



**Washington State  
Department of Transportation**  
Douglas B. MacDonald  
Secretary of Transportation

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January 3, 2002

Mr. Tom Niemann, Principal Planner  
Snohomish County Planning and Development Services  
3000 Rockefeller Ave. MS 604  
Everett, WA 98201-4046

Re: Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact  
Statement for Mineral Lands Designation  
WSDOT REVIEW COMMENTS

Dear Mr. Niemann:

The Planning & Policy Office, WSDOT's long-range transportation planning office for the Central Puget Sound Area, is in receipt of the above referenced document published in November of this year. We appreciate the opportunity to review the DEIS.

The proposed action initiated by this draft document pertains to the designation of mineral lands within the county and the environmental impacts associated with each alternative. The DEIS reviews four alternatives:

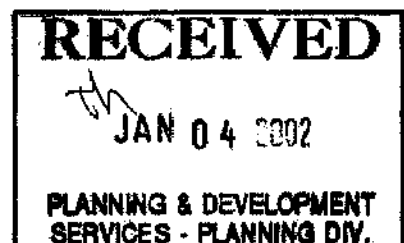
Alternative 1 (Land Use Emphasis) - This alternative is primarily focused on current on-site and surrounding area land uses.

Alternative 2 (Natural Environmental Emphasis) - This alternative evaluates proposals based on natural environment factors found on-site or adjacent to the mineral sites.

Alternative 3 (Balanced Approach) - This alternative attempts to take both land use and environmental factors into consideration for siting mineral lands using all the factors equally.

Alternative 4 - This is the do nothing alternative, which generally retains the existing county approach of review on a case-by-case basis.

WSDOT recognizes the need to identify mineral resource lands within the county. Roadway construction and reconstruction typically requires large amounts of mineral goods and the resource is an important part of the county's assets. Because the DSEIS document is non-programmatic, our comments will remain general in nature. When specific properties are identified for development, we ask that we be given the opportunity to review and comment on the site in question.



When specific sites are identified for mineral extraction the WSDOT review will primarily focus on access, safety, and impacts to the state roadway system.

Access issues will be reviewed based on the requirements of RCW Title 47, which includes roadway access classification.


Safety issues would include all state laws (especially RCW Title 46) regarding commercial vehicles and the hauling of materials, securing of loads, truck maintenance, and legal load limits.

Transportation impacts are typically addressed through the inter-local agreement in place with the county. The agreement allows the county to collect Traffic Mitigation Payment from the developer for impacts to the state highway system created or worsened by traffic generated by the new development. Other mitigation measures that may be required include: left turn refuge lanes, acceleration and/or deceleration lanes for turning truck traffic, dedication of right of way for the required highway improvements, sight distance considerations, and maintenance of the roadway (prevention and removal of mud, dirt, gravel, etc).

In the case of direct access to a state route outside incorporated areas, the developers must apply to WSDOT for an access connection permit and, if permitted, it is incumbent on the developers to pay all direct costs related to improvements allowing them legal and safe access to the roadway.

Thank you again for the opportunity to review this DEIS and for considering our comments. I may be reached at 206.464.5420 should you wish to discuss these comments.

Sincerely,



CHRIS R. PICARD  
System Planning Manager  
WSDOT Planning & Policy Office

cc: Charlie Howard, PPO  
Shuming Yan, PPO  
Klara Fabry, NW Region  
Rocky Piro, PSRC