



US Army Corps  
of Engineers.  
Seattle District

# Notice of Preparation

Operations Division  
P.O. Box 3755  
Seattle, WA 98124-3755  
ATTN: Chuck Ebel (PM-PL-ER)

Public Notice Date: February 1, 2008  
Expiration Date: February 16, 2008  
Reference: PL-06-04  
Name: LWSC Diffuser Well Screen

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Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District (Corps) plans to prepare, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental assessment (EA) for a proposed auxiliary water supply system screen installation at the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks (Locks) on the Lake Washington Ship Canal (LWSC), in the City of Seattle, King County Washington. The Corps is proposing this project to improve adult fish passage conditions at the LWSC.

## AUTHORITY

The Corps is proposing the following project under the Rivers and Harbors Act of June 25, 1910, which authorized the construction and operation of the LWSC.

## PROPOSED ACTION

The Corps proposes to install a screen adjacent to the existing upstream entrance of the saltwater drain system at the Locks. This screen will prevent salmon from being entrained in the system. The saltwater drain system is designed to manage saltwater intrusion above the Locks in the LWSC and to provide water for fish ladder operations. Currently, the system is not screened to prevent fish from being entrained in the salt water drain system.

## ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

Due to the location and duration of the in-water portion of construction (2-4 days to install), no long-term impacts to the environment are anticipated. Any effects to fish and wildlife will be temporary and primarily occur during installation. After installation salmonids will be prevented from entering the system. Overall effects, both adverse and favorable, are anticipated to be insignificant.

The proposed project **may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect** Chinook, steelhead, and bull trout or modify designated critical habitat for these species. The screen will be constructed off site and lowered into place using a barge. It is anticipated that this can be accomplished in 2 to 4 days. The intake is located on the bottom of the LWSC (52 feet of depth) immediately adjacent to a pier nose that separates the large lock and small lock on the south side. No impacts to juvenile salmonids that may be present in the area are anticipated as this action will be similar to routine vessel traffic which occurs daily. As the intake is located in the middle of the ship canal at

approximately 50 feet of depth no juveniles are anticipated to be utilizing this area. Juvenile fish passage will not be affected as the juvenile passage facilities (flumes) will be in use. After project completion salmonids will be prevented from entering the saltwater drain system intake. In addition, the installation of the structure is planned during the annual fish ladder closure period minimizing potential effects to fish passage.

No significant adverse impacts to water quality as a result of the project are expected. The structure will simply be lowered into place and held in place by gravity, no pilings or other structures that require disturbing the LWSC sediment will be necessary for installation.

Impacts to navigation will be temporary and insignificant during installation, no long term impacts to navigation are expected.

The Corps has made a preliminary determination that the environmental impacts of the proposal can be adequately evaluated under the National Environmental Policy Act through preparation of an environmental assessment (EA). Preparation of an EA addressing potential environmental impacts associated with the levee rehabilitation project is currently underway.

The Corps invites submission of factual comment on the environmental impact of the proposal. The Corps will consider all submissions received before the expiration date of this notice. The nature or scope of the proposal may be changed upon consideration of the comments received. The Corps will initiate an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and afford all the appropriate public participation opportunities attendant to an EIS, if significant effects on the quality of the human environment are identified and cannot be mitigated.

Comments should reach this office, Attn: Environmental Resources Section, not later than February 18, 2008 to ensure consideration. Requests for additional information should be directed to Rebecca Jahns, Project Manager, at 206 764-3451.