

**WHATCOM COUNTY**

Planning & Development Services  
5280 Northwest Drive  
Bellingham, WA 98226-9097  
360-778-5900, TTY 800-833-6384  
360-778-5901 Fax



**Mark Personius, AICP**  
Director

**REVISED**

SEPA Distribution List  
SEP2017-00103

Date of Issuance: April 19, 2018

Please review this determination. If you have further comments, questions or would like a copy of the SEPA checklist, phone the responsible official at (360) 778-5900. ~~Please submit your response by the comment date noted on the attached notice of determination.~~

WA State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation via email Gretchen Kaehler, [gretchen.kaehler@dahp.wa.gov](mailto:gretchen.kaehler@dahp.wa.gov)

SEPA Unit, WA State Department of Ecology, Olympia via email [sepaunit@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:sepaunit@ecy.wa.gov)

WA State Department of Ecology, via email  
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Biologist, Doug Gresham, [doug.gresham@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:doug.gresham@ecy.wa.gov)  
Water Quality Certification, Kerry Carroll, [kerry.carroll@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:kerry.carroll@ecy.wa.gov)

WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife via email  
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Game Biologist, Fenner Yarborough via email [richard.yarborough@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:richard.yarborough@dfw.wa.gov)  
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US Army Corp of Engineers  
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Merle Jefferson, Sr. via email - [merlej@lummi-nsn.gov](mailto:merlej@lummi-nsn.gov)  
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Nooksack Indian Tribe  
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ESA Biologist United States Fish and Wildlife Service via email  
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Jim Muck, via email – [jim\\_muck@fws.gov](mailto:jim_muck@fws.gov)

Aquatic Ecologist, United States Environmental Protection Agency via email  
Linda Storm, via email [storm.linda@epa.gov](mailto:storm.linda@epa.gov)

Applicant, Williams/Northwest Pipeline LLC  
c/o Edge Environmental via email  
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Federal Energy Regulatory Commission via email  
Douglas Cotton – [douglas.cotton@ferc.gov](mailto:douglas.cotton@ferc.gov)

National Marine Fisheries Fisheries Service via email  
Janet Curran - [Janet.curran@noaa.gov](mailto:Janet.curran@noaa.gov)

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**Mark Personius, AICP**  
Director

**REVISED****SEPA Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance (MDNS)<sup>1</sup>**

**File:** SEP2017-00103

**Project Description:** Route existing 1,700 ft. of 30 inch gas pipeline deeper by adding a lowered 1,700 ft. section of 30 inch gas pipeline, removal of the existing 1,700 ft. of 30 inch gas pipeline, and removal of 1,550 ft. of previously abandoned-in-place 26 inch pipeline which will be exposed during the construction within the floodplain of the North Fork Nooksack River. Proposal includes mitigation through a combination of purchase of Lummi Wetland Credits or equivalent mitigation within the watershed; and on-site restoration, wildlife management plans, and monitoring and quality control for impacts to ESA and PHS species, floodplain functions, 5.72 acres of wetlands, and 8 streams.

**Proponent:** Williams/Northwest Pipeline LLC

**Address and Parcel #:** 3904231453590000, 3905321010340000, 3905322320960000, 3905323320370000, 3905321840420000, 3805052604740000, 3805051554740000, 3805051863710000, 3805051222740000, 3805059999130000, Whatcom County Right-of-Way, 111-5626 (Tribal Trust Allotment Land) Old Westerly River Channel (State of Washington) North Fork Nooksack River (State of Washington), Tribal Trust Allotment 111-5626,

**Zoning:** RF      **Comp Plan:** Rural Forestry      **Shoreline Jurisdiction:** Conservancy

**Lead Agency:** Whatcom County Planning & Development Services

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that with proper mitigation, no significant adverse environmental impacts are likely. Pursuant to RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c), an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required. This decision was made following review of a completed SEPA environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

**The following documents have been reviewed prior to this Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance:**

1. SEPA Checklist (9/20/2017); SEPA Errata Sheets (5a,5c,7a2, 7a5, 2/22/2018)
2. Shoreline Substantial and Shoreline Conditional Use applications (9/20/2017)
3. Land Disturbance Permit application (9/20/2017)
4. Environmental Assessment, Biological Assessment and other attachments (USFWS 11/14/2017)
5. REVISED Wetland, Waterbody and Critical Areas Buffer Mitigation Plan, Revised March 2018
6. REVISED Mitigation Bank Use Plan Revised March 2018
7. REVISED Fish Exclusion and Relocation Plan, February 2018
8. Resource Report 1 – General Project Description Resource and REVISED Appendix 1A – Erosion Control and Revegetation Plan (Revised March 2018)

<sup>1</sup> Whatcom County PDS is using the revision process to the original MDNS dated April 5, 2018 as outlined in WAC 197-11-340(2)(f). This revision is being circulated to the distribution list. The revision process is being utilized to address comments received for correction from the applicant. Changes to the ~~original DNS~~ MDNS are shown as underlines.

