

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SEATTLE DISTRICT P.O. BOX 3755 SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124-3755

**Regulatory Branch** 

April 26, 2021

Mr. Erik Martin District Administrator Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District 351 Northwest North Street Chehalis, Washington 98532-1900

> Reference: NWS-2014-1118 Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project (Lewis County)

Dear Mr. Martin:

We are continuing to evaluate your proposal to construct a flood retention expandable facility (FRE) in the Chehalis River (River Mile 108.5) near the Town of Pe Ell, in Lewis County, Washington, and raise levees at the Chehalis-Centralia Airport in the City of Chehalis, Lewis County, Washington, to reduce damage from major flood events in the Chehalis Basin.

To support our evaluation of your proposal, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) published a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on September 18, 2020. To support the continued development of the final EIS, we request the following information:

- By June 1, 2021: Any new or updated information about project activities, including:
  - Road work for construction and operation (new/maintenance, location, widths)
  - Quarry development and use (impact area extent, updates on quarry selection, access roads)
  - Power line siting (location of lines, above or below ground, disturbance area)
  - Pe Ell water system upgrades (relocation alignment, disturbance area, above/below ground)
  - Concrete production (location and disturbance area, including stockpile areas)
- By November 15, 2021: Information about mitigation measures and the mitigation plan, including:
  - Avoidance and minimization measures

• Additional detail on compensatory mitigation (e.g. specific locations, activities, targeted functions, adaptive management)

During recent coordination meetings, including a meeting with your agent on March 10, 2021 to identify information needed to complete the final EIS, you indicated that you may be interested in providing additional information about impact assumptions presented in the draft EIS. To allow adequate time for the USACE to consider additional information in the development of the final EIS, we request that you provide any of the following information by the listed dates:

- By April 31, 2021: Information that may inform quantitative modeling (non-EDT), including:
  - Slope stability
  - Water quality modeling supporting documents (tree survival)
- By June 1, 2020: Information that may inform qualitative analyses, including:
  - o Vegetation Management Plan
  - Airport Levee design (justification for not widening)
  - o Large Woody Material management plan
  - Construction diversion plan for Mahaffey Creek
  - Standard road/road crossing design (example)
  - Land Conversion Plan (temporary reservoir)
  - Recreation plan
  - Plan for securing construction water right
- By September 1, 2021: Information to inform EDT modeling, including:
  - o Rainbow Falls / Fisk Falls avoidance and minimization measures
  - Picket weir alternative / fish passage (construction and operation)

Please submit all of the requested information by the listed dates so that it may be considered in the development of the final EIS. If you have any questions or if you cannot meet the requested deadlines, please contact me at (206) 316-3164 or at brandon.c.clinton@usace.army.mil

Sincerely,

Bruli tto

Brandon Clinton, Project Manager Regulatory Branch

Cc: Diane Butorac Washington State Department of Ecology