

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 Ripplewood Mainline Replacement

2. Name of applicant:

Mason County PUD 1

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

Ravyn Whitewolf,

Whitewolf Engineering services on behalf of:

Mason County PUD 1

James Reyes, Engineering Manager

(360)877-5249

21971 N. Highway 101

4. Date checklist prepared:

June 20, 2021

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water

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

The SEPA will be available for public review for fourteen days after it is posted

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

No, This project is only to replacing aging 4-inch and 2-inch PVC water mainline with 4-inch HDPE mainline.

List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

There has not been any prepared environmental review, although this project will not displace earth or affect nearby ecosystems. This project is just to rehabilitate the existing system.

8. 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

9. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

This project is funded by the Department of Health State Revolving fund. This project will also need a Mason County Public Works Utility permit for Right of Way installation work.

10. 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.)

The Ripplewood Water System has been owned and operated by the PUD since 2015, and experiences high distribution system leakage (DSL). Through annual leak detection, mainline repairs and pressure modeling, the district has concluded that the current mainline in the Ripplewood system has reached end of its life status and is in need of rehabilitation through replacement.

11. 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.

Township: 19N Range: 06W Section: 02
Address: 151 W Buck Prairie Rd, City: Elma County: Mason

B. Environmental Elements [\[HELP\]](#)

(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other N/A

1. **Earth** [\[help\]](#)

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

The steepest slope is approximately a 5% forested grade located near the site.

a. General description of the site:

Dense forest area, generally flat with high water table.

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.

General soils found on this site is loamy silt, clay and gravel.

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

No

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.

The replacement of the water mainline will consist of approximately 6,285 linear feet of trenching to a 36-inch depth. All backfill will be native soils unless otherwise directed by Mason County. Based on approximate 2-foot-wide trench, approximately 1,200 CY of material will be excavated, stockpiled and re-used as fill.

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

No. Though trenching is the most common practice of installation, erosion control best management practices will be implemented for stockpile, placement and compaction of native material.

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

Approximately 10% anticipated along public road.

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

Erosion control best management practices will be specified.

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.

Vehicle Emissions from construction activities, otherwise none.

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

No

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

N/A

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.

No

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.

No

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.

N/A

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.

None

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.

Yes, this project is the rehabilitation of a municipal water system that withdraws approximately 250 gallons of water per minute. The water is used by the Ripplewood Community for consumption and irrigation. No changes in use of groundwater are proposed in this project. In fact, once the new pipe is put in service, less groundwater will be withdrawn because system loss will be reduced.

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.

N/A

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.

Open ditches are and will continue to be used for stormwater runoff.

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

No

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:

N/A

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

- x water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- x other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

None, the site has already been developed previous to the Districts ownership.

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

None known

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

N/A

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

N/A

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 _____

No habitats will be impacted.

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

N/A

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

No

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

N/A

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

N/A

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.

Each water system uses electricity to power well and booster pumps.

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

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.

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.

None

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None

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

None

b. Noise

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

operation, other)?

None

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.

During construction, approximately 2 months of light construction noise during weekday business hours (i.e. 8am-5pm). No noise after implementation, however.

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

The District will work with community to ensure as little noise disturbance as possible by only working during appropriate hours.

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.

The site is a developed residential subdivision. The proposed work is only to replace existing water mainlines. This will not affect the nearby or adjacent properties.

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

1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversized equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:

No

c. Describe any structures on the site.

None

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

None

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

Rural Residential

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

The Mason County Comprehensive Plan classifies this area as In-holding Lands which means there are long

term commercial forests surrounding the development.

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

N/A

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

The Ripplewood Community has not been classified as a critical area by Mason County.

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

None, the facilities being rehabilitated are maintained routinely by PUD crews and serve existing homes.

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

None

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

N/A

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

Follows Mason County's comprehensive plan

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

N/A

9. Housing [\[help\]](#)

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any?

None

b. Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None. The water system serves approximately 252 customers residing in low-income housing.

c. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

Not applicable

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?

All proposed work is below finished grade.

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

There are no views that will be obstructed.

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

There will be no proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetics.

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

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

None

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:

None

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

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

None

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:

The site will be out of the way and will not impeded any recreation activities.

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.

No

~~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.

None. The site has also been declared of no historical relevance by the Department of Health.

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.

A Cultural Survey is scheduled for August 2022 by APPLIED ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH, INC. AAR's study was conducted on behalf of Mason County PUD No.1 who proposes to improve an existing water conveyance system in the community of Ripplewood. The study will include background research, a pedestrian survey, and the excavation of one STP within an ca. 0.44-acre APE. The published survey will be available to the public prior to any construction activities.

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.

None

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.

N/A

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?

N/A

c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?

N/A

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).

N/A

e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

N/A

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?

N/A

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.

N/A

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

None

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.

None

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

N/A. There will be no direct impacts on public services.

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 utility proposed is the replacement of a water mainline and will be owned and operated by Mason County PUD 1. Prior to any construction activities, the PUD will reach out to other utilities, identify locates, and mitigate temporary utility accommodations.

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: _____ 

Name of signee _____ Ravyn Whitewolf, P.E. _____

Position and Agency/Organization _____ Owner/Whitewolf Engineering Services on behalf of Mason PUD1 _____

Date Submitted: 06/20/202