9. Resource Report 2 – Water Use and Quality
10. Resource Report 3 – Fish Wildlife and Vegetation
11. Resource Report 6 – Geological Resources
12. Resource Report 3 – Fish Wildlife and Vegetation
13. Resource Report 7 – Soils
14. Resource Report 8 – Land Use, Recreation and Aesthetics Resource
15. Report 9 – Air and Noise Quality Resource
16. Report 10 – Alternatives
17. Resource Report 11 – Reliability and Safety
18. Resource Report 12 – PCB Contamination

☒ There is no comment period for this MDNS.

☐ Pursuant to WAC 197-11-340(2), the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date of issuance indicated below. Comments must be received by 4:00 p.m. on \_\_\_\_\_ and should be sent to:

**Responsible Official:** Mark Personius, mpersoni@whatcomcounty.us

**Title:** Director

**Telephone:** 360-778-5900

**Address:** 5280 Northwest Drive  
Bellingham, WA 98226

**Date of Issuance:** April 19, 2018

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_



An aggrieved agency or person may appeal this determination to the Whatcom County Hearing Examiner. Application for appeal must be filed on a form provided by and submitted to the Whatcom County Current Planning Division located at 5280 Northwest Drive, Bellingham, WA 98226, during the ten days following the comment period, concluding April 28, 2018.

You should be prepared to make a specific factual objection. Contact Whatcom County Current Planning Division for information about the procedures for SEPA appeals.

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**Mark Personius, AICP**  
Director

**REVISED**

SEP2017-00103

**Mitigated Determination of Non-significance (MDNS)****Mitigating Conditions:**

Adverse Impacts by the proposed development can be caused at the commencement of construction. Therefore, the Whatcom County SEPA Official finds that, pursuant to Substantive Authority, as allowed by WCC 16.08, the following SEPA mitigating conditions shall be required as a condition of the underlying permit:

1. Reduce impact associated with amphibian and fish salvaging and isolating and dewatering approximately 1.2 miles of Jim Creek:
  - a. The Whatcom County Planning Department Natural Resources staff is to be notified when construction starts ([epage@whatcomcounty.us](mailto:epage@whatcomcounty.us))
  - b. Personnel conducting amphibian and fish capture and handling will have the necessary training, knowledge, skills and abilities to ensure the safe handling of all ESA and PHS listed fish and amphibians.
  - c. Fish and amphibian capture operations are to be conducted only by or under the direct supervision of a trained and experience fishery and amphibian biologist.
  - d. All personnel operating electrofishing equipment will have appropriate training and experience with electrofishing techniques.
  - e. An adequate number of trained, experience personnel to conduct fish capture and removal will be available at all times during the salvage operation.
  - f. Flow diversion, work site isolation and channel dewatering will proceed at a slow and measured pace to encourage the volitional downstream movement of fish and amphibians and reduce the risk of stranding but will be completed between sunrise and sunset so that there is sufficient light to safely inspect dewatered areas and isolated pools trapped and stranded fish and amphibians
  - g. Sanctuary dip nets, beach seines, and block nets composed of soft (non-abrasive) nylon material.
  - h. Electrofishing will be used only after all means of fish capture have been exhausted (e.g., a minimum of three complete pass of the seine without fish capture).
  - i. Electrofishing will comply with NMFS' Backpack Electrofishing Guidelines (NMFS, 2000).
  - j. Fish and amphibian salvagers will regularly inspect block nets for impinged or dead fish or amphibians.
  - k. Within 90 days of completed construction provide a fish and amphibian salvage report to [epage@whatcomcounty.us](mailto:epage@whatcomcounty.us) describing fish and amphibian removal methods used, number and age/size class removed from construction site by species, number of fish and amphibians killed and number of amphibians and fish injured by species. Any explanation of the

cause of death or injury and follow up actions taken in response to death or injury.

