

## WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist

### ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

#### *Purpose of checklist:*

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

#### *Instructions for applicants:*

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

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.

#### *Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:*

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

#### A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

**Adoption of rules, Chapter 463-85 WAC, to implement a greenhouse gases emissions performance standard and sequestration plans for baseload power plants and Chapter 463-80 WAC to implement carbon dioxide mitigation requirements for thermal power projects under the jurisdiction of the Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council.**

2. Name of applicant: **Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC)**

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

**Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council  
905 Plum Street SE  
PO Box 43172  
Olympia, WA 98504-3172**

**Allen Fiksdal 360-956-2152**

4. Date checklist prepared: **January 2008**

5. Agency requesting checklist: **Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council**

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

**EFSEC will file the CR-102 for the proposed rules with the State Code Reviser in February 2008 and hold public hearings in March 2008. As required in Chapter 80.80 RCW the Chapter 463-85 WAC rule will be adopted by June 30, 2008. It expected that Chapter 463-80 WAC will be adopted at the same time.**

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

**RCW 80.80.040 states that the greenhouse gases emissions performance standard for all baseload electric generation will be the lower of 1,100 pounds per MWh or the average available greenhouse gases emissions output as determined under RCW 80.80.050. The Energy Policy Division of the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development is directed under RCW 80.80.050 to adopt by rule, every five years beginning June 30, 2013, the average available greenhouse gases for new combined-cycle natural gas thermal electric generation turbines. EFSEC’s rule will need to be updated every five years to include the new emissions performance standard.**

**RCW 80.70.020 states fossil-fueled thermal electric power facilities shall mitigate twenty percent of the total carbon dioxide emissions. Mitigation may be accomplished by paying \$1.60 per metric ton of carbon dioxide. RCW 80.70.020 allows EFSEC to adjust the rate per ton biennially as long as the increase does not exceed 50% of the current rate. EFSEC may adjust the rate based on review of carbon dioxide mitigation costs.**

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

**Not applicable.**

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.

**Not applicable - These rules does not apply to any particular site. Once an application is made for a site-specific project that is subject to these rules, the project will receive public notice and SEPA review.**

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

**Not applicable.**

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.)

**This proposal is for a rule (Chapter 463-85 WAC) that establishes an emissions performance standard (EPS) and sequestration plans for greenhouse gases for all baseload electric generation under EFSEC jurisdiction for which electric utilities enter into long-term financial commitments on or after July 1, 2008, as specified in RCW 80.80.040 and the draft rule, WAC 463-85-120. The EPS limits emissions to no more than 1,100 pounds of greenhouse gases per megawatt hour, annual average. Those power plants subject to the EPS must comply through use of fuels and power plant designs that comply with the EPS or through use of greenhouse gases emissions controls and sequestration methods. Currently there is no state or federal rules restricting emissions of greenhouse gases. These**

**This proposal for the second rule (Chapter 463-80 WAC) sets the methodology for calculating the 20% carbon dioxide emissions from fossil-fueled thermal power facilities, the methods for carbon dioxide mitigation, and the criteria and method for initiating and maintaining a list of Independent Qualified Organizations that may be funded to conduct the carbon dioxide mitigation.**

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.

**These rules do not apply to any particular site.**

**Chapter 463-85 WAC will apply to all baseload electric generation and cogeneration facilities, and fossil-fueled units under EFSEC jurisdiction that are:**

- (1) New and are permitted for construction and operation after June 30, 2008 that utilize fossil fuel or nonrenewable fuels for all or part of their fuel requirements.**
- (2) Existing and that commence operation on or before June 30, 2008 when the facility or unit’s owner or operator engages in an action listed below:**
  - **A baseload electric generation facility or an individual electric generating unit at a baseload electric generation facility is required to meet the emissions performance standard in effect when:**
    - (a) The new baseload electric generation facility or new electric generating unit at an existing baseload electric generation facility is issued a Notice of Construction approval or a Site Certification Agreement,**
    - (b) The existing facility or a unit is upgraded, or**
    - (c) The existing facility or a unit is subject to a new long-term financial commitment.**
  - **A baseload electric cogeneration facility or unit is required to meet the emissions performance standard in effect when:**
    - (a) The new baseload electric cogeneration facility or new cogeneration unit is issued a Notice of Construction approval or a Site Certification Agreement,**
    - (b) The existing facility or unit is upgraded, or**
    - (c) The existing facility or unit is subject to a change in ownership.**

**Chapter 463-80 WAC will apply to all fossil-fueled thermal generation facilities that are 350 thousand kilowatts or greater and fossil fueled floating thermal generation facilities that are 100 thousand kilowatts or greater that have applied to EFSEC after June 1, 2004.**

**B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS**

**1. Earth**

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other . . . . .

