

SEPA¹ 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.

¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/Checklist-guidance>

Background

[Find help answering background questions](#)²

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Mox Toptana Grays Harbor Fiber Optic Cable Project

2. Name of applicant:

Lars Nyquist, Mox Networks

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

MOX Networks, LLC
Lars Nyquist, VP, OSP & Facilities Infrastructure
450 Duley Rd
El Segundo, CA 90245-5027
920-918-9272
Lars.nyquist@moxnetworks.com

4. Date checklist prepared:

April 28, 2026

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Grays Harbor County, Washington (as lead agency)

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

The proposed project is the Grays Harbor Fiber Optic Cable Project, a regional telecommunications infrastructure project consisting of approximately 79.89 miles of underground fiber optic cable extending from Hogans Corner, north of Ocean Shores, to an existing MOX Networks backbone connection east of Centralia. The alignment traverses portions of Grays Harbor, Thurston, and Lewis Counties and includes incorporated areas of Hoquiam, Aberdeen, Montesano, Elma, Oakville, and Centralia. The project includes installation of underground conduit and fiber optic cable, vaults, bore pits, directional drill crossings, and a small electronics facility near Elma.

Construction is proposed as a single phase and will commence following issuance of all required federal, state, and local permits and approvals. Construction activities will proceed sequentially along the alignment using a combination of trenching, plowing, and horizontal directional drilling (HDD). HDD will be used at major rivers, streams, wetlands, transportation crossings, and other sensitive resources.

Construction duration will depend on permitting, contractor scheduling, and weather conditions. Work will generally proceed from west to east along the corridor, with restoration occurring concurrently or immediately following installation of each completed segment. Following construction, disturbed areas will be restored to pre-construction

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-A-Background>

conditions, and the completed fiber optic system will become operational and maintained within existing transportation and utility corridors.

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

There are no current plans for additions, expansion or activity related to this proposal.

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

REPORT TITLE	AUTHOR	DATE
Critical Area Report - Grays Harbor Fiber Optic Cable Line Project	David Evans and Associates, Inc.	February 2026
Shoreline Substantial Development & Conditional Use Permit Narrative and Burden of Proof Statement	David Evans and Associates, Inc.	April 28, 2026
Cultural Resources Survey for Grays Harbor Fiber Optic Cable Line	Historical Research Associates, inc.	March 2026
Mox Networks Overall Design	FIBE Solutions	January 9, 2026

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.

The Cities of Aberdeen and Hoquiam are working in partnership to design, permit, and build the North Shore Levee to provide flood protection for low-lying parts of the cities between the Wishkah and Hoquiam Rivers north of the Chehalis River.

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

The proposed alignment includes multiple jurisdictions and existing right-of-way corridors, involving multiple permits in multiple communities including Aberdeen, Hoquiam, Montesano, Elma, Oakville, and Centralia, as well as portions of Grays Harbor County, Lewis County, and Thurston County. The following permits/approvals have been identified for this proposal:

Local Permitting
SEPA Threshold Determination
Critical Areas Land Use Permit
Shoreline Permit
Clearing and Grading Permit
Right-of-Way Street Use Permit
Utility Developer Extension Agreement
Floodplain Development
Stormwater Site Plan
Utility Installation Permit
Permissive Use
State Permitting
Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA)
Section 401 Clean Water Act Water Quality Certification

WSDOT General Use Permit
NPDES Construction Stormwater General Permit
Federal Permitting
Section 404 Clean Water Act Permit (JARPA with exhibits, Section 7 ESA Approval, Section 106 NHPA Approval or Exemption)
Section 7 Endangered Species Act Approval (No Effect Letter)
Section 106 NHPA Approval (APE Letter)
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

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.)

The Grays Harbor Fiber Optic Cable Project involves the installation of a new underground fiber optic cable spanning approximately 79.89 miles from Hogan's Corner north of Ocean Shores, WA to MOX Networks' existing backbone splice, east of Centralia, WA. The alignment traverses multiple jurisdictions and existing right-of-way corridors, passing through the communities of Aberdeen (3.90 miles), Hoquiam (4.60 miles), Montesano (1.54 miles), Elma (1.81 miles), Oakville (0.77 miles), and Centralia (2.27 miles), as well as portions of Grays Harbor County (46.14 miles), Lewis County (8.58 miles), and Thurston County (10.12 miles).

The project crosses 48 rivers and streams that support one or more anadromous fish species, including 16 salmon-bearing waterways along the State Route 109 corridor. While most of the cable will be installed via trenching within existing rights-of-way, all river and stream crossings, as well as many roadway and driveway crossings, will be constructed using directional drilling. This trenchless construction method avoids in-water work and minimizes ground disturbance, reducing potential impacts to aquatic resources, wetlands, and fish habitat.

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 alignment traverses multiple jurisdictions and existing right-of-way corridors, passing through the communities of Aberdeen (3.90 miles), Hoquiam (4.60 miles), Montesano (1.54 miles), Elma (1.81 miles), Oakville (0.77 miles), and Centralia (2.27 miles), as well as portions of Grays Harbor County (46.14 miles), Lewis County (8.58 miles), and Thurston County (10.12 miles).

Environmental Elements

1. Earth

[Find help answering earth questions](#)³

a. General description of the site:

Along the project alignment between Hogans Corner and Centralia, Washington, the landscape is predominantly flat to gently rolling, shaped by lowland river valleys, rather than steep terrain. The area is lush and green with extensive tree cover. Towards Centralia, the scenery opens into a mix of farmland, pasture, rural properties, and residential neighborhoods. Overall, the site is a largely rural, low-elevation long corridor characterized by forests mixed with open agricultural fields rather than dramatic steep slopes, hills, or mountains. The project also traverses 48 rivers and streams.

