

April 2, 2025

Subject: SEPA and Shoreline Exemption – McKinley Paper Co.

To Whom it May Concern,

The following explains how McKinley Paper Company Crane Tower and Fixed Pier Removal and Demolition project is exempt from a Shoreline Substantial Development Permit and SEPA determination.

Project Description:

This project proposes the demolition and disposal of existing crane tower and fixed pier. The crane tower will consist of the removal and disposal of 22 freestanding piling, existing “stiff leg” pier bracing, stringers, and about 30 creosote piling. The fixed pier will consist of the removal and disposal of existing 38' x 100' creosote pier, including about 58 creosote treated wood piling, pile caps, stringers, and decking

Exemption from Shoreline Substantial Development:

WAC 173-27-040-2"Normal Repair" means to restore a development to a state comparable to its original condition, including but not limited to its size, shape, configuration, location and external appearance, within a reasonable period after decay or partial destruction, except where repair causes substantial adverse effects to shoreline resource or environment.

In this case the chosen method of repair is removal to prevent continued decay and destruction. Without removal substantial adverse effects in the shoreline environment will occur. Removal will not cause adverse effects.

The project will comply with policies and regulations of the local SMP as it is a removal of the existing structure that reduces overwater coverage. The project does not interfere with surface navigation, does not negatively impact public views, and maintains safe unobstructed passage of fish and wildlife. The proposed project will improve the public views with up-to-date materials. In addition, it will remove creosote-treated wood from the aquatic environment which is harmful to marine species. The goals of Shorelines of Statewide Significance are "recognize and protect the statewide interest over local interest; preserve the natural character of the shoreline; result in long-term over short-term benefit; protect the resources and ecology of the shoreline; increase public

access to publicly owned shoreline areas; and increase recreational opportunities for the public in the shoreline area."

- The project recognizes this shoreline is of Statewide Significance. The goal of the project is to improve the shoreline conditions by bringing the dock up to date with applicable codes and developments.
- This project will result in long-term benefits through environmentally safe material installation and the removal of harmful materials, such as creosote-treated wood piles and a solid decked ramp and pier coverage.
- The project will result in no net loss of ecological function.
- The project will not interfere with public access to publicly owned shoreline areas.

The project will comply with applicable General Development Policies and Regulations.

- Avoiding the impact altogether by taking no action the goal of the project would not be accomplished. In addition, the creosote treated wood pile would continue degrading in the aquatic habitat.
- The degree and magnitude of the action will be reduced, and appropriate technology is being applied to reduce the impact.
 - The proposal includes removal and complies with regulatory agency requirements.
 - The project removes overwater structures.
 - All applicable BMPs will be followed.
- Maintenance includes removal.
- Opportunities to reduce or eliminate the permanent direct and indirect negative impacts from the project overtime are described above in "minimizing impacts" and all applicable BMPs.
- Compensating for the adverse impacts includes removal.
- No monitoring is proposed at this time. Any monitoring required by the regulating agencies will be followed.

Exemption from SEPA:

WAC-197-11-800-(2)(g) “The demolition of any structure or facility, the construction of which would be exempted by subsections (1) and (2) of this section, except for structures or facilities with recognized historical significance such as listing in a historic register.

WAC-197-11-800 (3) Repair, remodeling and maintenance activities. The following activities shall be categorically exempt: The repair, remodeling, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing private or public structures, facilities or equipment, including utilities, recreation, and transportation facilities involving no material expansions or changes in use beyond that previously existing; except that, where undertaken wholly or in part on lands covered by water, only minor repair or replacement of structures may be exempt (examples include repair or replacement of piling, ramps, floats, or mooring buoys, or minor repair, alteration, or maintenance of docks). The following maintenance activities shall not be considered exempt under this subsection:

- (a) Dredging of over 50 cubic yards of material;**
- (b) Reconstruction or maintenance of groins and similar shoreline protection structures;**
- (c) Replacement of utility cables that must be buried under the surface of the bedlands; or**
- (d) Repair/rebuilding of major dams, dikes, and reservoirs shall also not be considered exempt under this subsection.**

Removal is a minor maintenance activity that is removing the structure from the site to prevent further lapses.

If there are any further questions, please reach out to me.

Best Regards,

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