

**Cedar River – Upper Royal Arch Habitat Enhancement Project
SEPA Determination of Non-Significance (DNS)**

Description of Proposal

The proposed project is a habitat enhancement project that includes the following actions:

Potential Road and Utility Relocations. This includes the potential removal / relocation of 221st Ave SE, an existing neighborhood road providing continued access to a home downstream of the project area. SPU has considered vacating 221st Ave SE and a portion of SE 214th St within SPU-owned properties and, if the road is vacated, a new access road for the adjoining property to the north (parcel 2752200050) would be constructed. This new access road would extend from the existing SE 214th St and lie along the eastern edge of SPU property (parcel 2752200066) to connect to the private parcel to the north (parcel 2752200050).

Removal of Remaining Structures and Bank Armor. Several utilities, structures, and other residential appurtenances would be removed, including three to four wells, two well houses, a recessed concrete vault, and bank protection associated with former homesites.

Off-Channel and Floodplain Enhancements. Habitat and floodplain enhancements include two work areas, one upstream of an existing natural gas pipeline crossing and one downstream. At the upstream site, the project would construct a 1,350 linear foot flow-through perennial side channel following the alignment of the existing prominent floodplain depression within the river-right floodplain. The upstream inlet would be situated near the upstream end of the project site. A secondary inlet would be located approximately 350 feet downstream that connects into the primary side channel. The off-channel network includes an additional 935-foot-long perennial secondary channel, a 320-foot-long connector channel, and a seasonally connected tertiary channel that connects into a 1.3-acre low-lying floodplain complex further into the floodplain. The off-channel complex downstream of the gas pipeline area would be similar to the upstream design and would include an 850-foot-long perennial side channel that weaves through the existing trees on river-right. The channels would direct flow into a seasonally connected 1-acre low-lying floodplain complex. In both complexes, a variety of large wood habitat placements are planned for the off-channel areas.

Mainstem Large Wood Placements. Large woody material would be placed along the right-bank. At each of the side channel inlets, bar-apex log jams would be placed at the apex of the flow split to encourage flow into the side channel, and to maintain scour depths and sediment transport through the side channel inlet areas. This includes two apex log jams in the upstream portion of the site and one apex log jam at the downstream portion. Other large wood placements would extend along the bank through the project area, except within and nearby the pipeline crossing and between the two upstream apex jams, to avoid deflecting flow away from the second inlet.

Vegetation Enhancements. Vegetation enhancements include invasive species management and planting of native vegetation throughout the project area. Invasive species would be removed throughout the site using a combination of machinery used during construction and hand crews. Revegetation would occur on streambanks, within created low-lying floodplain areas, and throughout the floodplain and disturbed upland areas.

Proponent

Seattle Public Utilities
Seattle Municipal Tower Suite 4900
P.O. Box 34018
Seattle, WA 98124-4018

Location of Proposal

Project activities span seven SPU-owned parcels along SE 214th St in unincorporated King County in Maple Valley, WA 98038, between river miles (RM) 14.6 and 15 of the Cedar River (parcels 275220-0066, 275220-0061, 275220-0062, 275220-0060, 275220-0063, 275220-0070, and 275220-0075). The project would occur within the Royal Arch Reach extent of the Cedar River, which flows from the Highway 169 overpass east of Highway 18 to the Highway 169 overpass north of the Royal Arch Park in Maple Valley. The proposal takes place in Section 9, Township 22 North, Range 6 East.

The project area could extend onto neighboring private parcels for soil placement and, if needed, could extend onto the upstream land owned by the Washington State Department of Transportation to optimize design of side channel inlets.

Lead Agency

Seattle Public Utilities, the lead agency for this proposal, has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

This Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for fourteen (14) days from the issuance date below.

A copy of the environmental checklist is available online at <http://www.seattle.gov/utilities/neighborhood-projects/construction-impacts>

Public and Agency Comments

Comments on this DNS must be submitted by September 15, 2022 and must be sent by email to:

Ingrid Wertz, SEPA Responsible Official
Seattle Public Utilities
ingrid.wertz@seattle.gov

Signature: _____
Ingrid Wertz

Issue Date: September 1, 2022

Appeals

Appeals of this DNS must be accompanied by an \$85 filing fee and must be filed by 5:00 p.m. on September 22, 2022. Please see the Office of the Hearing Examiner web site for Temporary Operating Rules During COVID-19: <http://www.seattle.gov/hearing-examiner>