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To: "MarthaC@cted.wa.gov" <MarthaC@cted.wa.gov>
Date: 4/24/00 12:26PM
Subject: Permit Challenges

Martha--

Thanks once again for taking time last week to discuss our permit challenges AND for your continued willingness to help keep things moving. I delved a little deeper into the "condition" of our permit application and the environmental work supporting the Draft Preliminary Comprehensive Stormwater Master Plan (SMP). Bottom line: my folks tell me the quality of the work has been excellent and that even Tom Luster said he didn't see anything that would preclude DOE being able to grant the permit. This comment apparently came in response to a direct question from our environmental manager at the end of the County/DOE/POS meeting on the preliminary stormwater review comments.

I questioned why, if the submittal was good, we were needing to do ANY additional work on it to resubmit to King County. The response was this: Our submittal package was compiled in the format and with the information needed for a DOE stormwater review--conceptual plans showing the layout of the stormwater management system. DOE determined they didn't have the expertise or available staff to do the review of the stormwater portion of the 401 application and we jointly agreed to pass that portion to King County. The County's normal format and review process is apparently quite different than the DOE process. They normally review final design plans, not conceptual design plans. This difference became clear during the course of the joint meeting last week.

We've proposed to re-format our submittal to be more in line with what King County is used to reviewing AND provide some additional information the County wants. Since the County did not want us to feed them pieces incrementally and neither did the Port, we decided to simply revise the document and resubmit it. We're resubmitting that package by May 5. The County person has then agreed to complete his final review by mid-June. Our staff/consultants feel the County's comments on the preliminary review are what they would normally expect from a preliminary review on a project of this complexity. Staff/consultants feel the County is doing a very good, professional review.

I am concerned about the amount of time between our resubmittal and the County's final review. Why so long if, indeed, this is a reformatting issue and not a substantive "new information" review? Apparently the staffer working this issue estimates a need for 65 hours of review but can only allocate 10 to 15 hrs./week to review of our project. I'm hoping to get help from Tim Ceis to re-prioritize the workload somewhat.

At any rate, Martha, this is the closest I can get to anything that might generate the "piecemealing" concerns you've heard about. Please let me know if there is anything more specific--or any other concerns you hear of. Thanks very much. GML