

Deherrera, Lucas

From: Meyer, Betty
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2012 9:11 AM
To: Deherrera, Lucas
Subject: FW: PS 39 Backup Generator Project
Attachments: Pump Station 39 SEPA DNS Close-out.pdf

Importance: High

Lucas, This is the first of two emails I'm forwarding regarding SPU's SEPA environmental review of the proposed backup generator for Pump Station 39. This email summarizes the process used by SPU as well as some of the steps SPU took to inform a concerned homeowner about the process. The second email addresses the homeowner's recent assertions that SPU's SEPA checklist was deficient. Please let me know if you have any questions or if we should talk about either email.

Thanks,
--Betty

Betty Meyer
Lead SEPA Responsible Official
Seattle Public Utilities
700 5th Ave, Suite 4900
PO Box 34018
Seattle, WA 98124-4018
(206) 386-1999
Betty.Meyer@Seattle.Gov
<http://www.seattle.gov/util>

From: Meyer, Betty
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 11:10 AM
To: 'alkibrown@aol.com'
Subject: PS 39 Backup Generator Project
Importance: High

Dear Mr. Brown,

You asked what procedures Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) followed in completing the SEPA review process for the proposed backup generator at Pump Station 39. Here is a summary, with hyperlinks provided to each citation of the Seattle Municipal Code:

1. SEPA Policies and Procedures

SPU follows the City's procedures for implementing the State Environmental Policy Act and the State Environmental Policy Act Rules, which are captured in [Seattle Municipal Code \(SMC\) Chapter 25.05 Environmental Policies and Procedures](#).

2. Environmental Checklist

SPU project teams start the SEPA process by completing an Environmental Checklist, in accordance with the requirements in [SMC 25.05.315 Environmental Checklist](#) and substantially using the template found in [SMC 25.05.960 Environmental Checklist](#).

3. Threshold Determination

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Deherrera, Lucas

From: Meyer, Betty
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2012 9:19 AM
To: Deherrera, Lucas
Subject: FW: SPU SEPA Review - Proposed Backup Generator at Pump Station 39

Lucas, This is the second of the two emails I'm sending for your information. It summarizes the additional review conducted by SPU in response to a homeowner's recent assertion that the SEPA checklist prepared last year was deficient. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
--Betty

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From: Antieau, Clayton
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2012 11:39 AM
To: Meyer, Betty
Subject: Your request

Hi Betty,

I received your query re PS 39, and reply here due to the details involved in responding. Most of the checklist for PS 39 was composed in January 2011 and was subsequently finalized in August 2011. In January 2011, the routine was to check the 2008 hardcopy maps of Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) data published by WDFW. I did so, noting the only map unit near the project parcel was an "Urban Natural Open Space" unit east of (and on?) the project location (connected with Mee-Kwa-Mooks Park and Open Space to the north). I don't give that map unit much attention because virtually every green space and park in Seattle is mapped as such.

For SEPA environmental review purposes, I'm more interested in mapped species occurrences. On the 2008 maps, I noted a bald eagle nest site in Lincoln Park, more than 1.5 miles south of the parcel. A heron rookery is mapped as being more than 1 mile east of the project location. Those distances are usually not considered relevant to environmental review for projects like PS 39.

Since January 2011, WDFW has placed their PHS data online. Looking at this information this morning, I note the project parcel is mapped as being within a 9 square-mile-area denoting an observation (somewhere within that 9 square miles) of Pacific pond turtle. There are various intertidal and marine resources mapped in Puget Sound west of the parcel. The "Urban Natural Open Space" unit of 2008 is now called a "Biodiversity Area and Corridor" and is now mapped as ending well north and east of the project parcel. The bald eagle nest in Lincoln Park is still mapped. The heron rookery is still mapped more than 1 mile east of the project location, and is now associated with a bald eagle breeding (nest) site.

To: Lucas DeHerrera, DFD

3012748

cc: D. Linda DeBaldt, DFD

D. Sigamora, DFD

RE: S.P.U. Generator #39, Beach Dr. SW
Proposed Heating Schedule

RECEIVED

MAY 15 2012

Dept. of Planning &
Development
Plans Routing

✓
for

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May 7, 2012

City of Seattle, Department of Planning and Development, c/o Lucas Deherrera
RE: Proposed Seattle Public Utilities(SPU) Diesel Generator project at Pump Station #39,
5080 Alki Ave S.W.

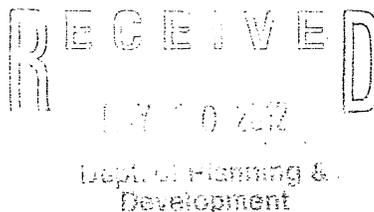
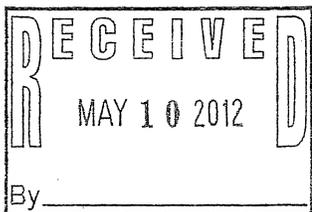
We continue to strongly object to the proposed massive diesel generator placed next to our sidewalk, inside the 20 foot required front yard setback, at 5080 Beach Drive S.W. A formal letter of opposition to this proposal signed by 4 adjacent neighbors dated January 30, 2012 was hand delivered to the Department of Planning and Development(DPD) and time stamped. A copy of that letter is attached.

