

Kenny, Ann

From: Aboe, Sharon
Sent: Thursday, September 06, 2001 8:07 AM
To: White, Gordon; Krause, Amy
Cc: ECY DL NWRO SEA; ECY DL NWRO RMT; Aaland, Neil; Blomstrom, Gale; Farmer, Brian; Hubbard, Catherine; Sandison, Derek; Skowlund, Peter; Spath, Rob; Stevens, Terry; Summerhays, Jeannie; Witczak, Joe
Subject: August 2001 Monthly Report SEA/NWRO

Attached you will find the August 2001 monthly report for the SEA Program @ NWRO.



NWRO_Aug01.doc

Sharon Aboe
Secretary
SEA Program/NWRO
425/649-7244

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

September 6, 2001

TO: Gordon White, Program Manager
FROM: Jeannie Summerhays, Section Manager
SUBJECT: Environmental Programs Monthly Report – August 2001

PREVENT POLLUTION

CLEAN UP POLLUTION

SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND NATURAL RESOURCES

SeaTac Third Runway 401 Certification- On August 10, 2001 Ecology issued a 401 water quality certification to the Port of Seattle for the proposed Third Runway. The certification will allow the Port to construct an 8,500-foot parallel third runway west of the existing runways, construct two new runway safety areas on the north end of the existing runways and other projects. Work approved by the certification involves the development or redevelopment of 700 acres of upland area and placement of fill in nearly 20 acres of wetlands. More than 17 million cubic yards of fill material will be used to construct the runway embankment- the equivalent of 34 football fields, each stacked 300 feet high with material. Construction cannot begin until the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issues a Section 404 permit. A copy of the certification can be viewed at Ecology's web site: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/shorelan.html.

In issuing this certification Ecology imposed unprecedented conditions regulating the type of fill material that may be used. Fifteen major stormwater facilities will provide 344 acre-feet of detention for peak-flow management. An additional 46 acre-feet of stormwater will be detained for release during low flow periods. Nearly the entire airport site will be retrofitted to a 75 percent forested, 15 percent grass, 10 percent impervious flow regime. The Port proposed substantial wetland mitigation. They are providing a total of 201 acres of mitigation, which includes wetland creation, riparian restoration and upland buffers. The Port is claiming credit for only 85 acres of mitigation.

As expected, the 401 was appealed by the Airport Communities Coalition (ACC) on August 23, 2001. The ACC asserts numerous flaws with the permit, imminent harm to the environment and has asked for an expedited hearing on a request for an immediate stay. A date has not yet been set for the pre-hearing conference but

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the hearing before the PCHB is scheduled for March 18 to March 29, 2002. SEA-NWRO/Kenny, Stockdale

City of Everett Shoreline Master Program Amendment - Ecology staff continues to meet with the City to discuss various issues. **The focus of the discussions remains the designation of the Maulsby Mudflats and wetland/riparian buffers.** In addition, the Port of Everett has asked that the City and Ecology not assign a shoreline designation to Baywood and Maulsby Mudflats until further evaluation is completed. The City has stated that it wishes to retain the proposed designations, but would support a subsequent study and pursue future amendments if needed. Ecology staff support approving a more protective designation based on current information. If the City and Port wish to conduct a study followed by a new amendment, that is their option. SEA-NWRO/Fritzen

City of Renton, Oakesdale Avenue 401 Certification issued – Ecology staff worked intensively with the City to formulate an adequate wetland mitigation plan for this road widening project while still meeting a tight timeline. **The 401 Certification requires the removal of an abandoned roadbed that currently severs a Category 2 wetland adjacent to Springbrook Creek.** SEA-NWRO/Kelly, Suggs

King County Bog Restoration Permitted – Ecology staff worked with King County to expeditiously review plans for a bog restoration in the Cedar River basin. Bog restoration is still experimental; however, since **these natural resources are irreplaceable, the county will attempt to restore the hydrology on a 6-acre remnant portion of an historic 33-acre bog that was mined for peat.** A geomembrane and an earthen berm will be used to stop the loss of water from the face of the mined bog. SEA-NWRO/Kelly, Suggs

Skagit Flood Feasibility Study – Ecology authored a letter of support for the Skagit Flood Study and EIS with joint signatures from the Director and Governor. Care was taken not to commit prematurely to a specific project, recognizing at the same time that only a couple alternatives will go through detailed engineering design. Ecology met with Skagit County Commissioner Dahlstead and county managers to discuss the water rights and instream flow issues regarding the Bypass Channel alternative. **Our direction to Skagit County was that the channel would need a water right to be operated in the low-flow period as a fish enhancement project. We further recommended that the project conform to the instream flow rule and consider sizing the flow in the channel to the water availability constraints in the rule.** We found out that there is no solid information at this time on how much water the channel would need. SEA-NWRO/Sakrison, Hellwig, Swenson, Stevens, D'Acci.

3-6 MONTH AGENDA

August 2001 – NWRO - Tracking of Quarterly Outputs

Wetlands – Technical Assistance	Total	Shoreline Management – Technical Assistance	Total	Shoreline Management – Permitting or Approvals	Total	Federal – Permitting or Approvals	Total
Site Visits	4	Site Visits	1			Site Visits	1
Phone	120	Phone	57	SDP*	7	401 Certifications*	7
Letters/e-mails	2	Letters/e-mails	6	Variances*		CZM Consistency Determinations*	22
Presentations/Education		Presentations /Education		CUP*	1	Letters/e-mails	4
				Shoreline Master Program Amendments		Discussed re: shoreline permits or CZM grant project	2
				Compliance/Enforcement Letters**			

*also indicate if they were issued within the allowable timeframe

**includes warning letters, NOC's, Orders/Penalties