



PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF MASON COUNTY
N. 21971 Hwy. 101
Shelton, Washington 98584

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MIKE SHEETZ, Commissioner
JACK JANDA, Commissioner
RON GOLD, Commissioner

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

Determination of Non-Significance (DNS)

October 29, 2021

Lead agency

Mason County PUD No. 1

Agency Contact

James Reyes, jamesr@mason-pud1.org, (360) 877-5249 Ext. 215

Agency File Number

MA17-013

Description of Proposal

Install aerial Fiber along US Highway 101 across a four-mile utility pole span owned and maintained by Mason County PUD 1. This project also includes the replacement of one hundred and thirty-two poles. The poles being replaced are either undersized, underclassed or too old. Poles will be replaced within the PUD's established right of way with Washington Department of Transportation. Project to include grading, base material, rock, and other materials to ensure poles are placed in a resilient manner.

This determination of non-significance is based on replacing already existing facilities, and not performing any activities that threaten the surrounding environment.

Proponent

Mason County PUD No. 1
N. 21971 Hwy. 101
Shelton, Washington 98584

Location of Proposal

The Pole Replacement and Fiber installation is located along US Highway 101 North of Hamma Hamma and stretches for four miles, ending just north of Triton Cove State Park on Forest Drive in Brinnon.



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Lead Agency

Mason County PUD No. 1, the lead agency for this proposal, has determined that this proposal will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

This Determination of Non-significance (DNS) is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for fourteen (14) days from the date below.

A Copy of the Environmental Check list is available at:

- Mason County PUD No. 1 offices, N. 21971 Hwy. 101, Shelton, Washington 98584
- Online at <https://mason-pud1.org/>

Appeal process

There is no Agency Appeal for this DNS.

Public and Agency Comments

Comments on this DNS must be submitted by November 30th, 2021 and must be sent to:

James Reyes, Engineering Manager
Mason County PUD No. 1
N. 21971 Hwy. 101,
Shelton, WA 98584
jamesr@mason-pud1.org

Signature,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'James Reyes'. The signature is written over a horizontal line.

James Reyes

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:

[Mason County PUD 1 Pole Replacement and Fiber Installation](#)

2. Name of applicant:

Mason County PUD 1

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

James Reyes
(360)877-5249 x. 215

Mason County PUD No. 1
N. 21971 Hwy. 101
Shelton Washington 98584

4. Date checklist prepared:

October 28, 2021

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Mason County

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

Construction will be scheduled as soon as required permits are approved and issued. The project is anticipated to begin early 2022

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.

None known.

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.

Washington State Department of Transportation Utility 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.)

Mason County PUD 1 is proposing to replace wooden utility poles along U.S Hwy 101 in Mason County. The existing poles have exceeded their useful lifespan and must be replaced in order to continue serving safe and reliable power to customers, and accommodate present and future communications to the North end of the County. New poles will be placed as close to their current location as reasonably possible and then old poles will be removed and taken off site. All work will either occur within established county rights-of-way under franchise agreement, or within private utility easements. Disturbed surfaces will be restored.

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.

The Pole Replacement and Fiber installation is located along US Highway 101 North of Hamma Hamma and stretches for four miles, ending just north of Triton Cove State Park on Forest Drive in Brinnon.

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)?

The project site is generally flat. Approximate steepest slope on the site is 8%.

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.

Per USDA Web Soil Survey : Gravelly Sandy Loam, 15 to 30 percent slopes (He). This soil is on rougher terrain than. Hoodspout gravelly sandy loam, 5 to 15 percent slopes, and, therefore, is considered less desirable. The lower north slopes and some canyons obtain additional moisture through seepage in spring.

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

None.

- 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.

A total of approximately 80 cubic yards will be excavated in order to remove and replace poles. The fill is native soil and gravel per DOT Standard.

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

Yes. Temporary construction activities may result in erosion around the pole sites.

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

The proposed project will not result in any increase or decrease of impervious surfaces. All sites of excavation will be restored to previous condition when work is complete.

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

Standard erosion control best management practices (BMPs) and temporary erosion and sediment control (TESC) measures will be utilized during construction.

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.

There will be no ongoing emissions from the project once construction is complete.

