

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Instructions for Lead Agencies:

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the [SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS \(part D\)](#). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in Part B - Environmental Elements –that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

A. Background [\[HELP\]](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

South Loop Transmission Line

2. Name of applicant:

Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

**1151 Valley Mall Parkway
East Wenatchee, WA 98802
509-884-7191
Contact: Dennis Baker**

4. Date checklist prepared:

August 2, 2023

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

Start of Construction: March, 2024; Completion of project: May, 2025

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

No

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

- **SEPA Checklist**
- **Cultural Resources Assessment by Historical Research Associates**
- **Independent Traditional Cultural Properties studies by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CCT) and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (YN)**
- **Rare, threatened, and endangered (RTE) wildlife and botanical surveys of the Douglas-Rapids loop Transmission Line corridor.**
- **Erosion and Sediment Control Plan**
- **Geotechnical Engineering Report**
- **Stormwater Report**
- **SWPPP**

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

No

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

Bonneville Power Administration right-of-way crossing permit

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

Douglas PUD proposes to construct a new 230kV transmission line which will run from an existing transmission corridor to a substation 1 mile south east of the intersection of Urban Industrial way and 10th Street NE. The total length of the project would be approximately 2 miles. Roughly 1.9 miles would be installed as a double circuit with the existing Eastmont –Pangborn 115kv transmission line.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

Douglas PUD proposes to construct a new 230kV transmission line which will run from an existing transmission corridor Southwesterly to a substation 1 mile South east of the intersection of Urban Industrial way and 10th Street NE. All work will occur on TRS 222109, 222110 and 222111. See attached Access Road Map for location of project.

B. Environmental Elements [\[HELP\]](#)

1. Earth [\[help\]](#)

a. General description of the site:

(circle one): Flat, rolling hilly, steep slopes mountainous, other _____

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

73.4%

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

Burch loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, 8 Acres in AOI, 4.9% of AOI

Burch loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, 7.1 Acres in AOI, 4.3% of AOI
Cheviot-Ralls-Grinrod complex, 15 to 30 percent slopes , 24.2 Acres in AOI, 14.9% of AOI
Cheviot-Ralls-Rubble land complex, 30 to 65 percent slopes, 7.9 Acres in AOI, 4.9% of AOI
Grinrod-Ralls-Argabak complex, 8 to 50 percent slopes, 44 Acres in AOI, 27.10% of AOI
Grinrod-Ralls-Rubble land complex, 30 to 70 percent slopes, 30 Acres in AOI, 18.5% of AOI
Grinrod-Rock outcrop-Rubble land complex, 30 to 70 percent slopes, 22.1 Acres in AOI, 13.6% of AOI
Logy cobbly sandy loam, 3 to 15 percent slopes, 5.9 Acres in AOI, 3.6% of AOI
Logy very stony sandy loam, 3 to 15 percent slopes, 4.4 Acres in AOI, 2.7% of AOI
Pogue loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, 4.8 Acres in AOI, 2.9% of AOI
Renslow silt loam, 15 to 30 percent north slopes, 0 Acres in AOI, 0.0% of AOI
Renslow silt loam, cemented substratum, 0 to 8 percent slopes, 0.6 Acres in AOI, 0.4% of AOI
Renslow silt loam, cemented substratum, 8 to 15 percent slopes, 1.9 Acres in AOI, 1.2% of AOI
Ritzville silt loam, cemented substratum, 0 to 8 percent slopes, 1.4 Acres in AOI, 0.9% of AOI
Zen-Horseflat-Ralls complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes, 0.1 Acres in AOI, 0.1% of AOI

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

There are no known areas of unstable soils.

- e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Excavation will occur, to install new transmission poles. Soils will be disturbed, replaced and graded during these processes using on site materials. Some access roads may require minimal grading and fill to restore vehicle access. Small quantities of locally sourced gravel from commercial vendors will be obtained as needed for road maintenance.

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Yes, within the site excavation and on access roads. Contractor will be required to provide temporary erosion control measures during construction and permanent erosion control measures for slope stabilization at the completion of the project.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

Less than 1%.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Silt fencing will be placed on steep slopes and seed restoration will be used on any of the cuts and fills placed for construction of access roadways.

2. Air [\[help\]](#)

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Short term construction period will have typical auto emissions present and air borne dust may be present at times.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

Water site as necessary to reduce dust.

3. Water [\[help\]](#)

a. Surface Water: [\[help\]](#)

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

No

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

No

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

N/A

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

N/A

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

No

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No

b. Ground Water: [\[help\]](#)

1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

None

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

During construction, stormwater and sedimentation, along with other potential contaminants would be controlled by implementing BMP.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

No

3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

No

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

4. **Plants** [\[help\]](#)

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

shrubs Shrub Steppe-Big Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), Gray Rabbit Brush (*Ericameria nauseoso*)

grass Bluebunch Wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*)

pasture

crop or grain

Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.

wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Grasses and shrubs will be removed in an effort to clear existing access roadways or new roads. Small pads around each structure will be cleared for vehicles to avoid the potential for fires while working on the structure.