2. Minimize impacts from clearing matures shrubs and trees in the wetlands and associated buffers. The FERC shall ensure the purchase of credits from the Lummi Wetland and habitat Mitigation Bank as described in the proposed action and provide a copy of the ledger recording the transaction to [epage@whatcomcounty.us](mailto:epage@whatcomcounty.us) or provide equivalent mitigation elsewhere in the watershed such as potential wetland enhancement sites upstream of the North Fork/South Fork confluence. FERC shall provide a post-construction report of actual acres cleared and specific mitigation action taken to [epage@whatcomcounty.us](mailto:epage@whatcomcounty.us). A copy of an approval letter from the Lummi Nation stating the correct amount of credits has been reserved for the proposed impacts.
3. Minimize take associated with down-ramping the return water. Down-ramping shall be limited to a rate of 1 to 2 inches per hour or less of surface water elevation drop (Hunter, 1992) and FERC shall ensure that a fish salvage crew is onsite working during down-ramping. Results of the fish salvage effort shall be included in the fish salvage report outlined under number 1 above.
4. During in-stream fish, amphibian and mollusk exclusion practices, the following best management practices shall be followed:
  - a. No placement of tadpoles into swift moving river areas. Tadpoles shall be relocated to wetland pasture areas with adequate sunlight and water to sustain metamorphosis
  - b. Amphibians and fish are to be kept in separate holding containers
  - c. All recommendations in the fish exclusion plan shall be followed
5. A water quality testing and monitoring protocol for groundwater de-watering and pumping shall be submitted to [epage@whatcomcounty.us](mailto:epage@whatcomcounty.us) and subsequently approved by a Whatcom County technical administrator prior to issuance of development permits from Whatcom County.
6. If an active, occupied Bald or Golden Eagle nest is found at any time, work shall stop until all chicks have fledged the nest.
7. No snags shall be felled during pileated woodpecker nesting season (March 1 to July 1)
8. Any incidental occurrence of Western Toad (*Anaxyrus boreas*) shall result in the gathering of toads or toadlets and they be moved outside of the project area.
9. Any incidental observations of PHS listed wildlife shall be recorded. If the incidental observation is indication of breeding behavior, then work shall stop and Whatcom County and WDFW shall be notified immediately of the siting.
10. All areas outside of the existing pasture area within the pipeline easement shall be re-vegetated to the density and diversity of pre-existing conditions with native trees and shrubs as shown in the approved planting plan
- ~~11. Williams pipeline has stated that they prefer to submit a final planting plan for review AFTER the ground has been disturbed and the pipeline has been lowered. This final planting plan, authored by a qualified biologist per Whatcom County Code, shall have the following components and be approved by Whatcom County Natural Resources staff prior to installation:~~
  - ~~a. Goals and objectives of the restoration of all critical areas disturbed. Critical areas include WDFW PHS listed species and habitat, Species of Federal Listing, Wetlands and Associated Buffers, Streams and Associated Buffers, Shorelines of the state and associated buffers.~~



- ~~b. Performance standards that, if met, demonstrate how the restoration is meeting Goals and Objectives~~
- ~~c. An itemized monetary amount for Mitigation Assurety~~
- ~~12. Williams shall demonstrate that it has sufficient funds and expertise for critical area mitigation contingency pursuant to WCC 16.16.260(D)(e) by sending proof of budgetary line items for planting purchase, installation, mitigation planting maintenance practices (watering, weeding), yearly monitoring and production of yearly monitoring reports, and contingency plan implementation.~~

**Adopted Conditions from NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Formal Consultation pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973:**

- 13. Reduce take associated with fish salvaging and isolating and dewatering approximately 1.2 miles of Jim Creek:
  - a. The NMFS staff is to be notified when construction starts
  - b. Personnel conducting fish capture and handling will have the necessary training, knowledge, skills and abilities to ensure the safe handling of all ESA listed fish.
  - c. Fish capture operations are to be conducted only by or under the direct supervision of a trained and experience fishery biologist.
  - d. All personnel operating electrofishing equipment will have appropriate training and experience with electrofishing techniques.
  - e. An adequate number of trained, experience personnel to conduct fish capture and removal will be available at all times during the salvage operation.
  - f. Flow diversion, work site isolation and channel dewatering will proceed at a slow and measured pace to encourage the volitional downstream movement of fish and reduce the risk of stranding but will be completed between sunrise and sunset so that there is sufficient light to safely inspect dewatered areas and isolated pools trapped and stranded fish
  - g. Sanctuary dip nets, beach seines, and block nets composed of soft (non-abrasive) nylon material.
  - h. Electrofishing will be used only after all means of fish capture have been exhausted (e.g., a minimum of three complete pass of the seine without fish capture).
  - i. Electrofishing will comply with NMFS' Backpack Electrofishing Guidelines (NMFS, 2000).
  - j. Fish salvagers will regularly inspect block nets for impinged or dead fish.
  - k. Within 90 days of completed construction provide a fish and amphibian salvage report to [Janet.Curran@noaa.gov](mailto:Janet.Curran@noaa.gov) describing fish removal methods used, number and age/size class removed from construction site by species, number of fish killed and number of amphibians and fish injured by species. Any explanation of the cause of death or injury and follow up actions taken in response to death or injury.
- 14. Minimize take from clearing 13 acres of matures shrubs and trees in the floodplain. The FERC shall ensure the purchase of credits from the Lummi Wetland and habitat Mitigation Bank as described in the proposed action and provide a copy of the ledger recording the transaction to [Janet.curran@noaa.gov](mailto:Janet.curran@noaa.gov) or provide equivalent mitigation elsewhere in the watershed such as potential wetland enhancement sites upstream of the North Fork/South Fork confluence. FERC shall provide a post-construction report