Check One:

- ☒ Flat
- ☒ Rolling
- ☐ Hilly
- ☐ Steep Slopes
- ☐ Mountainous
- ☐ Other – explain ‘other’ here:

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

The steepest slope on the site is approximately 50 percent. Most of the local steep slopes are located between the railroad and adjacent highways, or between the railroad and adjacent waterbodies such as the Chehalis River or the Black River.

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 USDA Web Site Soil Survey indicates that the general types soils found on the site are clay, gravel, sand, and peat. A variety of soils are found along the project corridor. The list below provides several examples though it is not comprehensive.

- Calawah silt loam: Well-drained soil often found in western Washington including parts of Grays Harbor County. The soil is suitable for recreation, timber production, and homesite development.
- Centralia loam: well-drained clay loam soils that can be used for timber production, crop production, and homesite development in cleared areas.

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-earth>

- Chehalis silt loam: Well-drained silt loams found on river floodplains widely used for hay.

Installing underground fiber optic cable through the agricultural soils can disturb the soil, potentially causing compaction, erosion, and changes to drainage if not managed properly. To minimize impacts, Applicant will carefully plan to limit depth and width of the trenching. Exposed areas will be protected with erosion control measures and compacted backfill will be lightly loosened to maintain soil permeability. Following installation, disturbed areas will be restored to stabilize the soil.

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

Due to the project area's flat topography, there are few mapped landslide or steep slope hazard areas. Listed below are some of the steep slope areas adjacent to the route, listed east to west.

- Several locations along Little Hanaford Road (Lewis County)
- Localized side slopes above the Black River (Thurston and Grays Harbor County)
- Localized side slopes adjacent to the Chehalis River (Grays Harbor County)
- Various side slopes adjacent to US Highway 12 (Grays Harbor County and City of Aberdeen)

Although silt loam can be unstable under certain conditions (e.g., steep slopes), most of the cable will be installed within existing right-of-way and the trenching will be done with geotechnical best practices. Exposed soils will be protected from erosion and backfill will be placed and compacted promptly to minimize instability.

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 project proposes clearing, grading, excavating, and filling to install new underground fiber optic cable. Most of this soil movement will be temporary, as soil excavated from the utility trench will be replaced after the conduit is placed. Approximately 50,000 cubic yards of soil would be excavated and replaced during construction.

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

Silt loams can be susceptible to erosion if disturbed by construction (e.g., trenching). Soil erosion is possible during construction from soil disturbance and wind and stormwater runoff. Eroded materials have the potential to adversely affect off-site areas, particularly any drainageways. It is anticipated that there is potential for only minor erosion to occur during construction due to the flat topography and generally limited areas of disturbance

The highest potential for erosion impacts would occur during earthwork activities when ground surfaces would be exposed to surface water runoff during wet weather. As a

result, limited erosion could occur as a result of the initial construction on-site; however, temporary erosion and sedimentation control (TESC) measures will be utilized during the construction phase to minimize potential erosion impacts. Temporary erosion and sedimentation control plans will be submitted to and approved by the jurisdictions prior to any clearing or grading activity.

Typical construction related erosion impacts include silt entering wetlands, creeks, or other water bodies. Use related erosion impacts are unlikely since the site will be stabilized, from an erosion control standpoint, and all storm water will connect to the Civic Park Infiltration Facility, consistent with the adaptive management requirements of the MPD Stormwater Management Plan. Precautions will be taken through the use of best management practices and implementation of the erosion control plan to limit erosion. This would be a part of the grading permits issued by the jurisdictions.

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

This project will not add any impervious surfaces as no structures or paved surfaces are being constructed.

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

To minimize erosion, exposed soils will be protected with mulch and disturbed areas will be promptly revegetated with native vegetation to bind soil with roots. With these measures, trenching from installation of underground fiber optic cable can be conducted safely while reducing the risk of erosion and long term soil degradation.

Stabilization BMPs may include:

- Hydroseed disturbed ground.
- Mulch the ground with straw or wood chips.
- Cover stockpiled soil with plastic.
- Cover disturbed soils during wet weather (if uncovered for more than two days if not being worked).
- Keep staging and travel areas clear of dirt.
- Preserve and minimize removal of natural vegetation.

Structural BMPs may include:

- Install silt fencing around disturbed areas.
- Channel runoff through temporary drainage swales to minimize runoff concentration.
- Install rock check dams, straw bale barriers, or sediment traps to reduce runoff velocity.
- Install rock pad construction entrances.

- Install truck wheel wash as necessary

In addition to the approved TESC plan, the contractor will be monitored by the Washington State Department of Ecology under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES).

The NPDES is an Environmental Protection Administration mandate that is administered locally by the Washington Department of Ecology (DOE). The purpose of this permitting program is to prohibit non-stormwater discharges into storm sewers, to reduce discharge of stormwater-borne pollutants to the maximum extent practical, and to establish a permitting system for stormwater discharges. As part of the NPDES permit requirements, the applicant is required to prepare, and the contractor is required to keep a copy of the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP) on-site for reference. The SWPPP includes objectives to implement BMPs to minimize erosion and sediments from rainfall runoff at construction sites and to identify, reduce, eliminate, or prevent the pollution of stormwater, prevent violations of surface water quality, ground water quality, or sediment management standards, and prevent adverse water quality impacts during construction by controlling peak rates and volumes of stormwater runoff at the permittee's outfall and discharge locations.