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

None found.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

Disturbed areas will be replanted with a native grass mix.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

dalmation toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica ssp. Dalmatica*)

diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*)

Russian knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*)

Scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*)

5. **Animals** [\[help\]](#)

a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.

birds: **see Appendix A**

mammals: Eastern cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), yellow-bellied marmot (*Marmota flaviventris*)

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. **None found**

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. **N/A**

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: **N/A**

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site. **None found**

6. Energy and Natural Resources [\[help\]](#)

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

The completed project will not use energy

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

This transmission project will cast a minimal shadow with very little potential impact to the collection of solar energy

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

The project does not consume energy

7. Environmental Health [\[help\]](#)

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

Potential environmental health hazards that can be associated with electrical transmission line development include fire, hazardous spills, mechanical hazards, and electrical hazards.

The greatest fire risk will occur during construction of the transmission line because of the level of activity and the number of workers and equipment that will be working in the area. The risk of unintentional fire resulting from mechanical, electrical, or human causes during line operation is very low but could occur.

During line operation, the District would provide regular inspections of the energized transmission line.

- 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

None that we are aware of

- 2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.

None

- 3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

None

- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

No special emergency services would be required from the county or other providers. Potential emergency services that might be required would include police, medical, and fire services.

- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

The District's contractor will be required to adopt and implement a fire control management plan and hazardous materials handling and storage plan during construction and clean-up of the construction corridor, including laydown areas and storage yards. Crews performing routine maintenance and inspections on the energized transmission line will be required to have appropriate firefighting equipment and fire extinguishers.

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

None

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hour's noise would come from the site.

During construction, heavy equipment will create minor noise (cranes, trucks, etc.). Construction is not expected to begin before 6 am or extend beyond 7 pm. No significant noise is expected in the long-term.

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

None

8. Land and Shoreline Use [\[help\]](#)

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.

Current uses within the proposed Transmission line corridor include vacant land, shrubbe steppe habitat, and open range. Adjacent properties are similar along with Industrial projects, single family homes and orchards.

- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?

No

- 1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:

No

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

There are 10 existing transmission structures

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

The 10 structures will be removed and replaced with double circuit pole structures.

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

A-D, RR-20, I-G

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

A-D, RR-20, I-G

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

N/A

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

The Transmission corridor runs through several areas listed as very limited geo-hazardous soils by Douglas County.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

None

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

None

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

Not applicable

m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

None

9. Housing [\[help\]](#)

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

None

10. Aesthetics [\[help\]](#)

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

The tallest steel pole structure will be 160 ft above grade.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

Due to the existing terrain, no views will be obstructed.

- f. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

None

11. Light and Glare [\[help\]](#)

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

Some reflection may occur off of conductors, primarily when sun angles are low (morning and late afternoon). Glare from conductors is temporary in nature and dissipates within a short period of time as normal weathering of the conductors occur.

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

None

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

None

12. Recreation [\[help\]](#)

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

There are no formal, designated recreational opportunities in or near the project area. Informal, low-intensity dispersed recreational opportunities, such as hunting, walking, and horseback riding, may occur in the project vicinity, typically subject to permission from landowners.

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

Impacts on recreation would be negligible, and no measures to reduce, control, or mitigate impacts are needed.

13. Historic and cultural preservation [\[help\]](#)

- a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers ? If so, specifically describe.

Yes

- b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

Yes. Archaeological sites 45DO399 and 45DO1408 are located within the area of impacts. A 10 foot buffer will be established around site 45DO399 so that it can be avoided during the work. Site 45DO1408, a historic debris site, was recommended not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. No ground disturbing activities will take place near this site. An archaeological survey for the project has been conducted for this project, and the report is currently out for comment.

- c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

Douglas PUD has initiated consultation with DAHP and affected tribes on this project. Douglas PUD has conducted archaeological survey of the project footprint in order to identify potential impacts to cultural resources. The survey report has been submitted to DAHP and affected tribes for review. Any consultation or recommendations for cultural resource protection will be provided upon request.

- d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

Recommendations for cultural resource protection will be developed following the completion of archaeological survey of the project area. If cultural resources are encountered during the work, Douglas PUD will stop work immediately and implement its Inadvertent Discovery Protocol. In the event that previously unknown cultural resources are encountered during the implementation of the project, work in the vicinity of the discovery will halt and a professional archaeologist, the Washington State DAHP, and the Historic Preservation Officer(s) of all affected tribes will be consulted before proceeding. In the event that any human remains are encountered during the implementation of the project, all work in the vicinity will immediately cease and the Washington State protocols for inadvertent discovery of human remains will be followed.

14. Transportation [\[help\]](#)

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

See attached map.

- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

Not applicable

- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?

None

- d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No

- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

The average would be less than 1. Once the project is completed there should be no additional daily vehicular trips caused by the project.

- g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

No

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

Not applicable

15. Public Services [\[help\]](#)

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No

Appendix A. Bird species found in the project area

Western meadowlark
rock wren
mourning dove
chukar
house finch
American robin
red-tailed hawk
California quail
Western kingbird
common raven
Northern flicker
American goldfinch
Eurasian collared dove
European starling
Bullock's oriole
Say's phoebe
lark sparrow
Brewer's blackbird
brown headed cowbird
American crow
white crowned sparrow
Northern rough-winged swallow
yellow-rumped warbler
vesper sparrow
dark-eyed junco
Savannah sparrow
Lincoln's sparrow

Access Road



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