of actual acres cleared and specific mitigation action taken to Janet.  
[Curran@noaa.gov](mailto:Curran@noaa.gov)

15. Minimize take associated with down-ramping the return water. Down-ramping shall be limited to a rate of 1 to 2 inches per hour or less of surface water elevation drop (Hunter, 1992) and FERC shall ensure that a fish salvage crew is onsite working during down-ramping. Results of the fish salvage effort shall be included in the fish salvage report outlined under number 1 above.



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**J.E. "Sam" Ryan**  
Director

SEP 2017 - 00103

## SEPA Environmental Checklist

### Purpose of Checklist:

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

### Instructions for Applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. You may use "not applicable" or "does not apply" only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown. You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

### Use of Checklist for Non-Project Proposals:

For non-project proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B plus the Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions (Part C). 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.

WHATCOM COUNTY  
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

SEP 20 2017

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## A Background

- 1 Name of proposed project, if applicable:  
North Fork Nooksack Line Lowering Project
- 2 Name of applicant: Williams/Northwest Pipeline LLC  
Applicant phone number: 801-584-6751  
Applicant address: 295 Chipeta Way  
City, State, Zip or Postal Code: Salt Lake City, UT 84108  
Applicant Email address: toby.schwalbe@williams.com
- 3 Contact name: Toby Schwalbe  
Contact phone number: 801-584-6751  
Contact address: 295 Chipeta Way  
City, State, Zip or Postal Code: Salt Lake City, UT 84108  
Contact Email address: toby.schwalbe@williams.com
- 4 Date checklist prepared: September 2017
- 5 Agency requesting checklist: Whatcom County, WA
- 6 Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):  
Northwest proposes to conduct timber felling as early as fall of 2018 and construct in 2019 during the driest months of the year (May to late September), followed by restoration. Approx. 14-17 weeks.
- 7 Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? Yes ☐ No ☒  
If yes, explain:
- 8 List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal:
  - FERC 7c Application and FERC will prepare an Environmental Assessment
  - Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application (JARPA)
  - Wetland Delineation Report
  - Biological Assessment
- 9 Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? Yes ☐ No ☒  
If yes, explain.

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

See Table 1.11-1 in Resource Report 1 in Attachment A. (FERC Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity & NEPA, USACE CWA Section 404, USFWS ESA Sect. 7 Consultation, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, NMFS ESA Sect. 7 Consultation, Magnuson-Stevens Act, EPA & WA CWA Section 401 Water Quality and 402 Stormwater NPDES, WA State Hydraulic Project Approval, Forest Practices Act, Bald Eagle Management, Tribal Communications and Consultations, Whatcom Co. Shoreline, Critical Areas, Land Disturbance.)

- 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.)

A detailed project description has been provided in Section 1.1 in Resource Report 1 in Attachment A. The Project is proposed to address an ongoing channel migration and scour issue that is threatening the 30-inch pipeline under the north floodplain of the North Fork of the Nooksack River (NF Nooksack). The Project consists of the removal, replacement and lowering of approximately 1,700 feet of 30-inch pipeline in the north floodplain of the NF Nooksack. The Project also includes the removal of approximately 1,550 feet of previously abandoned in place 26-inch pipeline, which will become exposed during the replacement and lowering of the 30-inch pipeline. The Project will: ensure system reliability and preserve service continuity by protecting Northwest's 30-inch pipeline at the NF Nooksack; comply with Whatcom Co. PDS, WDNR & WDFW requirements to complete a long-term solution by the end of 2020; and reduce long-term impediments to facilitate natural channel migration.

