

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.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY

Agrium US Inc owns and operates the Kennewick Fertilizer Operations (KFO) located east of Kennewick, Washington, in Benton County. Our business is the manufacture and wholesale distribution of nitrogen fertilizer products.

The Unocal Kennewick Plant consists of three integrated operating areas: (1) the Hedges Area, an out-of-service terminal for marine, rail, and truck transfers of ammonia; (2) the Kennewick Area, a nitric acid and nitrate solution fertilizer manufacturing plant; and (3) the Finley Area, a terminal for rail and truck transfers of ammonia and nitrogen fertilizer solutions. The subject of this SEPA checklist is dredging of sediment in the Finley Area.

The Finley Area operations has a cooling water intake on the Columbia River. Periodically sediment builds up in the fore bay of the cooling water pump station. A sandbar estimated at 500 cubic yards, measuring approximately D 12 ft x L 50 ft x W 23 ft. must be periodically removed via dredging to prevent sand from entering the pump station. Sand entering the pump station would cause equipment damage in the facility. No dredged sediment or water is discharged back into the river. Sediment from suction dredging is discharged onto a Agrium owned pasture as a soil enhancement.

This SEPA checklist is being submitted in support of our application to the Army Corps of Engineers(ACOE) for verification of our coverage under NWP-3 for maintenance dredging activities, and in support of our application to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) for a Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) for the same activity.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Maintenance dredging of the cooling water intake pump station fore bay at the "Agrium Kennewick Fertilizer Operations, Finley Area" operations.

2. Name of applicant:

Agrium Kennewick Fertilizer Operations

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

**Contact Person: Thomas J. Klein
227515 Bowles Rd
Kennewick, WA 99337
Phone: (509) 586-5488**

4. Date checklist prepared:

July 20, 2010

5. Agency requesting checklist:

**Army Corps of Engineers
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

Dredging is done annually (if needed) during the activity “window” specified by the Department of Fish & Wildlife Hydraulic Project Approval, typically from December 15th to February 28th.

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

Not at this time.

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

Agrium has prepared an application coverletter with attachments that include:

- 1. Washington Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application (JARPA)**
- 2. SEPA checklist**
- 3. ACOE NWP-3 verification letter (expired)**
- 4. WDFW Hydraulic Project Approval (expired)**
- 5. ACOE Environmental Assessment /Biological Assessment**
- 6. WDOE 401 Water Quality Certification Determination**
- 7. State Historic Preservation Officer Site Cultural Impact Review**
- 8. Benton Co Shoreline Management Determination**

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 other governmental approvals or proposals are pending that have a direct effect on this proposed activity.

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

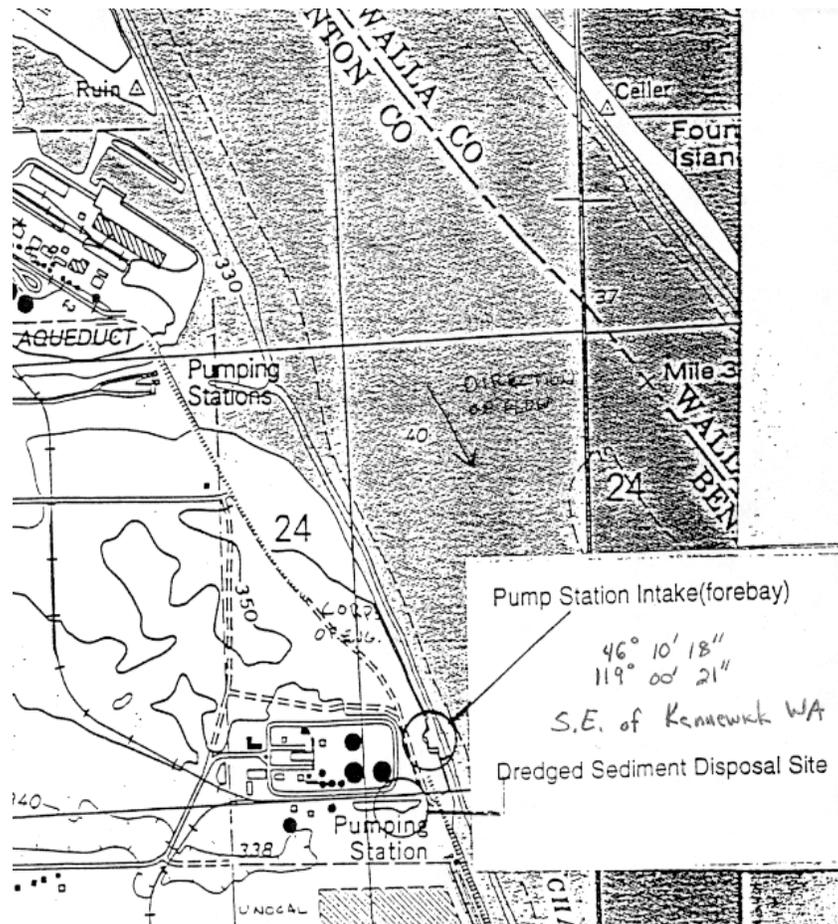
No other government approvals or permits will be required for this proposed activity other than those specified in #8 above.

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.)