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

None.

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

Vehicles will meet required emission standards for their class.

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.

Yes. The Highway where the poles will be replaced and fiber installed is along the Hood Canal. Please see attached Vicinity Map.

- 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.

Yes. Map is attached.

- 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.

<5 cubic yards for pole holes. Fill material will be a mix of crushed rock/gravel per DOT standard

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

No.

- 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. No groundwater will be withdrawn from a well and no water will be discharged to ground water.

- 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.

No waste material will be discharged into the ground.

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.

Stormwater runoff could occur along the project route at the site of the pole replacements. Stormwater will be diverted away from the work site and kept away from surface waters using standard BMPs. Water would flow from polesites to roadsides. In the event of inclement weather, stormwater could possibly migrate from the immediate site and enter ground or surface water.

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

Yes. In the event of inclement weather, stormwater could possibly migrate from the immediate site and enter ground or surface water

- 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:

BMPs and TESC measures will be used to control stormwater runoff. Pole replacement areas will be backfilled and restored.

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
- grass
- 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?

Vegetation (shrub, grass) may be trimmed for access to pole sites. This includes tree limbs and tree tops.

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

No threatened or endangered plant species are known to be on or near the site.

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

Brush and the tops of removed trees will be left on site in critical areas to enhance ecological value. Woody debris may also remain on site.

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

None known.

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.

Examples include:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other _____

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

Per WDFW PHS mapper: no threatened or endangered species are known to be on or near the site.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Yes. Washington State is within The Pacific Flyway, a known avian migration route.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

Brush and the tops of removed trees will be left on site in critical areas to enhance ecological value. Woody debris may also remain on site

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

None known.

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 project has no energy needs, but will provide energy to the area.

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

No.

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:

None proposed; All proposed work is replacement of existing facilities and installation of additional lines on replacements.

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.

No, normal operation of electrical wires will not result in any environmental health hazards.

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

None known.

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 known.

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.

No toxic or hazardous chemicals will be stored, used or produced.

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

No special emergency services will be required. In the unlikely event that an electrical wire is damaged, normal response procedures will be followed.

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

The proposed facilities will be constructed according to applicable federal and state standards, as well as PUD 1 operating standards.

b. Noise

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

No existing noise will affect the project.

- 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 hours noise would come from the site.

There will be short term noise generated by construction vehicles and equipment. Once the project is complete, no noise will be generated.

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

Construction will be limited to permitted daytime hours only. Construction equipment will have muffled exhaust systems.

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.

No.

- 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. The project site is within developed utility corridor. No land will be converted to other uses.

- 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.

Structures on the site include existing roadways and existing utilities.

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

No.

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

The current zoning for the pole line is state right-of-way.

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

Rural.

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

None applicable.

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

No.

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

N/A. The electrical line services the existing residences in the area.

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

None.

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

No displacements will occur.

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

The poles will be in-kind replacements that meet current PUD standard.

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

None applicable.

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:

Housing will not be impacted.

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?

No proposed structures.

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

None. All work is in-kind replacement of existing utility poles.

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

Not applicable.

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

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

No light or glare will be produced.

- 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:

Not applicable.

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

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

Titon Cove State Park.

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:

Not applicable.

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.

None known.

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, a professional cultural survey has been contracted and will ensure no disruption of Indian or historic evidence or artifacts.

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.

If cultural resources were encountered during the project, PUD 1 will implement an Inadvertent Discovery Protocol (IDP).

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.

A cultural resource site assessment will be conducted.

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.

The project site is along existing roadways (U.S. Highway 101). There is no proposed access as part of this project.

- 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?

No.

- 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?

None.

- 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.

A temporary traffic control plan will be submitted for use with construction activities.

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

The highway work will include flagging and traffic control.

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.

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

No impacts to public services proposed.

16. Utilities [\[help\]](#)

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:
electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system,
other _____
- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

The project consists of replacing deteriorated wooded utility poles with new utility poles (wooden) that meet current PUD 1 standards.

C. Signature [\[HELP\]](#)

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: James Reyes

Name of signee: James Reyes

Position and Agency/Organization: Mason County PUD 1

Date Submitted: 10-28-2021

Project Vicinity Map