- 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 Project is located in Section 5, Township 38 North, Range 5 East, approximately 1.2 miles southeast of Deming, Washington, in Whatcom County in the north floodplain of the NF Nooksack, about 0.3 mile east of the intersection of Mt. Baker Highway (SR 542) and SR 9. See Figure 1.1-1 in Resource Report 1 in Attachment A.

## B Environmental Elements

### 1 Earth

#### a. General description of the site:

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> | Flat         |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                   | Rolling      |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                   | Hilly        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                   | Steep Slopes |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                   | Mountainous  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                   | Other        |

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

The entire project is located in the North Fork of the Nooksack River floodplain. Area is relatively flat, gently slopes toward the river. 0 to 3% slope.

#### 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.

Pilchuck loamy fine sand (0 to 3% slopes.), Labounty silt loam, drained (0-2 percent slopes, and Riverwash. All are hydric. Soils crossed that are classified as prime farmlands or farmlands of statewide importance are shown in Table 7.2-1 in Resource Report 7 in Attachment A. All excavated soils will remain on site.

#### d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? Yes ☒ No ☐

If so, describe.

Individual flood events erode the river banks and wash out forested and scrub-shrub islands and wetlands within the main river channel.

#### e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling excavation or grading proposed.

Approximately 64,974 cubic yards of trench excavation will be required to complete the Project (38.22 cubic yards per linear foot). 24.28 acres will be disturbed during construction.

Indicate source of fill.

Trench will be backfilled with the native material excavated from the trench.

Indicate where excavation material is going.

Excavated spoil will be stored temporarily in the designated on-site work areas and then returned to the trench after the new 30-inch pipeline is installed.

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

Yes ☒ No ☐

If so, generally describe.

Erosion could occur if rainfall or surface runoff occurs on exposed soils during construction. Erosion could also occur between the time the trench has been backfilled and the time the surface has been reclaimed and effectively stabilized by vegetation.

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

None.

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

Measures to control erosion are discussed in detail in the Project's Erosion Control and Revegetation Plan in Appendix 1A to Resource Report 1 in Attachment A. The Project will be constructed during the drier portion of the year.

## 2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation and maintenance when the project is completed (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, or industrial wood smoke)?

Construction of the proposed pipeline will result in intermittent and short-term fugitive emissions. Air pollutants from construction equipment internal combustion engines would be limited to the immediate vicinity of the Project area and would be short-term. No long-term, or operations emissions will result from the Project. See Resource Report 9 in Attachment A for further air emissions information.

If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Summary of emissions is shown in Table 9.2-1 in Resource Report 9 in Attachment A.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? Yes ☐ No ☒

If so, generally describe.

Not applicable.

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

During construction the right-of-way will be watered as necessary to minimize impacts from fugitive dust. Northwest will, where necessary, implement reasonably available control measures discussed in Section 9.2 in Resource Report 9 in Attachment A.

### 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)? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

NF Nooksack River - Flows into the mainstem Nooksack River. Jim Creek - Flows into the NF Nooksack River. Table 2.2-1 in Resource Report 2 in Attachment A lists all the waterbodies affected by the Project.

- (2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Project is adjacent to the NF Nooksack and crosses Jim Creek (see Section 1.3 in Resource Report 1 in Attachment A).

- (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. 27,106 cubic yards

Indicate the source of fill material.

The pipeline trench will be backfilled with native material removed from trench.

- (4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Yes ☒ No ☐

Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

An extensive groundwater management and dewatering program will be used to remove shallow groundwater from the floodplain (see Section 2.2.4.7 in Resource Report 2 in Attachment A).

Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If so, note location on the site plan.

North Fork of the Nooksack River (see Figure 1).



- (5) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge

b. Ground Water:

- (1) Will ground water be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? Yes ☒ No ☐

If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

To allow a safe and efficient trenching operation for pipeline removal and installation within the NF Nooksack floodplain where shallow groundwater levels are present, a significant dewatering program will be required. This will include the use of well points along the entire construction right-of-way. Groundwater will be discharged to NF Nooksack & Jim Creek. This extensive dewatering program is expected to temporarily lower groundwater levels (see Section 2.2.4.7 in Resource Report 2 in Attachment A).

The pipeline will be hydrostatically tested. A total of 59,000 gallons (0.18 acre feet) of water will be required to test the new 30-inch pipeline. Hydrostatic test water will be obtained from the groundwater well points that are installed for the dewatering (see Section 2.2.4.9 in Resource Report 2 in Attachment A).

