

Mining Operations and Reclamation Narrative

2/25/10

A description of operation measures including hours of operation, number of employees, utilities, and services on site.

The Applicant intends to conduct mining on the subject property, including several phases as explained below. The total project area is 142 acres. The mine will generally operate five days per week with occasional Saturday operations during the hours of 6:30-4:30. Physical mining operations will generally take place from 7:30-3:30, or as daylight allows in the wintertime. There would be 8-10 persons employed at the site. The mine could produce as much as 400,000 tons per year with volume in the winter months between 8,000 and 16,000 tons per month and during the summer between 26,000 and 52,000 tons per month. The expected mine life is approximately 40 years.

The phases of mine operation are proposed as follows, beginning in 2010.

- The first phase (Phase 1A) will include establishing the primary and secondary processing and stockpile areas, storm water control ponds, a maintenance building & yard, and mining of the southeast portion of the site from existing grade to a minimum elevation of 155. Mining for Phase 1A is expected to last approximately 10 years.
- The second phase (Phase 1B) will be to mine the southwestern portion of the site, to the north of the secondary processing area, down to a minimum elevation of 217.
- The third phase (Phase 2) will be to expand the Phase 1A area to the north, advancing generally from south to north. The overall life of the mine is expected to be approximately 40 years.

The site is currently served by Puget Power and refuse service. Phone service, onsite septic, and domestic and industrial wells will be added as a part of this project.

A narrative describing how the site will be mined and reclaimed

Proposed mining will be phased over the life of the project (~40 years) so that only relatively small areas (\pm 20 acres) of the approximately 142-acre mine lease area are disturbed by mining activities at any given time. Typical phasing will involve removal of merchantable timber, removal and stockpiling of topsoil and subsoil, and removal of underlying rock (basalt).

After final mine elevations have been reached, stockpiled subsoil and topsoil will be replaced and recontoured to restore early successional mixed evergreen and deciduous forest cover types like those that are now present on the site. As described in Volume 3 of this application, wetlands will be restored following successive phases of mining, using an adaptive management approach (see also *Conceptual Mitigation Plan and Impacts Analysis*, Volume 3.2), and ongoing stormwater management will be provided by stormwater management ponds.

Though site topography will change as a result of quarrying activities, direct impacts to drainage patterns and hydrology and forested habitat types will be temporary. Drainage patterns, hydrology, and habitats will be restored through recontouring and habitat restoration required by mine reclamation plans. See also Expanded SEPA Checklist, Volume 2 of this application.