2. Air

[Find help answering air questions⁴](#)

- 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.**

The project would produce temporary and localized air emissions. Construction activities and associated vehicles and equipment produce a variety of air emissions lasting the duration of construction. One of the main air emissions is the generation of fugitive dust from earth disturbance. Land clearing, grading, and excavation would disturb the ground. Dust can also be caused by the movement of soil to and from the construction site, particularly if truck loads are not covered. Dust increases the levels of particulate matter in the form of PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ in the atmosphere. Other air emissions resulting from construction vehicle and equipment exhaust include carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and particulate matter. These emissions constitute greenhouse gases (GHGs).

Vehicles also emit a number of mobile source air toxics (MSATs), which are hazardous air pollutants emitted from the incomplete combustion of fuel. These include compounds such as benzene, formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, and 1,3-butadiene, which are known or suspected of causing cancer. Because the project would not result in any meaningful change in the vehicle mix or volumes and would not create long-term mobile emissions resources, the project is considered exempt from analysis for MSATs.

⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-Air>

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

There are no off-site sources of air emissions or odor that would affect the project.

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

The contractor would implement BMPs to reduce emissions during construction. These BMPs may include:

- Street cleaning/sweeping.
- Minimize vehicle and equipment idling time.
- Spray exposed soil with water or other suppressants to reduce fugitive dust emissions and deposition of particulate matter, when necessary.
- Minimize dust emissions during transport of fill material or soil by covering, wetting down, or by ensuring adequate freeboard (space from the top of the material to the top of the truck bed) on trucks.
- Promptly clean up spills of transported material on public roads.
- Schedule work tasks to minimize disruption of the existing vehicle traffic on roadways as much as practical.
- Where feasible, locate construction equipment and truck staging areas away from sensitive receptors and in consideration of potential effects on other resources.
- Cover dirt, gravel, and debris piles as needed to reduce dust and wind-blown debris.
- Cover trucks transporting soil material to minimize dust.
- Use well-maintained construction equipment to reduce emissions.

Project operations are not anticipated to cause any new air quality impacts or worsen the ambient air quality in the area and would not cause any exceedances of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

3. Water

[Find help answering water questions⁵](#)

a. Surface:

[Find help answering surface water questions⁶](#)

⁵ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water>

⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-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.**

Yes, there are numerous water bodies on or in the immediate vicinity of the project site. Some of the major waterbodies include the Chehalis River, Black River, Skookumchuck River, Satsop River, Wynoochee River, Wishkah River, Hoquiam River, Little Hoquiam River, Grass Creek, and the Humptulips River, along with well over 150 wetlands and smaller streams. Please see project Critical Areas Report (DEA 2026) for more information.

- 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, the proposed Grays Harbor Fiber Optic Cable Project will require work over, in, or adjacent to waters, including rivers, streams, and wetlands identified along the approximately 79.89-mile alignment. The route crosses 48 rivers and streams supporting one or more anadromous fish species, including 16 salmon-bearing waterways along the State Route 109 corridor, and intersects numerous wetland areas. Construction will involve temporary impacts to approximately 66 wetlands, totaling just over 3.19 acres of minor, temporary disturbance associated with trenching and restoration activities within existing rights-of-way. These wetland and stream crossings occur where the fiber installation intersects aquatic resources, and the project is designed to address these conditions in accordance with applicable environmental permitting and best management practices.

Nearly all stream and waterbody crossings will be completed using directional drilling (horizontal directional drilling), a trenchless construction method that avoids open-cut excavation through active channels and minimizes disturbance to aquatic habitat and hydrology. Impacts associated with these crossings would be temporary and limited to the duration of construction within the work zones; the substrate and surface conditions will be restored to pre-existing grades and vegetation to the extent feasible following installation.

- 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.**

There will be no fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands. If material is removed from a surface water during trenching, it will be replaced immediately after construction.

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

No, the proposal will not require surface water withdrawals or diversions.

- 5. Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.**

Yes, parts of the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain.

- 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, the proposal does not involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters.

b. Ground:

[Find help answering ground water questions](#)⁷

- 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 a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

No, the project will not withdraw groundwater from a well for drinking water or other purposes.

- 2. Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (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.**

There will be no waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources.

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.**

Rainfall and resulting stormwater are the source of water runoff. During construction, BMPs would be employed to control stormwater. Some of the existing ROW has curb, gutters, and catch basins to collect stormwater, and there are some infiltration trenches. Other roadways have a gravel shoulder with ditches, but many of the areas do not have any existing stormwater treatment or collection that meet standards of different jurisdictions.

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

Waste materials are not likely to enter ground or surface waters. During construction, the contractor would use available and reasonable source control BMPs to prevent spills from reaching storm drains or water bodies. Bore mud will be

⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-Groundwater>

pumped from contained tanks on a mixing truck to the drill. If necessary, straw waddles can be placed around the footprint of the drill. While drilling bore mud is returned into the entry pit and removed with vacuor trailers. Mud that is returned into the entry pit is pumped into a recycler tank and returned to the drill.

3. Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

No, the proposal does not alter or affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site.

4. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

There is a potential that project construction activities could impact water from accidental spills (e.g., fueling operations during construction) and erosion and sedimentation. Measures to reduce these potential construction impacts are described above in Section B.1.h. Because the project would add infiltration where necessary, operation of the project is not anticipated to require any additional mitigation.

4. Plants

[Find help answering plants questions](#)

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?

Most of the cable will be installed within existing rights-of-way. Plant removal is likely to be limited to disturbed vegetation within existing railroad and road prisms, including Himalayan blackberry, reed canarygrass, and various other nonnative invasive species.

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

The following plants have been identified as potentially occurring in the study area:

- Small flowered trillium (*Trillium albidum* spp. *Parviflorum*) – Sensitive
 - White-top aster (*Sericocarpus rigidus*) – Sensitive
 - Threatened: Kincaid’s Lupine (*Lupinus sulphureus* ssp. *Kincaidii*)
- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any.**

No landscaping is proposed.