The first written notification of this SPU proposal was mailed to some neighbors in November, 2011. No outreach or community involvement in this proposal was ever started or completed by SPU. Instead, SPU submitted their proposal to the City of Seattle SEPA process in the summer of 2011 with a determination of non-significance(DNS) declared by a SEPA administrator in August, 2011. An Environmental checklist prepared by SPU was submitted as the project's description/document for review. As noted above, this checklist was never mailed to any neighbors. The results were published in a business and community paper in September, 2011. This SPU process was finally discovered in April, 2012 after repeated e-mail requests and trips to City Hall. It was also found another pump/generator project near 2318 Alki Ave.S.W. was undergrounded.

This is not good or transparent government. We've said so since we first found out about this project in November, 2011. Despite our neighborhood protests, the SPU posted a sign on the site 3 weeks ago declaring its plan to construct the project, still next to the sidewalk. Another SPU letter dated April 5, 2012 to the neighborhood by Project manager Luis Ramirez states an anticipated construction start date in July, 2012.

Beach Drive S.W. has been designated a Scenic Drive by the City of Seattle as a public resource. This project mocks that City designation. Estimates from SPU's SEPA Environmetal Checklist of noise generated(**70 decibels or greater from 23 feet away**), greenhouse gases of **69.4 metric tons** during 15 years of operation(153,027 pounds of carbon dioxide) are disturbing enough. Omitted in their checklist was an American Eagle tree nest approximately 100-150 feet away and a sea otter habitat in the wooded hillside, both observed since 2002. A properly completed EIS at the minimum is needed to analyze these environmental impacts. The project proposes a chain link fence in front.

In summary, the location of this proposed SPU project is very ill advised. EPA advisories sent to the SPU have been used as the reason for this project. It is our understanding the visual, noise, air pollution, wildlife, and aesthetic degradation were not evaluated by the EPA in their request to SPU from 2009 onward. The SPU has currently maintained that relocating or undergrounding this 220 sf project is too expensive. The neighborhood's position is that a lawsuit to stop this ill-advised proposal by SPU may be much more expensive.



✓
ga

Signature pages for neighbors next to the SPU Diesel Generator Project

DATE

- ✓ 1. John & Pat Brown
5201 Beach Dr. S.W. 98136 May 7, 2012
- ✓ 2. Paul & Stifford
5067 BEACH DR SW 98136 May 7, 2012
- ✓ 3. Don & Karen Holbert
5064 Beach Dr SW 98136 May 9, 2012
- ✓ 4. Jennifer In
5066 Beach Drive SW 98136 May 9, 2012
5. Jim and Paula Thomas May 9, 2012
(no address)
→ ok - see next page

January 30, 2012

Ms. Betty Meyer AND RAY HOFFMAN
City of Seattle, Seattle Public Utilities Director

City of Seattle
Department of Planning & Development
JAN 30 2012
ga RECEIVED

RE: Proposed SPU Project adjacent to 5080 Beach Drive S.W.

Dear Ms. Meyer

A Project Notice dated November 3, 2011 was sent to property owners adjacent to 5080 Beach Drive SW by the Seattle Public Utilities (SPU). It proposed putting a massive diesel generator next to the sidewalk in our neighborhood. It was estimated to be approximately 8.5 feet high, 12 feet long and 4.5 feet wide. No previous mention of this generator had been sent to the property owners by the SPU or any other City Dept.

Later in November, property owners contacted Mr. Luis Ramirez and Young Kim of SPU who were the project staff assigned to this proposal. It was mentioned to these staff members that proper SEPA process had apparently NOT been followed. No neighborhood input had ever been solicited by SPU and was completely omitted as they sought to obtain necessary permits to construct this project. At a meeting at the project site with SPU staff and affected neighbors, SPU staff members suggested this matter would be reviewed by the SEPA officer and City of Seattle legal department and they would get back to us. To this day, we have never received any response in writing from SEPA or the City of Seattle legal department.

We remain strongly opposed to this project and request any Notice of Action proposed by the SPU be postponed. The impact of air pollution from diesel fumes, noise, visual, and other odors has not been addressed. If properly addressed in an EIS (Impact Report), it is felt that no mitigation efforts are available that would be appropriate for a project of this scope in the middle of an established residential neighborhood. We are aware that a comment period is part of the Notice of Action. While a comment period is appropriate later in this process, the project cancellation or at least an EIS report is needed now.

Sincerely,

- ✓ 1. John (Mike) and Pat Brown ADDRESS: 5201 Beach Dr. S.W. 98136
- ✓ 2. David + Jennifer Trise ADDRESS: 5068 Beach Dr. SW 98136
- ✓ 3. James R. + Paula Thomas ADDRESS: 5079 Beach Dr. SW 98136
- ✓ 4. Don and Karen Holert ADDRESS: 5064 Bch Dr. S.W. 98136
- 5. _____ ADDRESS: _____