- (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 houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

Not applicable.

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).

Runoff would occur along the pipeline route if significant precipitation occurs during the construction period. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be prepared as part of the Project's Construction Stormwater Permit.

Where will this water flow? North Fork of the Nooksack River

Will this water flow into other waters? Yes ☒ No ☐

If so, describe.

Jim Creek.

(2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If so, generally describe.

The potential exists for a spill to occur during construction. Potential spills from construction are limited primarily to: 1) diesel used to fuel construction equipment; and 2) lubricating oils and hydraulic fluid used by construction equipment (see Spill Plan in Appendix 2B to Resource Report 2 in Attachment A).

(3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site: Yes ☐ No ☒

If so, describe.

The site is flat and existing contours will be restored following construction. The Jim Creek channel crossing will be modified and enhanced for fish habitat after construction. See the Jim Creek Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Plan in Appendix 2C to Resource Report 2 in Attachment A.

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

The measures in FERC's Wetland and Waterbody Procedures will be implemented as well as the measures in the ECRP (see Appendix 1A to Resource Report 1 in Attachment A), the SPCC Plan (see Appendix 2B to Resource Report 2 in Attachment A), and the SWPPP.

#### 4 Plants

a. Check 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?

Agriculture/Pasture-5.13 acre, Urban Industrial and Mixed-5.07 acres, Forest Woodland-6.70 acres, Riparian Wetland and Herbaceous Wetland-6.66 acres, Rivers-0.72 acre. Total = 24.28 acres (see table 3.3-3 in Resource Report 3 in Attachment A).

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

No federally threatened or endangered plant species are expected to occur in the Project area (see Section 3.3.1.3 in Resource Report 3 in Attachment A).

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

A detailed discussion of revegetation/restoration is provided in the ECRP (see Appendix 1A to Resource Report 1 in Attachment A).

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

Japanese knotweed (Class B) is prevalent throughout the NF Nooksack floodplain and invades disturbed barren areas, including parts of the existing easement. Two other weed Class C weeds species present in the Project area are Himalayan blackberry and reed canarygrass (see Section 3.3.1.2 in Resource Report 3 in Attachment A).

5. Animals

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

Birds:

☒ Hawk,  
☒ Eagle,  
☒ Other:

☐ Heron, ☒ Songbirds; *exp*

Mammals:

☒ Deer,  
☒ Elk,  
☒ Other:

☒ Bear,  
☒ Beaver;

Fish:

☐ Bass,  
☒ Trout,  
☐ Shellfish;

☒ Salmon,  
☐ Herring,  
☒ Other:

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

Chinook salmon, steelhead, bull trout, coho, Dolly Varden, Oregon spotted frog.  
State sensitive species: bald eagle, northern goshawk, Vaux's swift, pileated woodpecker, western toad (see Sections 3.2.1.3 and 3.4.2.1 in Resource Report 3 in Attachment A).

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? Yes ☐ No ☒

If so, explain.

↑  
Pacific flyway <sup>exp</sup>

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

The site will be revegetated following construction (see the ECRP in Appendix 1A to Resource Report 1 and the Wetland, Waterbody, and Critical Area Buffer Mitigation Plan in Appendix 2C to Resource Report 2 In Attachment A.

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

None.

## 6. Energy and Natural Resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

No energy will be needed to operate the pipeline. No new aboveground facilities are proposed.

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? Yes ☐ No ☒

If so, generally describe.

Not applicable.

- 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:

Because the completed Project will not consume energy, no conservation measures are being proposed.

## 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? Yes ☒ No ☐

If so, describe.

The primary component of natural gas in an Interstate transmission pipeline is methane, a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas. While it is not toxic, methane is classified as an asphyxiant with a slight inhalation hazard (see Resource Report 11 in Attachment A).

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

None.

- (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.

The proposed Project includes the removal and replacement of an existing natural gas pipeline.

what are the haz chemicals that will be present? - EVR

- (3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the projects development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

Hazardous materials, chemicals, fuels, and lubricating oils will be stored in upland areas at least 100 feet from waterbodies and wetlands. Northwest has developed a Spill Plan (see Appendix 2B to Resource Report 2 in Attachment A).

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

Northwest will be responsible for all emergency services which may be required from its operations. Additional emergency service demands on local jurisdictions are not anticipated.

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

None.

Safety plan??  
- EVR

b. Noise

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

None.