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

- Bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*)
- Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)
- English ivy (*Hedera helix*)
- Evergreen blackberry (*Rubus laciniatus*)
- Herb-Robert (*Geranium robertianum*)
- Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*)
- Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*)
- Oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)
- Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*)
- Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)
- St. John’s wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
- Tansy ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*)
- Yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*)

5. Animals

[Find help answering animal questions⁸](#)

- a. List any birds and other animals that 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.**

⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-5-Animals>

Below is the list of Endangered Species Act-listed species and the listing status that may occur in the project and action area.

Threatened
Yelm Pocket Gopher (<i>Thomomys mazama yelmensis</i>)
Marbled Murrelet (<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>)
Northern Spotted Owl (<i>Strix occidentalis caurina</i>)
Streaked Horned Lark (<i>Eremophila alpestris strigata</i>)
Western Snowy Plover (<i>Charadrius nivosus nivosus</i>)
Yellow-billed Cuckoo (<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>)
Oregon Spotted Frog (<i>Rana pretiosa</i>)
Monarch Butterfly (<i>Danaus Plexippus</i>)
Kincaid's Lupine (<i>Lupinus sulphureus ssp. Kincaidii</i>)
Proposed Endangered
Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee (<i>Bombus suckleyi</i>)
Under Review
Northwestern Pond Turtle (<i>Actinemys marmorata</i>)

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

The Chehalis Basin has non-ESA listed salmon and steelhead that migrate through the main river and its tributaries. The project occurs in the general area used by migrating bird species known as the Pacific Flyway.

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

Vegetation removal would be minimized where possible considering the project design. No specific measures are proposed or expected to be necessary to preserve or enhance wildlife.

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

American Bullfrog (*Rana [Lithobates] catesbeiana*)

Nutria (*Myocastor coypus*)

6. Energy and natural resources

[Find help answering energy and natural resource questions](https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-6-Energy-natural-resou)⁹

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.

None. The project does not use energy to meet the completed project's energy need.

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

⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-6-Energy-natural-resou>

No, the project would not affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties.

- 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.**

No energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal.

7. Environmental health

[Health Find help with answering environmental health questions](https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-7-Environmental-health)¹⁰

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur because of this proposal? If so, describe.**

Installation of underground fiber optic cable would involve shallow trenching (typically 3-4 feet deep) and placement of non-hazardous materials. Fiber optic cables do not contain toxic chemicals, do not carry electricity, and do not present a risk of fire, explosion, or chemical release. No hazardous materials would be used, stored, or generated as part of the installation.

Excavated soils would be reused as backfill unless previously contaminated materials are encountered which is not anticipated. Standard utility locating procedures would be followed to avoid existing underground utilities.

During construction, it is possible that hazardous materials from equipment and vehicles could occur. A spill prevention and control plan would be prepared and implemented by the contractor to assist in minimizing the potential of accidental release of contaminants into the environment.

Construction of the project involves the use of construction equipment and vehicles, which are typically refueled or serviced as needed at the construction site. Thus, there is the potential for leaks and spills of materials such as fuel, oil, lubricants, and other contaminants onto the ground, which may then be carried offsite into receiving waters or infiltrated into the groundwater by rain and stormwater runoff. Typically, leaks from construction equipment and vehicles are relatively small with minimal potential for adverse impact, especially if the equipment and vehicles are well maintained. Risk of fire or explosion is extremely unlikely.

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

Fiber optic cable and its installation do not produce contaminants into soil or groundwater. Contamination is only a concern if it already exists at the site (e.g., former industrial or commercial land uses, pesticides/herbicides used in agricultural land, spill or leak of diesel or oil, etc). In these cases, trenching could encounter or

¹⁰ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-7-Environmental-health>

temporarily expose contaminated soil which would be addressed in accordance with applicable environmental regulations and standard best management practices.

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.

Trenching for underground fiber optic cable could encounter existing hazardous utilities or pre-existing contaminated soils. The primary risk would be accidental physical disturbance during construction. However, the project would not introduce hazardous materials or increase operational risks associated with existing pipelines. All excavations would be preceded by utility locating and conducted in accordance with standard safety protocols to avoid damage to existing infrastructure. No import or export of contaminated material will occur.

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.

Installation of underground fiber optic cable does not require the storage or use of toxic or hazardous chemicals. Materials used during construction would be limited to fuels, lubricants, and minor construction materials associated with equipment operation. These materials and equipment would be handled and stored in accordance with standard safety and spill prevention practices. No release of hazardous substances is anticipated.

4. Describe special emergency services that might be required.

The project does not involve hazardous materials or operations requiring specialized emergency services. Normal fire, police, and medical responders are sufficient.

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

Installation of underground fiber optic cable would require standard construction best management practices to minimize environmental health hazards. Measures include but are not limited to utility locating, controlled excavation near existing infrastructure, proper fuel and material handling, erosion and sediment controls, spill prevention and response procedures, and protocols for managing any pre-existing contaminated soils encountered during any phase of the project. With implementation of the measures, potential environmental health hazards would be minimized.

Contractors would be required to comply with all applicable health and safety regulations, including State of Washington Department of Labor and Industries General Occupational Health Standards, Chapter 296-62 Washington Administrative Code (WAC), and General Safety and Health Standards, Chapter 296-24 WAC. This includes preparation of a health and safety plan to protect construction workers and the public.

