



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Seattle District

Public Notice

of Application for a Department of the Army Permit, and Draft Environmental Impact Statement Availability

US Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch
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Telephone: (206) 316-3164
ATTN: Brandon Clinton,
Project Manager

Public Notice Date: September 18, 2020
Expiration Date: November 17, 2020

Reference No.: NWS-2014-1118
Name: Chehalis River Basin Flood
Damage Reduction Project

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) to perform work in waters of the U.S. as described below and as shown on the enclosed drawings dated July 29, 2020. The work is part of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project.

Interested parties are also notified that the Seattle District, US Army Corp of Engineers (Corps) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. The Draft EIS and supporting documents can be accessed at <https://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis/nepa-process/>

APPLICANT: Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District
Attention: Erik Martin
351 Northwest North Street
Chehalis, Washington 98532
Telephone: (360) 740-2697

AGENT: Lewis County Public Works
Attention: Betsy Dillin
2025 Northeast Kresky Avenue
Chehalis, Washington 98532
Telephone: (360) 740-1138

LOCATION: The proposed project includes structures and work in two separate locations. The proposed flood retention facility and associated infrastructure would be located in and along the mainstem Chehalis River south of Pe Ell, in Lewis County. The levee work would occur at the Chehalis-Centralia Airport in Chehalis, Lewis County.

WORK: The Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District (Applicant) is proposing to construct a new flood retention expandable structure (FRE) and temporary reservoir on the Chehalis River, and to raise an existing levee at the Chehalis-Centralia Airport.

Construction of the FRE would result in permanent fill placement in up to 1.23 acres of wetlands, 1.91 acres of the Chehalis River, and 0.74 of an acre of unnamed intermittent streams. Construction of the temporary reservoir would

result in the permanent conversion of up to 6.39 acres of wetlands and permanent impacts to 93.65 acres of the Chehalis River and unnamed perennial and intermittent streams from riparian vegetation clearing and tree removal.

Raising the airport levee may result in fill placement in up to 4.54 acres of wetlands. It is currently unknown whether wetland impacts, including fill placement, would be temporary or permanent.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the proposed project is to reduce the risk of flood damage in the Chehalis/Centralia area from catastrophic flooding. The target area is the 100-year floodplain of the Chehalis River from Adna to Grand Mound.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The proposed work would be completed over a 5-year period, from 2025 to 2030. The FRE would be located at approximately river mile 108, about 1 mile south/upstream of the town of Pe Ell. The dam structure would be 1,550 feet wide and approximately 270 feet high, and would hold back water on average once every 7 years during a major (38,800 cfs at Grand Mound) or greater flood. The temporary reservoir would cover approximately 856 acres of the river valley upstream of the FRE, and would be designed to store up to 65,000 acre-feet of water. The foundation of the FRE would be constructed to accommodate a larger, expanded dam structure in the future capable of retaining more flood water in the temporary reservoir. The reservoir would only hold water when the FRE was activated. During non-flood flows, the Chehalis River would flow unrestricted through five tunnels through the FRE.

Primary components of the proposed FRE include:

- A roller-compacted concrete dam structure
- An overflow spillway with an uncontrolled crest structure, a spillway chute, flip bucket, and plunge pool
- Conduits through the FRE to convey flow, and gates for flood regulation. Five conduits would be located at the base of the structure and would convey flow, sediment, and woody debris through the FRE.
- Collection, handling, transfer, and release facility to facilitate upstream fish passage when the FRE is operating during flood flows

Some infrastructure around the FRE facility would be improved to accommodate construction and operation activities, including access roads, power lines, and equipment and material storage areas.

Airport levee work would include:

- Raising the existing levee by between 1.3 feet and 5.3 feet along 9,511 linear feet
- Raising up to 810 linear feet of Northwest Louisiana Avenue to an elevation of 186 feet to tie in with the raised airport levee

The wetland boundaries and location of the ordinary high water mark shown on the project drawings have not yet been verified by the Corps. If the Corps determines the boundaries of the wetlands and other waters are substantially inaccurate a new public notice may be published.

The Applicant has not applied for a water quality certification. A federal agency may not issue a permit to conduct an activity that may result in any discharge into waters of the U.S. unless the CWA Section 401 certifying authority issues a Section 401 water quality certification verifying compliance with existing water quality requirements or waives the certification requirement.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA on all actions that may affect a species listed (or proposed for listing) under the ESA as threatened or endangered or any designated critical habitat.

Based on information currently available as presented in the Draft EIS, the Corps has determined the proposed project would adversely affect listed species. After receipt of comments from this public notice, the Corps will evaluate any additional potential impacts and will initiate Section 7 consultation with the NMFS and USFWS as appropriate.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The proposed action would impact EFH in the project area.

Based on information currently available as presented in the Draft EIS, the Corps has determined the proposed project would adversely affect designated EFH for federally managed fisheries in Washington waters. After receipt of comments from this public notice, the Corps will evaluate any additional potential impacts and will initiate EFH consultation with the NMFS.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The Corps has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data, and other sources of information. The Corps invites responses to this public notice from Native American Tribes or tribal governments; Federal, State, and local agencies; historical and archeological societies; and other parties likely to have knowledge of or concerns regarding historic properties and sites of religious and cultural significance at or near the project area.

Based on information currently available as presented in the Draft EIS, the Corps has determined the proposed project would adversely affect historic properties eligible for inclusion in the NRHP (two Native American archaeological sites and three Native American Traditional Cultural Properties). After receipt of comments from this public notice, the Corps will evaluate any additional potential impacts and consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Native American Tribes, and other interested consulting parties on a resolution of adverse effects in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Native American Nations or tribal governments; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps in determining whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for the work. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on

endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments will be used in the preparation of a Final Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity.

COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD: Comments on this public notice and Draft EIS will be made part of the record and will be considered by the Corps in determining whether authorizing the proposed work would be contrary to the public interest.

Comments may be submitted in the following ways:

- In person during two virtual public meetings. Meeting dates and times are listed below, and will be held using the WebEx video conference software. WebEx meetings can be joined by following the meeting links or calling the associated phone number on the NEPA EIS webpage (<https://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis/nepa-process/>) at the identified time.
 - October 8 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm
 - October 14 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm
- Filling out an online comment form at the NEPA EIS webpage above
- Emailing comments to Chehalis@usace.army.mil
- Leaving a voicemail message at: (206) 709-6928
- By conventional mail to:
Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project
c/o Anchor QEA
6720 South Macadam Street, Suite 125
Portland, Oregon 97219

Comments must include the permit applicant's name and reference number, as shown below. All comments received will become part of the administrative record and are subject to public release under the Freedom of Information Act including any personally identifiable information such as names, phone numbers, and addresses. All comments must be received no later than the expiration date of this public notice to ensure consideration. Please include the following name and reference number:

Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District (NWS-2014-1118)

Encl: Figures (22)