- (2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Noise effects caused by the Project will be intermittent during construction, lasting 14-17 weeks. Northwest does not anticipate construction occurring between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. other than general maintenance of the dewatering pumps (see Section 9.3 in Resource Report 9 in Attachment A). No long-term noise is associated with this Project.

cite noise study

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

None.

## 8 Land and Shoreline Use

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

Existing natural gas pipeline easement. Adjacent properties are rural and undeveloped.

Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? Yes ☐ No ☒

If so, describe.

- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? Yes ☐ No ☒

If so, describe.

No.

How much agriculture or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any?

None.

If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to non-farm or non-forest use?

None.

- (1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversized equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling and harvesting? Yes ☐ No ☒

If so, how:

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

No new aboveground facilities are proposed. Existing, fenced and graveled mainline valves (MLVs) 17-7 and 17-8 and their existing, graveled access roads will be used to purge/fill the AIP 26-inch pipeline with nitrogen or grout.



- d. Will any structures be demolished? Yes ☐ No ☒  
If so, what?  
No
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?  
Rural Forest and Rural 5A
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?  
Forestry/Fishing, Agriculture, Vacant
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?  
The NF Nooksack is classified as a Shoreline of the State and a Shoreline of Statewide Significance. The Shoreline master program designates the land crossed by the pipeline as Shoreline Conservancy and Tribal Environments.
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? Yes ☒ No ☐  
If so, specify.  
The NF Nooksack and Jim Creek are mapped as Fish Habitat Conservation Areas by Whatcom County's Critical Areas Ordinance Maps.
- 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:  
Not applicable.
- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:  
None. The Project will not change the existing land use.
- m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any?  
Not applicable.

## 9 Housing

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

☐  
☐  
☐

High  
Middle  
Low-income

Number of Units Not applicable.

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

☐  
☐  
☐

High  
Middle  
Low-income

Number of Units Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

## 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.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

## 11 Light and Glare

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

No outdoor lighting will be installed.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

## 12 Recreation

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

Boating, fishing, swimming and other water-based recreation activities are popular seasonal pastimes on the NF Nooksack, near the Project area (see Section 8.5.2 in Resource Report 8 in Attachment A).

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

No.

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

There are no planned measures to reduce or control impacts to recreation because no impacts are expected.

## 13 Historic and Cultural Preservation

- a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state or local preservation registers located on or near the site? Yes ☐ No ☒  
If so, specifically describe.

- b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian, historic use or occupation, this may include human burials or old cemeteries?

Yes ☐ No ☒

Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Yes ☐ No ☒

Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

An archaeological and historical property survey was completed for the entire project between September 26, 2016 and March 15, 2017. See Section 4.2 of Resource Report 4 In Attachment A for further information on the survey study and SHPO concurrence.

- 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.

See Resource Report 4 in Attachment A for information on cultural and historic property consultations, surveys, and concurrences.

- d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

None required.

#### 14 Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plan, if any.

Public state roads (Mt. Baker Highway/SR 542 and SR 9) and Whatcom County roads (Truck Road and Rutsatz Roads) will be used to access the construction right-of-way and TEWAs during construction (see Figure 1.1-1 in Resource Report 1 in Attachment A).

- b. Is site or geographic area currently served by public transit?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

- d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? Yes ☐ No ☒

If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

Not applicable.

- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of)

- ☒ Water,  
☐ Rail, or  
☐ Air transportation?

If so, generally describe.

The Project will occur in the immediate vicinity of the NF Nooksack and Jim Creek.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and non-passenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

As is already occurring, routine maintenance and inspections will be the only vehicular trips required once the Project is completed.

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

Transportation impacts will be temporary, short-term and will only occur during construction.

## 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)?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If so, generally describe.

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

Not applicable.

## 16 Utilities

- a. Check utilities currently available at the site:

- ☐ Electricity,  
☐ Water,  
☐ Telephone,  
☐ Septic system,

- ☐ Natural gas,  
☐ Refuse service,  
☐ Sanitary sewer,  
☐ Other

To Be Completed  
By Applicant

Evaluation For  
Agency Use Only

- 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.

None.

### Signature

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

Signature: 

Date Submitted: 9-20-17

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### FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Reviewed by Whatcom County Planning & Development Services Staff

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Staff Signature

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Date



## **C Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions**

*(It is not necessary to 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?

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?