The following measures will be implemented during construction to reduce or control environmental health hazards:

- Any contaminated soil or groundwater encountered during construction will be collected and disposed of in accordance with state and federal regulations.
- A Spill Prevention, Control Countermeasures and Containment Plan will be prepared and implemented for the storage, handling, use or disposal of hazardous materials and comply with the Model Toxics Control Act Cleanup Regulation (WAC 173 340). Specific areas will be designated for equipment repair, fuel storage and refueling, which would include measures for containing spills.
- In the event of a hazardous material spill, the contractor will immediately notify the City of Walla Walla and if necessary call the appropriate emergency response agency. The contractor will be required to have materials on site such as absorbent pads to ensure the spill is contained immediately.
- All hazardous materials used in construction will have a required Material Safety Data Sheet filed on-site.

b. Noise

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

Noise associated with installation of underground fiber optic cable would be limited to temporary construction activities such as trenching and surface restoration. Noise would be intermittent. It would occur during normal daytime construction hours and would be short-term in nature, with no ongoing noise impacts expected upon completion of installation.

Ambient noise in the project area is typical of mixed rural and developed settings and includes background sounds from local traffic on nearby roads, occasional agricultural or rural equipment, and intermittent commercial or industrial operations where present. These existing sources contribute to a varied noise environment that may be perceptible at times but does not substantially affect local land uses under current conditions.

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 would be generated during installation of the underground fiber optic cable from the use of construction equipment such as trenchers, excavators, trucks, and compactors. Construction noise levels could reach up to approximately 85–90 dBA at the source during peak activity. Noise levels at the nearest noise-sensitive receptors, including residences, are conservatively estimated to range from approximately 60 to 75 dBA, depending on equipment type, distance, topography, and shielding.

Construction-related noise would be temporary, intermittent, and limited to daytime hours, consistent with local noise ordinances (typically 7:00 a.m. to 7:00

p.m.). These noise levels are similar to those associated with typical utility and roadway maintenance activities.

No long-term or operational noise impacts would occur following completion of construction, as the fiber optic cable would be installed underground and would not require ongoing noise-generating equipment.

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

Temporary construction noise associated with installation of underground fiber optic cable would be minimized through adherence to local noise ordinances, limiting work to daytime hours, minimizing equipment idling, and prompt completion of work at each work areas.

8. Land and shoreline use

[Find help answering land and shoreline use questions](#)¹¹

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.

Existing road and railroad rights-of-way, and river and stream crossings. The proposal will not affect current land uses on 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 because 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 has not been used as working farmlands or working forest lands.

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, the proposal will not affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

There are no buildings or other permanent structures located directly within the project site itself; however, the Grays Harbor Fiber Optic Cable Project alignment runs through developed rights-of-way and multiple jurisdictions where existing infrastructure elements are present. Along the approximately 79.89-mile route from Hogan's Corner to east of Centralia, the alignment crosses numerous roadways and rail corridors and includes many existing bridges and culverts that traverse rivers, streams, and drainage ways. These features span transportation corridors and water bodies that support fish

¹¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-8-Land-shoreline-use>

habitat and are typical structural components of the existing transportation network. Bridges generally span channels and floodplains, while culverts allow water and hydraulically connected flows to pass beneath roads or other rights-of-way.

In addition to these, the project passes adjacent to typical rights-of-way infrastructure such as paved road surfaces, guardrails, and roadside drainage facilities. The fiber optic cable installation will be underground and will not involve constructing new above-ground structures or modifying the existing bridges and culverts, which remain as part of the pre-existing built environment along the route.

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

No structures will be demolished.

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

Because the alignment traverses multiple jurisdictions, there are several zoning classifications found in the site.

Cities

Aberdeen

- General Commercial (CG)
- Single Family Residential (RS)
- Light Industrial (LI)
- Downtown Commercial (CD)
- Industrial (I)
- Waterfront Development (WD)

Elma

- General Commercial (C3)
- Industrial (I)
- General Residential (GR)
- Rural Residential (RR)

Hoquiam

- General Commercial (C1)
- Industrial (I)
- Downtown Commercial (C2)
- High Density Residential (R2)
- Low Density Residential (R1)

Montesano

- Heavy Commercial (C-2)
- High Density Residential (R3)
- Low Density Residential (R1)
- Major Public Use (MPU)
- Moderate Density Residential (R2)
- Rural Residential (R)

Oakville

- Commercial (C)
- Industrial (I)
- Multi-Family (MF)

Counties

Grays Harbor County:

- Agricultural Use (A-1)
- Long Term Agricultural Use (A-2)
- General Commercial (C2)
- General Development One (G1)
- General Development Five (G5)
- Industrial (I2)
- Restricted Residential (R1)
- Resort Residential (R3)
- Rural Residential (RR)
- General Commercial (C3)
- General Residential (GR)
- Industrial (I)
- Low Density Residential (R1)
- Heavy Commercial (C2)
- Major Public Use (MPU)
- Rural Residential (R)
- Low Density Residential (R1)

Lewis County:

- City
- Forest

- Rural Residential 5 (RDD-5)
- Rural Residential 10 (RDD-10)
- Rural Residential 20 (RDD-20)
- UGA

Thurston County:

- Arterial Commercial (AC)
- Long Term Agriculture (LTA)
- Neighborhood Convenience Commercial (NC)
- Planned Industrial Park (PID)
- Residential 3-6 Units Per Acre (R3-6/1)
- Residential Lamird 1/1 (RL 1/1)
- Rural 1/20 (R 1/20)
- Rural Commercial (RCC)
- Rural Residential Resource 1/4 (RRR1/5)
- Rural Resource Industrial (RR)

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

- **Grays Harbor County**
 - Agricultural
 - Agricultural I
 - Agricultural II
 - General Development Area
 - Industrial
 - Recreational-Residential
 - Residential
 - Rural Development
 - Rural Residential
 - Urban Services
 - Urbanizing
- **Lewis County**
 - ARL
 - City
 - Forest

