



State of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N - Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office location: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington Street SE - Olympia, WA

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Name of Proposal: DNS 14-078: SWIFT UPPER RELEASE GRAVEL AUGMENTATION

Description of Proposal:

The purpose of the project is to provide improved spawning habitat for salmonids. Section 4.2 (9) of Washington Department of Ecology's (Ecology) 401 Water Quality Certification-Order No. 3679 for the Swift No. 1 Hydroelectric Project requires augmentation of spawning gravels in the Swift Bypass reach of the Lewis River (the historic Lewis River channel). Phase 1 of this project was completed in 2009 when approximately 100 cubic yards (cy) of spawning gravels were placed throughout the Swift Bypass reach, including the proposed location of gravel placement for this project. Under Phase 2 of the 401 Certification requirements, PacifiCorp was required to survey the Swift Bypass reach in the spring following the first occurrence of an operational spill event at the Swift Dam spillway of 5,000 cfs or greater (which occurred in 2012). The purpose of the survey was to determine whether gravels placed in the Swift Bypass reach during Phase 1 had migrated and if they were in locations that provide suitable fish spawning habitat. Based on the Phase 2 survey results, Ecology determined that additional gravel augmentation is needed in the Swift Bypass reach.

Under the terms of 401 Water Quality Certification-Order No. 3679, Ecology is requiring PacifiCorp to place spawning gravels in the Lewis River channel immediately below the Upper Flow Release Siphon. Up to 230 cy of rock and gravels will be placed at a depth of six inches in an approximately 12,255 square foot area. The substrate mixture will consist of 1 part imported pea gravel and 3 parts clean and rounded native river rock (approximately 1 inch to 3 inch diameter). The river rock will be sourced from a stockpile near the Swift substation that was created during excavation of the historic Lewis River channel for dam construction in the 1950s.

Proponent/Applicant: PacifiCorp – Hydro Resources
Contact: Briana Weatherly
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Briana.Weatherly@pacificorp.com

Location of Proposal, including street, if any: Swift Bypass reach of the Lewis River;
Skamania County, Washington: Township 7N, Range 5E, Section 28.

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law¹ does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.² We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days**

from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on November 13, 2014**.

Method of Comment:

The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

Responsible Official: Lisa Wood

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>. Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.¹

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Lisa Wood at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call her at (360) 902-2260.

DATE OF ISSUE: October 29, 2014

SIGNATURE:



Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).

SEPA Log Number: 14-078. dns