate 90, take exit 281 (US-2/US-395), onto Division Street. Continue north on Division Street for approximately 0.5 miles, and turn left onto W Spokane Falls Boulevard. Continue west on W Spokane Falls Boulevard and just past the City of Spokane's City Hall turn right onto Huntington Park Access Road (restricted access). See the attached direction map (Figure 1).

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

No, the Site is currently not served by public transit. The nearest transit stop would be Spokane City Hall located approximately 800 feet south/southeast of the project site.

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

NA

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No.

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

We estimate an average of two trips per day during the project activities.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

None, not applicable.

15. **Public services**

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

None, not applicable.

16. **Utilities**

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

NA

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

NA

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: .....

Date Submitted: 10/12/09

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(do not use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.