- RDD-10
- RDD-20
- UGA
- **Thurston County**
 - Arterial Commercial
 - Long Term Agriculture
 - Planned Industrial Park
 - Residential 5-12 Units Per Acre
 - Residential Lamird 1/1
 - Rural 1/20
 - Rural Commercial
 - Rural Residential Resource 1/5
 - Rural Resource Industrial

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

- **Grays Harbor County**
 - High Intensity
 - Incorporated
 - Natural
 - Pacific Ocean
 - Rural Development
- **Lewis County**
 - Aquatic
 - Conservancy
 - High Intensity
 - Rural or Urban
- **Thurston County**
 - Conservancy
 - Natural
 - Rural
 - Urban

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

Yes. Numerous wetlands and streams have been identified along the project alignment. Other critical areas, including floodplains, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, and geologic hazard areas, are also present in various locations.

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.

No measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts are proposed by this project as it will not displace any.

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

No measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans are proposed by this project as it involves installation of underground fiber optic cable mainly within existing right-of-way.

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

No measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance as the project will not impact any agricultural and forest lands.

9. Housing

[Find help answering housing questions](#)¹²

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

No housing units would be created as part of this project.

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

The proposed project would not result in the elimination of any housing units.

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

The proposed project is not anticipated to result in housing impacts, given that installing a new fiber optic cable underground does not require removal of homes, relocation of residents, or changes to residential building footprints.

¹² <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-9-Housing>

10. Aesthetics

[Find help answering aesthetics questions](#)¹³

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?**

The proposed project does not involve the construction or placement of any permanent or temporary structures.

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

The proposed project would not result in visual impacts to the immediate vicinity as it involves underground installation of fiber optic cable only.

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

The proposed project consists solely of underground installation of a new fiber optic cable and does not include the construction of any above-ground or below-ground structures. As a result, the proposed project will not affect existing views, visual character, or the immediate vicinity. Also, no impacts to housing are anticipated. Because no visual or aesthetic impacts would occur, no measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts are required.

11. Light and glare

[Find help answering light and glare questions](#)¹⁴

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

During construction there may be a need for night work, which would require night lighting to safely illuminate the work area. That light could spill over into commercial or residential areas adjacent to the project area. If such construction lighting were necessary, it would be of a short-term nature.

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?**

The proposed project consists solely of underground installation of a new fiber optic cable and does not include the construction of any above-ground or below-ground structures which would emit light or glare.

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?**

No existing off-site sources of light or glare would affect the project.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:**

¹³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-10-Aesthetics>

¹⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-11-Light-glare>

The proposed project is limited to underground installation of a new fiber optic cable and would not generate light or glare impacts. Therefore, no measures to reduce or control such impacts are proposed.

12. Recreation

[Find help answering recreation questions](#)

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

Sam Benn Park, Makarenko Park, Central Park, Lake Sylvia State Park, Vance Creek County Park, Elma Veterans Memorial Park, Larson Hill Campground, Oakville City Park, Oakville Baseball Field, Sky'mn Park, and Makum Park are all located within the project area.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

Because the fiber optic cable will be installed within existing road and railroad rights-of-way, the project design has not identified specific recreational facilities or trail segments that would be permanently altered by the project. The project alignment generally parallels public infrastructure corridors where open space and recreational uses are not typically mapped as discrete parks or trail systems within the right-of-way itself. Any potential recreational features adjacent to the route exist outside the narrow construction footprint and are not expected to be directly occupied or removed by the project.

Installation of the underground fiber optic cable may temporarily affect recreational uses if construction trenches or equipment access cross multi-use paths, fields, or trail segments that intersect the rights-of-way. Any such temporary displacement would be short-term and localized, limited to the duration of trenching and restoration activities. Surfaces disturbed during construction would be restored to pre-construction conditions, and there would be no permanent displacement or loss of recreational use as a result of the project.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

Temporary impacts to recreational areas during the construction would be minimized through the use of temporary fencing, signage, and alternative access routes to maintain safe and continuous recreational uses. Construction would be scheduled to avoid peak hours and periods. All disturbed surfaces would be restored to pre-construction conditions. Coordination with park or trail managers of different jurisdictions would ensure minimal disruption.

Find help answering historic and cultural preservation questions¹⁵

- **Hoquiam**

Construction Year(*): Not identified on WISSARD (Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data). Google search result inserted instead

SEPA Environmental checklist
(WAC 197-11-960)

○ Aberdeen

Register Name	Hotel Morck	Union Pacific Railroad Depot - Aberdeen	Finch Building	Chehalis River Bridge	Sierra (Motor Ship)
Construction Year	1924*	Unclear	1910*	1955*	1916*
Eligibility (National, State, or Local)	National Register; Washington Heritage Register	Removed from Listing	Removed from Listing	Washington Heritage Register	National Register; Washington Heritage Register

Construction Year(*): Not identified on WISSARD (Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data). Google search result inserted instead



Image 2. Register Properties in Aberdeen (WISAARD)

○ Centralia

Register Name	Everest, Wesley, Gravesite	Hubbard Bungalow	Birge, George E., House	Armistice Day Riot
Construction Year	1930s*	Around 1908*	Around 1893*	November 11, 1919

Eligibility (National, State, or Local)	National Register; Washington Heritage Register	National Register; Washington Heritage Register	National Register; Washington Heritage Register	Washington Heritage Register
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Construction Year(*): Not identified on WISSARD (Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data). Google search result inserted instead