Agrium proposes to conduct periodic maintenance dredging to remove sediment from the fore bay of our cooling water intake structure to prevent sediment from obstructing cooling water flow and to prevent sediment from entering the equipment and causing damage to the equipment.

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:

Agrium KFO- Finley Area is located on the banks of the Columbia River at 231610 East Game Farm Road (the east end of Game Farm Road) in rural Benton County east of Kennewick, Washington.



(see "Pasco, WA" USGS map segment for regional location)

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

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

Agrium KFO – Finley Area is located on flat terrain on the west bank of the Columbia River.

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

The steepest slope on the site is less than 2%.

- 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:

The predominant soil types are sand / sandy loam / gravel.

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

There are no indications of or history of unstable soils in the area.

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

An estimated 500 yd³ of river sediment will be dredged and spread on an upland pasture. Volume is variable, with 75 to 200 yd³ possible.

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

Discharge of water and sand on the pasture area has a limited potential to cause erosion, but is prevented by closely monitoring the discharge during dredging to prevent any problem.

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

No paving is associated with this project.

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

Discharge of dredged material will be closely monitored to prevent erosion.

2. 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:

No significant air emissions.

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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.

The facility is on the banks of the Columbia River and the fore bay is integral to the shoreline of 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.

This project may involve manual or crane assisted positioning of dredging equipment in the fore bay area, and will involve in-water dredging of the fore bay.

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.

An estimated 500 yd³ of river sediment will be dredged and spread on rocky pasture. Volume is variable, with 75 to 200 yd³ possible.

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

No surface water withdrawals or diversions will be required.

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

The plant is located on the banks of the Columbia River, McNary Pool, and is not included in the designated flood plain.

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 direct discharge of sediment or contained water is allowed.

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 groundwater will be withdrawn. Water contained in the dredged sediments infiltrates into the pasture soil and is eventually “discharged to groundwater”. Assuming that the dredged material is 50% water, at a maximum removal of 500 yd³ of solids we may discharge 100,000 gallons of river water.

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.

Does not apply.

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

4. Plants

- a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:
 deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
 evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
 shrubs
X **grass**
X **pasture crop** or grain
 wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, 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?

Pasture grasses may be partially buried but will recover in the spring. No significant impact will result from this activity.

- c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

No threatened or endangered plant species are known to be present.

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

No disturbance of current landscape or changes to current landscaping are proposed.

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:

- X** birds: **hawk, heron,** eagle, **songbirds,** other:
X mammals: deer, bear, elk, **beaver,** other:
X fish: **bass, salmon, trout,** herring, shellfish, other:

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Anadromous fish migrate up the Columbia River and Snake River. The Snake River Sockeye Salmon is listed as endangered and the Snake River Fall Chinook salmon is listed as endangered. The Middle Columbia River Steelhead is either proposed or listed as a candidate species.

(see Environmental Assessment /Biological Assessment for details)

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

Anadromous fish migrate up the Columbia River and Snake River. Waterfowl such as ducks and geese use the river during fall and spring migrations.

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

No significant impact to fish or wildlife are anticipated from the limited actions proposed. Protective measures as identified by the WDFW in the Hydraulic Project Approval are observed.

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.

Does not apply.

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

No adverse impact.

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

Does not apply.

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.

Does not apply.

- 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

- b. Noise

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

No problems with environmental noise for this project.

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.

Dredging equipment will use fuel driven generators, but noise will not be significant from this project.

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

The dock location is isolated from the surrounding rural area by the adjacent Agrium owned or controlled property and a buffer zone of half a mile exists.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

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

Current site use is the same as its historic use - Industrial facility. The adjacent properties are rural residences, light and heavy industry, and agricultural.

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

The dock and pump station intake have a +50 year history of industrial use for fertilizer manufacture.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

The facility consists of a Fertilizer terminal with associated warehouses, shops, tanks, offices, and a marine dock.

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

Does not apply.

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

Heavy industrial.

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

Heavy industrial.

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

Urban environment.

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

There are no know specific designations for the site and the area does not contain any wetlands. By statute, any and all areas on either side of the Columbia, Snake, or Spokane Rivers in Washington State which are within one mile measured on a horizontal plane from the mean high water mark is designated a WDOE "sensitive area" (WAC 18-06-040(3)).

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

No change from present.

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

None.

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

Does not apply.

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

The proposal is identical with the current and past uses of the site.

9. Housing

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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?

Does not apply.

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

No changes in the current view will be impacted.

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

Does not apply.

11. Light and Glare

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

12. Recreation

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

The Columbia River and its shores are used for navigation and water related recreation.

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

Recreational activities will not be displaced.

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

Does not apply.

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:

No know historical preservation sites or objects are present.

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

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:

The site is currently accessed by Game Farm Road.

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

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

- 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 changes in roads or streets will be required.

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

The project will continue to use existing marine, rail, and surface transportation systems.

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

No significant increase in vehicle trips will result from this project.

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

Does not apply.

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.

Does not apply.

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

Does not apply.

16. Utilities

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

Not related to this activity. The existing terminal facility uses public utilities for natural gas, electricity, refuse service, and telephone. Water and sanitary sewer are privately owned.

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.

No change in current utility structure will be required.

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: 
Thomas J. Klein
Environmental Specialist

Date Submitted: **July 20, 2010**