



**NW Natural®**

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March 8, 2021

City of White Salmon  
PO Box 2139  
White Salmon, WA 98672  
Attn: Erika Castro Guzman

**SUBJECT: SEPA Checklist Submittal**  
**PROJECT LOCATION: White Salmon, WA (E Jewett Blvd/SR 141 into City of Bingen)**  
**PROJECT NAME: White Salmon Distribution Reinforcement**

Please find the enclosed SEPA checklist and project map associated with a NW Natural proposed project within the City of White Salmon (with cross over into Bingen, WA). NWN is requesting the City of White Salmon review this checklist and issue an appropriate determination, or apply any appropriate exemptions to the SEPA review process. We have also sent the same checklist to the City of Bingen due to the cross over in City jurisdictions.

NW Natural is proposing to upgrade the localized natural gas distribution system within the Cities of Bingen and White Salmon to ensure consistent gas supplies for the project area. The nature of this project would involve the local distribution system and include the installation of upgraded pipeline servicing the Cities of Bingen and White Salmon. This project would not involve any pipeline work that would be classified as "transmission" in nature.

Thank you for your time, and please contact me directly if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. Corey Raspone".

R. Corey Raspone, RG  
Environmental Specialist III  
NW Natural  
Office: (503) 630-7392  
Cell: (971) 254-0026

# 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.

## ***A. Background***

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:  
White Salmon Reinforcement
2. Name of applicant:  
NW Natural Gas Company
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:  
250 SW Taylor Street, Portland OR 97204  
Contact: Corey Raspone 971-254-0026

4. Date checklist prepared:  
February 1, 2021

5. Agency requesting checklist:

City of Bingen  
City of White Salmon

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

June 15, 2021 proposed start date and October 31, 2021 maximum end date (the project should not take the entire period from June to October)

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. The entire extent of this project would occur within roadways, right-of-way, and previously disturbed areas. There are no planned disturbances to sensitive areas such as wetland, waterbodies, sensitive ecological areas, or areas with known historical/archeological features.

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.

Local permits for road based work (ex: possibly ROW permits, grading permits, etc.)

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.)

NW Natural is proposing to upgrade the natural gas distribution system which services both the Cities of Bingen and White Salmon. This proposal would include the installation of a 8-inch diameter polyethylene natural gas pipeline between the intersections of: Ash Street and Humboldt Street (Bingen) to E Jewett Blvd and Dock Grade Road (White Salmon). The proposed route would start/stop at the above intersection in Bingen, be routed north to Oak Street (Bingen), then follow Oak Street to E. Jewett Blvd (White Salmon), and terminate at the intersection of E. Jewett Blvd and Dock Grade Road (White Salmon). The total linear footage is approximately 5,500 feet.

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.

Start/Stop: Intersection of Ash Street and Humboldt Street (Bingen)

Start/Stop: Intersection of E. Jewett Blvd. and Dock Grade Road (White Salmon).

The route would follow Ash Street from the above intersection north to Oak Street, then turn westward on Oak Street, then continuing west until E. Jewett Blvd. until reaching the above intersection.

## **B. Environmental Elements**

### **1. Earth**

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)?

Within the project area the steepest slope is approximately 5%.

There are steep slopes in the nearby vicinity, >20%, but the scope of work for this project will be focused within the roadway prism/right-of-way area and will not disturb those slopes.

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.

The predominant soil types within this are silt, silt loams, and loams with gravel and stones. USDA NRCS soil maps indicate the presence of Hood Loam, Leidl-Oreoke Complex (predominantly loams), and Cauly silt loam.

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.

There will be no net filling or grading, as all original surfaces will be restored to their original elevations.

An open trench is required to install the necessary pipeline for this reinforcement. Generally that is a 1.5 to 2-foot wide excavation extending the length of the project. For this project the anticipated total disturbance area from trenching activities is 0.25 acres.

All fill materials required to bring the backfilled surfaces back up to grade will either be source from existing materials (if suitable for backfill) or be imported clean gravels.

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

The potential for erosion for the duration of the project should be minimal. It is proposed to construct the pipeline within the existing right of way and existing paved areas, and this will limit the amount of soil disturbance in areas other than the installation trench itself.

Any soil removed from the trench which is not suitable as backfillsoil generated will be immediately removed from the project area for disposal/recycling. All reusable soils will be handled using best management practices (BMPs) as recommended by WA Ecology construction stormwater management (soils not actively being worked to be covered and temporarily stabilized until the time of re-use).

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

There will be no net creation of impermeable surfaces. All pre-existing surfaces will be restored to their original conditions.

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

NW Natural will be contracting for the completion of an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (<1-acre project disturbance) which will address stormwater management and the placement of BMPs along the project route in order to mitigate/eliminate and erosion and/or stormwater runoff from active project areas. Acceptable BMPs would be those as outlined in the Washington Department of Ecology Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington (biobags, check damns, silt and construction fencing, wattles, construction entrances, etc.) and will be identified within either plan set and deployed prior to construction.

## 2. Air

- 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.

Construction: Temporary emissions during construction will include construction dust and pollutants found in combustion engine exhaust from construction equipment. These types of emissions are limited in nature and should not create unacceptable nuisances.

Operation/Maintenance: Emissions during the operational phase would be considered minimal, with ongoing emissions not anticipated. NW Natural currently owns/operates a smaller diameter pipeline in this same area, and overall emissions would not be expected to change following the completion of this pipeline during its operational phase.

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

There are no sources of off-site emissions or odor that will affect this project.

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

None proposed at this time. NW Natural will comply with any/all local air quality rules.

## 3. Water

- a. Surface Water:

- 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.