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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 prime farmland.

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

**2. Air**

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

**This proposal will reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by establishing an EPS of 1,100 pounds per megawatt hour for baseload electric generation and cogeneration facilities and units and mitigate 20% of carbon dioxide emissions.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**The proposal will require greenhouse gases emissions controls for all baseload power plants subject to the EPS and mitigation of carbon dioxide.**

**3. Water**

a. Surface:

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.

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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.

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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.

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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.

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

b. Ground:

1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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.

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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.

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific. See response to 3(b)(1) above.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific. See response to 3(b)(1) above.**

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

\_\_\_\_\_ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

\_\_\_\_\_ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

\_\_\_\_\_ shrubs

\_\_\_\_\_ grass

\_\_\_\_\_ pasture

\_\_\_\_\_ crop or grain

- \_\_\_\_\_ 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?

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

**5. Animals**

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

**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.

**Baseload power plants subject to the EPS utilize fossil fuels or non-renewable fuels for all or part of their operations. Fossil fuel is defined as natural gas, petroleum, coal, or any form of solid, liquid, or gaseous fuel derived from such material to produce heat for the generation of electricity. Baseload power plants that utilize a renewable fuel for at least ninety percent of its total heat input are not subject to the EPS. Renewable fuel is defined as landfill gas, biomass energy, by-products of pulping or wood manufacturing processes, and gas from sewage treatment facilities.**

**Fossil-fueled power facilities subject to the carbon dioxide mitigation requirements would use natural gas, coal, or petroleum.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

- 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:

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

**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.

**To the extent that these rules result in lowering the emissions of greenhouse gases, the proposed rules should reduce environmental health impacts caused by greenhouse gases.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

**b. Noise**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

- 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.

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

**8. Land and shoreline use**

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

**9. Housing**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

**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?

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

**11. Light and glare**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

**12. Recreation**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

**13. Historic and cultural preservation**

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

**14. Transportation**

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

#### 15. Public services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

#### 16. Utilities

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

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.

**Not applicable - This proposal is not site specific.**

C. SIGNATURE

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR  
AGENCY USE ONLY

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: /s/

Date Submitted: 3/17/08

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(do not use this sheet 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?

**The proposal will *reduce* air emissions of greenhouse gases from the baseload and thermal power plants that will be subject to these rules.**

**Chapter 463-85 WAC provides the option for a baseload power plant to geologically sequester CO<sub>2</sub> in order to meet the greenhouse gases emissions performance standard. Geologic sequestration would involve drilling wells and injecting CO<sub>2</sub> permanently into deep geologic formations. The Department of Ecology’s proposed amendments to WAC 173-218 contain requirements to protect ground water from contamination from this process.**

**Chapter 463-80 WAC provides for mitigation of carbon dioxide emission by direct actions of the power plant, purchase of carbon credits, or payment to an Independent Qualified Organization which would see that carbon dioxide mitigation was accomplished.**

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

**This proposal will reduce or mitigate emissions to the air.**

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

**The proposed rule will *reduce* the amount of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere.**

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

**Not applicable.**

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

**The implementation of the rules may *reduce* the amount of coal that is used to produce electricity and increase the amount of natural gas that is used to produce electricity if baseload power plants built after July 1, 2008 choose to build natural gas fired plants in order to meet the greenhouse gases emissions performance standard. It may also encourage, in the long term, the additional use of wind, solar and tidal energy. The use of renewable resources as fuel will also be encouraged.**

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

**The proposed rules do not have measures to reduce energy use. However, the implementation of this rule might result in energy conservation.**

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?

**Not applicable.**

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

**Not applicable.**

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?

**These rules are not site specific, but will apply to baseload power plant subject to the greenhouse gases emissions performance standard and other fossil fueled electrical generation facilities that are 350 megawatts or greater or floating generation facilities that are 100 megawatts or greater that are under EFSEC jurisdiction.**

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

**These rules would implement measures to help reduce climate change resulting in reduced impacts from the effects of climate change to shoreline and land uses.**

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

**Not applicable.**

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

**Not applicable.**

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

**No conflicts with current rules, regulations, laws or statutes are expected.**