



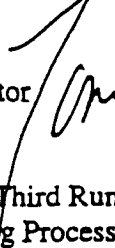
STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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July 18, 2001

TO: Gary Locke, Governor

FROM: Tom Fitzsimmons, Director
Department of Ecology 

SUBJECT: Port of Seattle Proposed Third Runway and Associated Projects
Status of Decision Making Process

In accordance with our conversation yesterday, I am providing a brief update regarding the status of the decision making process for the Port's proposed Third Runway and associated projects. As you are aware, we recently issued a modified NPDES Industrial Stormwater Permit that allows the Port to proceed with construction of highway interchanges for purposes of moving fill and materials to the proposed runway sites. Now we are very close to making a decision on the 401 Water Quality Certification for the runway.

In a nutshell, we are waiting for final technical information from the Port regarding stream low-flow mitigation requirements. We have been awaiting finalization of this data by Port consultants for several months. During the past several weeks, we have received a good portion of this information, and we expect to receive final submittals from the Port on July 23. Provided the final information is adequate, we plan to render a decision on the runway and associate projects the week of August 6.

Through this all, our environmental objectives to protect aquatic resources have not changed and we are taking steps to ensure the Port's projects will comply with all pertinent environmental laws and regulations. Our goal is a defensible decision wherein we are reasonably assured water quality will be protected. Notwithstanding the need for this remaining stream low-flow information, we are virtually through with our evaluation of the Port's proposals. The Stormwater Management and Natural Resource Mitigation Plans are essentially completed.

Again, as we are assuming the Port will submit final information adequate for the stream low-flow mitigation element by July 23. We expect to render a runway decision the week of August 6. For your reference, I have attached notes from the most recent Low-Flow Analysis technical workgroup meeting during which the deadlines for submitting this final information were committed to by Port staff. I've also attached notes that

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document recent technical workgroup meetings for the Port's Stormwater Management Plan. Please note the matrices (schedule updates) which show the multiple iterations that have been required for Port document submittals. These iterations have been necessary to ensure the Port's proposals meet our requirements and are legally defensible. Multiple iterations are common for major, complicated projects. A Port funded professional facilitator (Floyd & Snider) has prepared the meeting notes.

If you have any questions please call me at 360-407-7001.

Attachments

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