



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
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January 27, 2022

Gwen Clear
Environmental Review Coordinator
1250 W Alder St.
Union Gap, WA 989003-0009

RE: SEPA Register 202200036, 22-002

Dear Ms. Clear:

Thank you for your agency's interest and comments on the Milles Lake Dam Safety Repairs.

The purpose of the proposed project is addressing Ecology's Dam Safety Office concerns such that the dam in question will be considered safe under a 500-year event for all landowners downstream of the structure after construction. Widening the dam spillway necessitates an increase in footprint and does not allow for avoidance of the wetlands present. The presence of the existing dam is the reason the two wetlands identified exist.

Mitigation for permanent wetland impacts is still being developed. WDFW is seeking a meaningful mitigation solution with a high probability of success. WDFW will work with all the regulatory agencies to ensure the selected mitigation is agreeable to all parties, including our local WDFW staff who manage the site.

WDFW does not believe the proposed work will interrupt hydraulic connection to Wetland B. The assumption is that seepage through the dam is the primary source of water for this wetland, outside the short period when surface flow goes over the spillway.

The permit drawing's erosion control plan lists best management practices (BMPs) that will be installed onsite prior to the start of clearing, grading and excavation to prevent the discharge of stormwater to the surface waters of the state. The selected BMPs will comply with the Stormwater Management Manual for Eastern Washington (SWMMEW), which dictates overall intended purpose, conditions for use, installation and maintenance of selected BMPs. BMP standard details are listed in the permit drawings and will be further refined in our construction drawings, and include:

- Buffer Zones (BMP C102E)

- Stabilized Construction Access (BMP C105E)
- Straw wattles (BMP C233E)
- Temporary and Permanent Seeding (BMP C120E)
- Silt fence (BMP C233E)
- High visibility fencing (BMP C103E)
- Materials on Hand (BMP C150E)
- Construction Road/Parking Area Stabilization (BMP C107E)

Additionally, there are BMPs which will be performed by our construction team, which are standard practice and in compliance with SWMMEW:

- Preserving Natural Vegetation (BMP C101E)
- Plastic Covering (BMP C123E)
- Dust Control (BMP C140E)
- Material Delivery, Storage, and Containment (BMP C153E)
- Scheduling (BMP C162E)
- Surface Roughening (BMP C130E)

WDFW is working with the Ecology Dam Safety Office. The WDFW Project Manager, Kelly Smith, is the primary point of contact with the Ecology Dam Safety Office.

WDFW will continue to coordinate our mitigation proposal with interested agencies.

Any additional questions related to wetlands or shorelines should be sent to Doug Wiedemeier, project permitter for this project at WDFW.

Sincerely,

Doug Wiedemeier
 Project Permitter
 Capital and Asset Management Program
 360-789-2464
Douglas.Wiedemeier@dfw.wa.gov

Cc: Kelly Smith, WDFW, Project Manager
 Glenn Gerth, WDFW, Chief Engineer
 Kaitlyn Kiehart, WDFW, Wetland Specialist
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