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

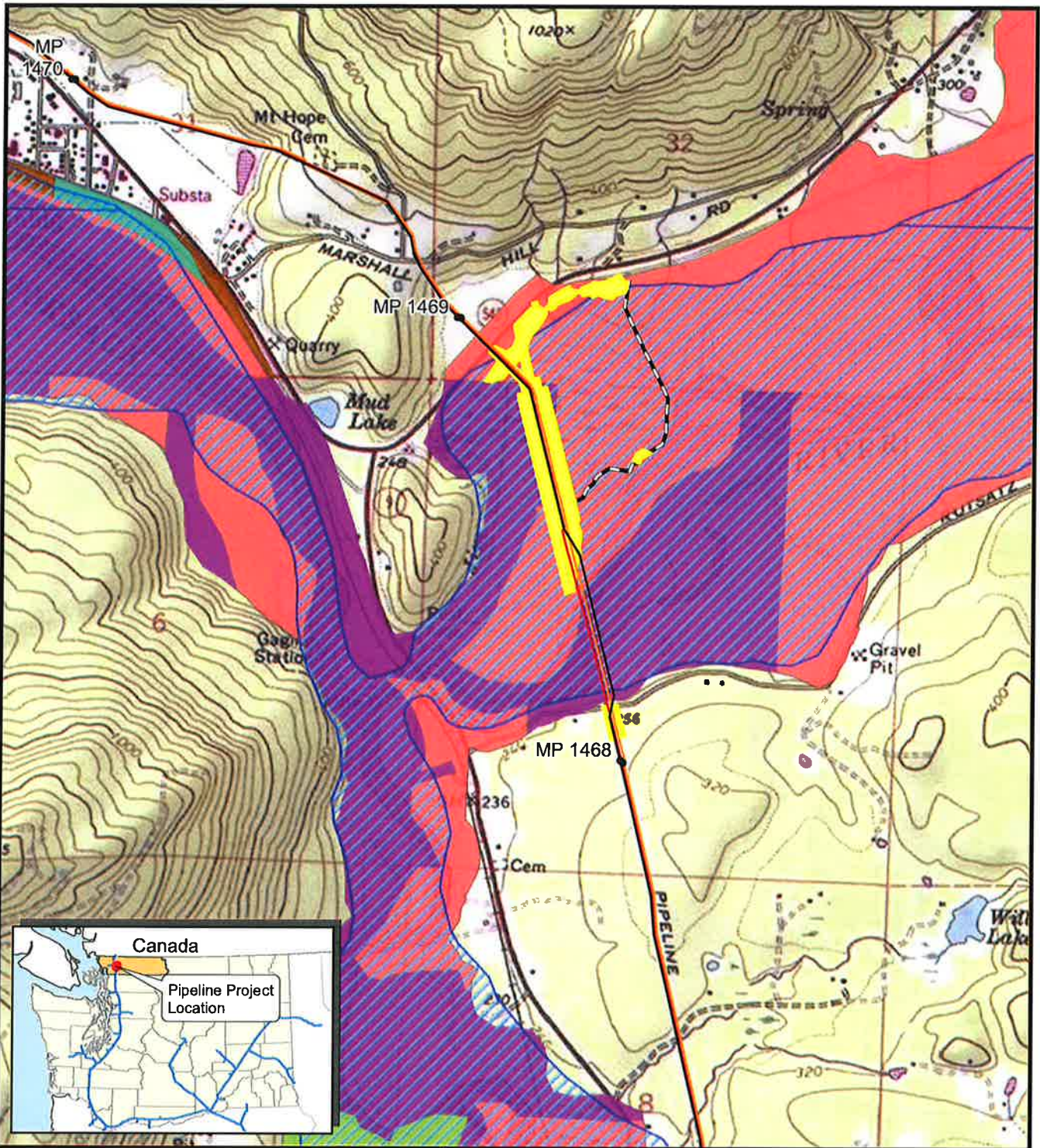
6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

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.

**Attachment A**

**April 6, 2017 FERC Certificate Application**



### Legend

- Project Area
- Milepost
- 1400 26-Inch Mainline AIP
- 1401 30-Inch Loop Line
- 1408 36-Inch Loop Line
- Existing Access Road
- 100-Year Floodplain
- Conservancy
- Resource
- Rural
- Tribal
- Urban



0 1,000 2,000 4,000 Feet

## NORTH FORK NOOKSACK LINE LOWERING PROJECT

### SHORELINE & FLOODPLAIN

### WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON



DWG. BY: EE	DATE: 9/18/2017	ISSUED FOR BID:	SCALE: AS NOTED
CHK BY:	DATE: 9/18/2017	ISSUED FOR CONTS:	
APPR. BY:	DATE: 9/18/2017	DRAWING NUMBER: <b>Figure 1</b>	SHEET 1 OF 1