There are two surface waterbodies in the immediate vicinity of the project: Jewett Creek (White Salmon) and Dry Creek (Bingen). Jewett Creek appears to be a year-round creek, and Dry Creek appears to be an ephemeral creek bed, both ultimately flow into the Columbia River located 2,000 to 3,000 feet downgradient.

In both cases the pipeline route will have zero disturbance on these creeks, as in both cases the installation would occur at the elevation of the existing roadway and both creeks flow below/under the roadways via previously constructed culvert system.

- 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.

The project will require work within 200 feet of Dry Creek and Jewett Creek, but neither water body will be disturbed as the project will be wholly within the existing roadway/right-of-way area which was originally constructed in a way that allow for this project to have zero disturbance to the waterbodies. There are no planned disturbance



within 200 feet of any waterbodies listed within the Klickitat Shoreline Master Plan (SMP, 8/31/16 maps).

- 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.

None.

- 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. At both waterbodies the proposed work locations are at an elevation above the flood plain (which is closer to the lower elevation of the two waterbodies).

- 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:

- 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.

- 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.

None.

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.

The only potential source of runoff would be stormwater from the existing paved streets. NW Natural will be commissioning an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP) to be implemented prior to the beginning of ground disturbing construction activities. Within this written plan will be BMPs that identify and mitigate the effects of any stormwater runoff and to control the migration of pollutants from the project areas.

- 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:

None.

**4. Plants**

- a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

- deciduous tree: alder, maple, oak, 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?

None.

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



We are not aware of any threatened or endangered plant species within this area. As indicated, the proposed project would be occurring within existing roadways and maintained right of way areas.

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

None.

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

None known.

## 5. *Animals*

- 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  
mammals: deer  
fish: None.

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

There are no known threatened and endangered species known to be present within the immediate vicinity of the project area.

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

The site is within the broad front Pacific flyway for bird migration, but no specific migration route overlaps the area.

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

There are no planned impacts to wildlife and no measures are proposed to preserve or enhance wildlife.

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

None.

## **6. Energy and Natural Resources**

- 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.

Energy will only be required for the construction of the project. Diesel and gasoline will be used by construction equipment and vehicles

- 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**

- 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.

There are no known health hazards, toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste concerns associated with the project area and scope work.

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

There is no known contamination within the project boundary from present or past uses.

NW Natural is aware that there have historical fueling stations within the general vicinity of the project, but there is no information available at this time that would indicate a direct conflict within the project area.

- 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.

There are existing natural gas pipelines within the project limits, they will be located using the one call utility locate system. There are no other known hazardous liquids/gases underground in the area.

- 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.

We anticipate that only limited quantities of gasoline and diesel will be temporarily stored on site during construction. No hazardous chemicals will be required for the operation of the pipeline.

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

None.

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

Spill kits will be retained on site to ensure that all potential pollutants, if spilled, are absorbed/removed and the area cleaned to original condition.

*b. Noise*

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

There are no noises in the area that 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.

Short-term noise will be generated during construction by heavy equipment. Construction will involve excavation of trenches, removing of asphalt and roadbed, paving, directional drilling and general construction traffic. We do not anticipate noise to be created on a long-term basis.

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

All construction will adhere to currently existing noise regulations or noise ordinance requirements (Klickitat County and/or Cities of Bingen and White Salmon as applicable).

**8. Land and Shoreline Use**

- 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 current usage of the project area is roadway and right-of-way area immediately adjacent to the existing roadway. The proposal will have no affect on the land usage of nearby/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 oversize 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?

Public right-of-way (roadway).

Areas immediately adjacent are zoned for residential and commercial use.

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

Public right-of-way

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

The area is not included within the Shoreline Master Program, and is not within 200 feet of any of the listed waterbodies within the Klickitat County SMP.

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?

None.

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

None.

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

None.

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

The natural gas pipeline will be installed below ground and will not affect existing and/or proposed land uses and plans.

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

None.

### **9. Housing**

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:

None.

### **10. Aesthetics**

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?

No.

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

None.

### **11. Light and Glare**

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

None. Construction would generally occur between the hours of 8a.m. to 5p.m. and generally would not require special lighting that would produce glare.

- 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**

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

None within the project boundary.

- 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:

None.

### **13. Historic and cultural preservation**

- 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 known listed buildings or sites at this time. All work is proposed to occur within the existing roadway or right of way.



- 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.

No. The proposed project would be occurring with the existing roadway and/or right-of-way areas, all of which are previously disturbed areas.

- 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.

The project will occur entirely within an existing roadway prism, which by its nature is all previously disturbed. If deemed necessary NW Natural will consult to have an Inadvertent Discovery Plan (IDP) prepared for the project area. The IDP will outline the protocols and procedures involved if a discovery occurs, and will also include the appropriate list of contacts to notify.

- 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.

There are no anticipated impacts to archeological resources for this project, and as such avoidance/minimization/compensation measures are not proposed at this time.

#### **14. Transportation**

- 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.

Ash Street (Bingen)  
Oak Street (Bingen)  
E. Jewett Blvd. (White Salmon)

- 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?

Mt. Adams Transportation Service (MATS) offers public transportation in this region, and the roadways of Oak St. and E. Jewett Blvd. are part of an existing route connecting the general area (Hood River, Bingen, White Salmon). NW Natural will have a traffic control plan prepared in advance which will be developed with the knowledge that this bus route requires continuous operations during the construction phase.

- 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.

No.

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

A Traffic Control Plan (TCP) will be developed prior to construction.

### **15. Public Services**

- 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. Public services should not be affected.

### **16. Utilities**

- 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.

There are no additional supporting utilities required to complete this project.

**C. Signature**

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 COREY RASPONE

Position and Agency/Organization ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST III

Date Submitted: 3/8/21