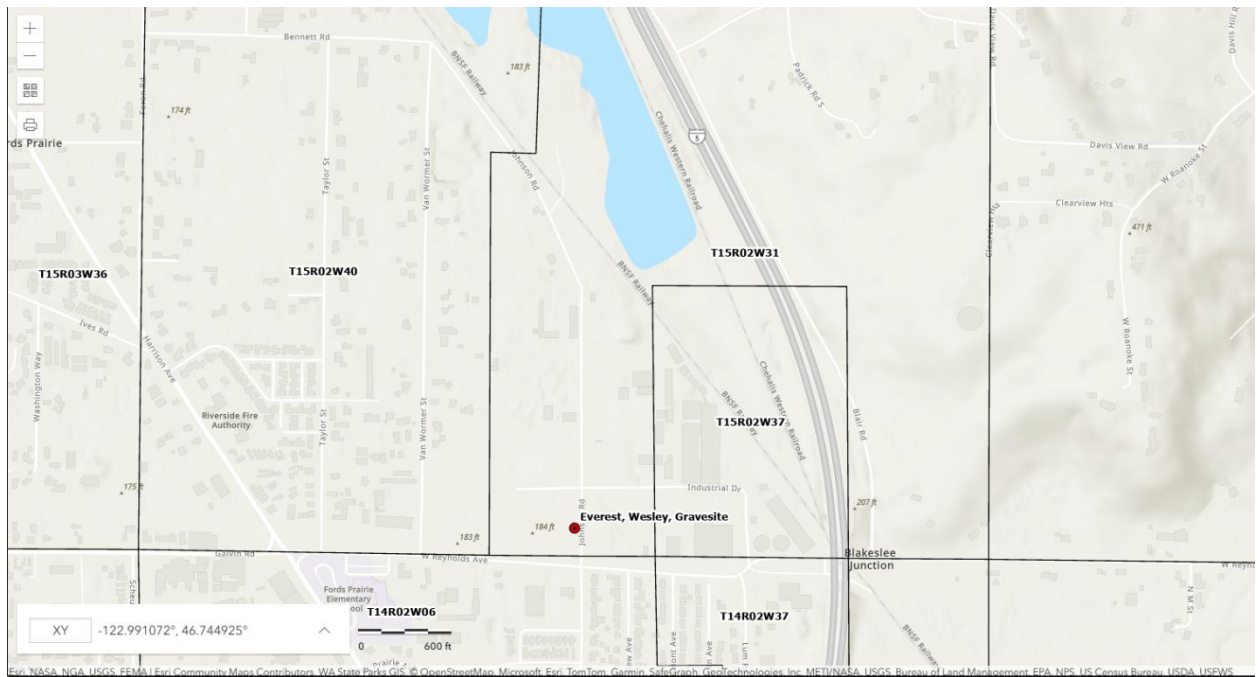


Image 3. Register Properties in Centralia (WISAARD)

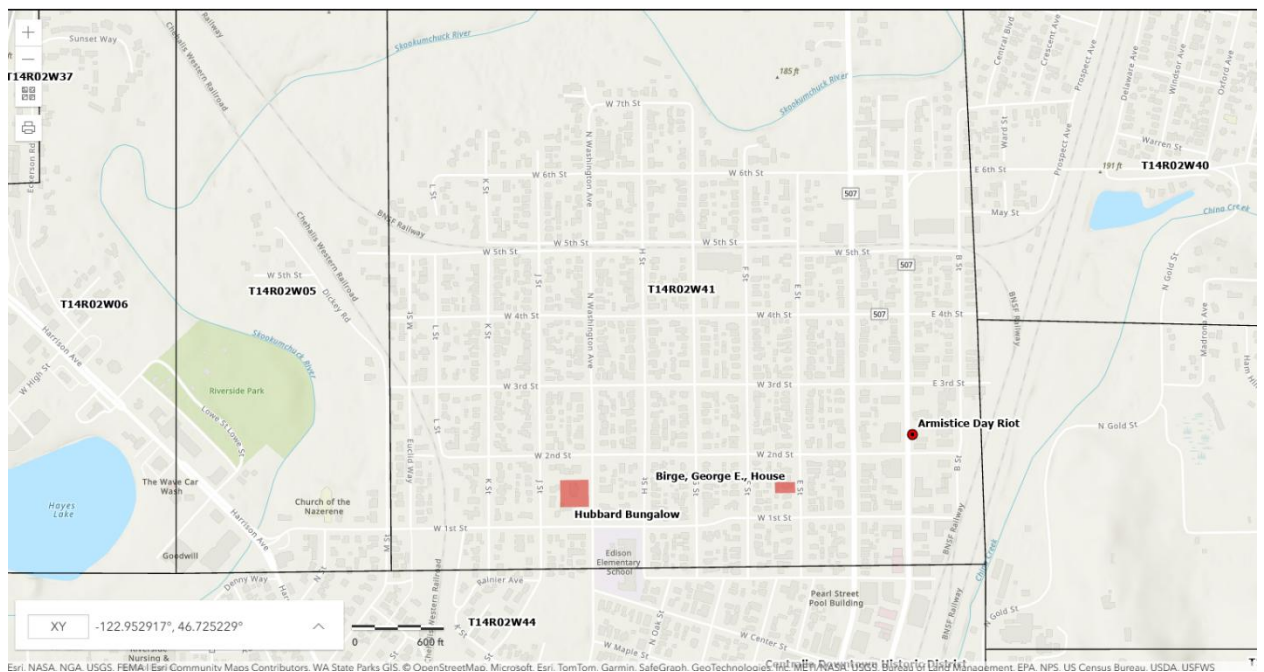


Image 4. Register Properties in Centralia (WISAARD)

- 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.

There are 21 archaeological resources within the Survey Area. Four are previously recorded archaeological sites that intersect the Survey Area (45LE1106, 45GH58,

45GH570, and 45GH13). There were 17 identified archaeological resources identified during the pedestrian survey. These are seven historic-period isolates and 10 historic-period sites.

