

SALISH SEA NEARSHORE PROGRAMMATIC (SSNP) CONSULTATIONS
LIST OF REQUIREMENTS
Version: August 02, 2022

Project Design Criteria (PDC) #2 Utilities

Programmatic Endangered Species Act (ESA) Consultations [National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reference number WCRO-2019-04086, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) reference number FWS/R1/2002-0048454] have been completed for the activities listed below. If you can design your project to meet all of the requirements of the Programmatic Biological Opinions (i.e. General Construction Measures, and Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Recommendations, and PDC's) including the specific project design criteria listed below, then the review of your ESA consultation and permit application will be streamlined. The submittal of this list is not required. However, to further expedite your review you may include a description of how you meet these requirements in your SSNP application materials.

Activities Covered	
• Relocating existing pipes or pipelines used to transport gas or liquids.	
• Relocating existing cables, lines, or wires used to transmit electricity or communications.	
• Repair or replacement of existing pipes, pipelines, cables, lines, wires, and water intakes.	
• Underground utility line actions involving excavation, temporary side casting of excavated material, trenching, backfilling of the trench, and restoration of the work site to preconstruction contours and vegetation.	
• Overhead utility line actions involving long-term vegetation removal, excavation, grading, and installation of footings, foundations, or other structures in riparian and floodplain habitats.	
• Construction of new utility corridors where the new corridors replace existing corridors in the same size and footprint.	
Notification Requirements	
NMFS notification is required for this activity category unless Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) is proposed. If HDD is proposed then NMFS notification AND verification is required. USFWS notification is required for this activity category. The application materials and notification should include the information below, if applicable.	
• If new footings result in conservation offset debits, conservation offsets and applicable report(s) (i.e. conservation calculator, habitat improvement plan, pre-sale agreement etc.) must be submitted. See Program Administration Section 8 of the Biological Opinions for supporting information. If applicable, NMFS verification required.	
• If using HDD, a frac-out contingency plan must be submitted.	
• If a minor alteration from the PDC is requested, provide documentation in the notification. See Program Administration Section 6 of the Biological Opinions for supporting information. If applicable, NMFS verification required.	

Project Design Criteria	
	Work does not include construction or enlargement of any utility to support a new or expanded utility service area.
	New Utility Corridors
	Design lines, including lines hung from existing bridges, to be aerial lines where possible.
	Design directional drilling, boring, and jacking activities to span the channel migration zone and any associated wetland.
	All trenches will be backfilled below the High Tide Line.
	All trenches must be backfilled with native material and capped with clean gravel suitable for fish use.
	Any large wood displaced by trenching or plowing will be returned as nearly as possible to its original position, or otherwise arranged to restore habitat functions.
	Drilling Fluid Containment
	Have all necessary equipment and supplies on-site to contain an unintended release of drilling mud.
	The entry and exit locations on all directionally drilled crossings shall have dry (upland) land segments where a frac-out can be easily detected, contained, and remediated.
	On-site visual monitoring by a knowledgeable HDD inspector must occur during construction operations and of the construction area.
	If a frac-out has been detected due to visual signs of surface seepage or loss of circulation/pressure of the drilling fluid, drilling operations will be stopped immediately and will not continue until the response/containment process has been initiated and under control.
	The permittee must notify all agencies immediately if an unintended release of drilling mud occurs.
	Frac-Out Contingency Plan
	<p>A frac-out contingency plan must be in place and implemented to handle potential problems that could arise during the HDD. The plan must be submitted to the NMFS and the Corps and approved by NMFS before in-water work can occur. The plan should include the following site-specific information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Geotechnical information including soil type, elevation, and depth of the HDD; ii. A containment, response, and notification plan iii. Clean-up measures iv. Restoration and post-construction monitoring plan