



Meeting Notes

Multi-agency Permit (MAP) Team Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) Project Whatcom County and Ecology Meeting July 5, 2011

Please send corrections, edits, or additions to Jane.Dewell@ora.wa.gov

Location Bellingham Field Office, 1440 - 10th Street, Suite 102, Bellingham, WA
Purpose For Ecology and County officials to discuss SEPA co-lead issues

Introduction

This meeting included Tyler Schroeder, Sam Ryan, and Royce Buckingham, Whatcom County Planning & Development; Alice Kelly, Dick Grout, and Jeannie Summerhays, Department of Ecology (Ecology); and Jane Dewell, Office of Regulatory Assistance (ORA). On the phone were Laura Watson and Brenden McFarland, Ecology; and Faith Lumsden, ORA. The meeting was called to discuss details of State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and co-lead status relative to the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project.

Key Points

The County and Ecology discussed entering into a co-lead agreement regarding the SEPA environmental impact statement (EIS) for the GPT project. If Ecology agrees to be co-lead, the County would become nominal lead, responsible for administrative tasks. Both agencies would share responsibility for the overall document. Ecology would focus on regional and statewide elements of the EIS. The two agencies would need to define roles for different aspects of the EIS through a memorandum of understanding (MOU). Other agencies that Ecology would plan to bring in for EIS expertise, in addition to those that are on the GPT multi-agency permit (MAP) team (WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, WA Department of Natural Resources), include WA Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation, WA Department of Transportation, and WA Department of Health.

Since the Corps and County are co-leads on the NEPA/SEPA EIS, all three agencies would be involved. The request for proposal (RFP) needs to meet all three agencies requirements. The MOU would reflect the three-way coordination and cooperation.

The MAP team for the project includes cost-reimbursement from the company for state agencies. If needed, the County could be included in cost-reimbursement contract to cover additional effort needed for co-lead and coordination among the three agencies.

Action Items

- **Ecology** – make final decision whether to be SEPA co-lead with Whatcom County.
- **If decision is ‘yes’ on co-lead:**
 - **County and Ecology** – revise RFP and work on MOU with Corps.
 - **County and ORA**– work on cost-reimbursement contract.