There are six National Register-eligible resources: four transmission lines, one bridge, and the BNSF railway.

For unevaluated resources, 157 structures were found within the APE, but most of them are culverts or bridges that are exempt from review, based on previous program comments and agreements. The final 30 unevaluated resources are primarily railroad bridges.

Please see the project Cultural Resources Report (HRA 2026) for more information.

- 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.**

Available online resources including the Washington State Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation research mapping tool referred to as the WISAARD were reviewed. The SEPA process includes consultation with outside agencies, including Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) potentially affected Native American tribes, to assess possible impacts to or existence of cultural and historic resources. An Archaeological and Cultural Resources Report has been prepared for the project.

- 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.**

All known historic, cultural, and archaeological resources in the project area will be preserved to the maximum extent feasible. Construction activities will be designed to avoid direct impacts, and sensitive areas will be monitored by a qualified cultural resource specialist. An Inadvertent Discovery Plan (IDP) will be implemented for any unanticipated finds, including immediate work stoppage, notification of the project manager, SHPO, and relevant tribal authorities, assessment and documentation of the resource, and mitigation in consultation with regulatory and tribal representatives. Mitigation may include avoidance, recovery, or curation of artifacts, with restoration of disturbed areas as appropriate. All applicable permits and consultations, including Section 106 review and SHPO approval, will be obtained prior to construction, and all personnel will receive cultural resources awareness training to ensure compliance with the IDP.

14. Transportation

[Find help with answering transportation questions](#)¹⁶

- 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 Grays Harbor Fiber Optic Cable Project is located entirely within existing public street, highway, and rail rights-of-way and other transportation corridors; it does not require establishment of new access points to off-site roads. The primary roadways along or adjacent to the project alignment include U.S. Highway 12 (US 12), which serves as the main east-west highway connecting Aberdeen, Elma, Oakville, and Centralia and provides regional access through Grays Harbor, Lewis, and Thurston Counties; US 12 also interfaces with the Interstate 5 corridor near Centralia/Chehalis. In the Hoquiam–Ocean Shores area, the alignment parallels and crosses State Route 109 (SR 109), a north–south state highway serving coastal communities including Hoquiam and Ocean Shores. Additional local and county roads along the alignment provide access within and between communities, including various two-lane county routes east of Centralia that serve rural segments of the project; these local road names and designations will be documented on the project’s site plans and construction traffic control plans.

Proposed access for construction will be via these existing public streets and highways, with crews mobilizing and working from rights-of-way that already accommodate vehicular and service access. Where necessary, temporary construction access points and staging areas will be established in compliance with jurisdictional permitting and traffic control requirements to ensure safe ingress and egress from the public road system. Emergency and local traffic will be maintained in accordance with approved transportation management plans during construction activities.

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- 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?**

The general project area is located within communities and corridors served by public transit, including Grays Harbor Transit. While the project alignment itself (installation of underground fiber optic cable) is not directly served by transit, portions of the project corridor occur near existing transit routes and stops within Aberdeen, Hoquiam, Montesano, Elma, Oakville, and Centralia. In areas where transit stops are not immediately adjacent to the project, the nearest transit service is generally within 0.5 to 2 miles of the work corridor. Construction and access plans will be coordinated to avoid interference with transit operations wherever feasible.

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¹⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-14-Transportation>

- c. **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, the proposal will not require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities.

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

Yes, the project is located in the immediate vicinity of rail transportation. The alignment crosses or parallels rail corridors operated by the Puget Sound & Pacific Railroad (a private line under Genesee & Wyoming, Inc.) and BNSF Railway. All work near these rail lines will be coordinated with the respective railroad companies to ensure safety and minimize disruption to rail operations.

- e. **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?**

No vehicular trips would be generated by the completed project as the project is installation of underground fiber optic cable.

- f. **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, the proposal will not interfere with the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area.

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

Emergency vehicle access would be maintained through the construction zone at all times. Access to residential and commercial uses would be retained. Road lane closures or detours would be coordinated through approvals from jurisdictions.

15. Public services

[Find help answering public service questions¹⁷](#)

- 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.**

Construction could temporarily impact emergency vehicle response times because of temporary lane closures, detours, or other access issues. The underground installation of a new fiber optic cable itself would not increase the need for any public services.

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

¹⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-15-public-services>

Construction mitigation would include ensuring that emergency vehicles can safely and quickly pass through the construction zone and that any lane/road closures or detours are communicated to the various emergency service providers prior to construction.

16. Utilities

[Find help answering utilities questions¹⁸](#)

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site:

- ☒ Electricity
- ☒ Natural Gas
- ☒ Water
- ☒ Refuse Service
- ☒ Telephone
- ☒ Sanitary Sewer
- ☐ Septic System
- ☐ Other _____

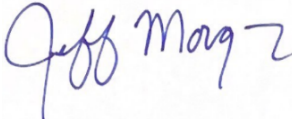
b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

The project requires temporary utility support for construction including electricity, gasoline, and diesel fuel for equipment and water for dust control. Local fuel providers would supply gas and diesel. Electrical service would be provided by the local electrical service companies.

Signature

[Find help about who should sign¹⁹](#)

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.

X 

Type name of signee:

Position and agency/organization:

Date submitted:

¹⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-16-utilities>

¹⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-C-Signature>

Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions

[Find help for the nonproject actions worksheet²⁰](#)

Do not use this section for project actions.

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

- **Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:**

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

- **Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:**

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

- **Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:**

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection, such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

- **Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:**

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

²⁰ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-d-non-project-actions>

- **Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:**

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

- **Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:**

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.