

CITY OF DUPONT
STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (SEPA)
DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE (DS)
And Request for Comments on the Scope of the
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for
Pioneer Aggregates South Parcel Project

Proponent: Glacier Northwest Inc. dba CalPortland, 4301 Pioneer Avel, DuPont, WA 98327 and 3450 S. 344th Way Suite #201, Federal Way, WA 98001

Location of Proposal: The proposed South Parcel Project site is located to the southeast of the existing Pioneer Aggregates Mine in the City of DuPont in southwestern Pierce County. The site is located within the City's designated Mineral Resource Overlay and is bordered to the north and west by the existing Pioneer Aggregates mine; to the east by industrial/distribution facilities including Amazon, Dania, Pier 1 Imports, and FedEx; and to the south by Sequalitchew Creek and the Creekside Village residential development. The South Parcel Project would occur on lands owned by Weyerhaeuser Company and leased to CalPortland.

Background Information: CalPortland's original sand and gravel mine ("Existing Mine") was permitted in 1997 (355 acres). An EIS and Supplemental EIS were prepared for that proposal, which included construction of a dock at Tatsolo Point for shipment of mined material by barge. In 2006, the City amended its Comprehensive Plan to revise its overall land use plan to expand the City's Mineral Resource Overlay. The expanded Mineral Resource Overlay includes an approximately 200-acre area leased by CalPortland southeast of the Existing Mine ("South Parcel") and an approximately 201-acre area located north of the existing mine ("North Parcel"). After the City issued a Supplemental EIS (SEIS) for the South Parcel in 2007, CalPortland submitted permit applications to mine the South Parcel. In 2009, a group of environmental and conservation organizations formally disputed the South Parcel activities and mitigation measures proposed at the time. This dispute process resulted in the *2011 Settlement Agreement for DuPont Mine, Restoration of Sequalitchew Creek Watershed, and Preservation of Puget Sound Shorelands and Adjacent Open Space* (2011 Settlement Agreement) that set forth a process for the submittal and review of permit applications (including SEPA review) for the North Parcel first and then the South Parcel. The Settlement Agreement was signed by a contingent of stakeholders, referred to as the environmental caucus, which consists of CalPortland, City of DuPont, Washington State Department of Ecology, Nisqually Delta Association, Washington Environmental Council, People for Puget Sound, Black Hills Audubon Society, Tahoma Audubon Society, Seattle Audubon Society, and the Anderson Island Quality of Life Committee. The Settlement Agreement also prescribed the process for the development, funding, and implementation of a Sequalitchew Creek Restoration Plan to help restore and enhance the Sequalitchew Creek watershed, including flows along the length of the Sequalitchew Creek. As provided for in the 2011 Settlement Agreement, in 2013 CalPortland applied for permits to allow mining within the North Parcel. Following publication of a Final EIS ("North Parcel EIS") in 2013, the North Parcel mining expansion was permitted in 2014. The North Parcel EIS contemplated mining the South Parcel as an independent but related proposal and evaluated the cumulative impacts of mining both the North and South Parcels. In May 2021, CalPortland applied for permits to allow mining within the South Parcel, as described below.

Description of the Proposal: The proposed South Parcel mining project includes horizontal expansion of mining into approximately 188 acres previously undisturbed by mining, and vertical expansion of approximately 125 acres where re-mining will deepen a portion of the existing Pioneer Aggregates mine. In advance of the mining, the project proposes to install wells to intercept and pump groundwater to dry out gravels for mining. The intercepted groundwater would be reinfiltrated on the floor of the existing mine. The South Parcel Project is anticipated to extend mining at the current rate for approximately 14 additional years.

Lead Agency: City of DuPont

EIS Required: The City of DuPont, as SEPA lead agency, has determined that this project may have a significant adverse impacts on the environment, and that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be prepared, consistent with RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c). The EIS will address probable significant adverse environmental impacts of the proposed South Parcel Project and will build upon the information and analysis in other environmental review for the mines, including the 1992 *Pioneer Aggregates Mining Facility and*

Reclamation Plan EIS, 2006/2007 Glacier Northwest Dupont Mining Area Expansion and North Sequalichew Resoration Project SEIS, and the 2013 CalPortland DuPont North Parcel Mining EIS.

EIS Issues: The City has preliminarily determined that the following elements of the environment will be included in the *Pioneer Aggregates South Parcel Project EIS*:

- Earth
- Air Quality
- Surface Water and Groundwater
- Fisheries
- Plants and Animals
- Noise
- Land and Shoreline Use
- Aesthetics
- Cultural Resources
- Transportation

EIS Alternatives: The Alternatives that have preliminarily been identified for analysis in the *Pioneer Aggregates South Parcel Project EIS* include:

- **Alternative 1 – No Action Alternative** – Assumes no mining on the South Parcel within the context of existing conditions.
- **Alternative 2 – Proposed South Parcel Project (With Restored Sequalitchew Creek)** – Implementation of proposed South Parcel Project within the context of creek restoration.

Scoping: Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS, including alternatives, probable significant adverse impacts, mitigation measures, and licenses or other approvals that may be required.

30-day public comment period: The EIS scoping will provide opportunities for the agencies/tribes/public to provide input to the environmental review process. **All comments are due no later than 5:00 PM, October 20, 2021.**

Scoping comments from the general public may be submitted in writing at a public scoping open house or at any time during the 30-day scoping comment period through the following ways:

Online Comment Portal: <https://www.dupontwa.gov/619/Pioneer-Aggregates-Project-Portal>

- Email: Barbara Kincaid at bkincaid@dupontwa.gov
- Delivery: Drop off at City Hall
- Mail: Barbara Kincaid, City of DuPont, 1700 Civic Drive, DuPont, WA 98327

One public scoping open house will be held. The scoping open house will be held on Thursday, September 30, 2021, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the City of DuPont Council Chambers, 1700 Civic Dr., DuPont, WA. This event will provide an in-person opportunity to view materials on the project and learn about applicable review procedures. All staff and members of the public will be required to wear a mask and maintain six-feet distance. Public safety measures and policies are subject to change.

The City of DuPont is committed to making all City-sponsored public meetings and events accessible to people with disabilities. If you need assistance in participating in this meeting due to a disability, please contact Janet Howald at 253.912.5232 or by emailing jhowald@dupontwa.gov at least three (3) business days prior to the scheduled meeting to request an accomodation.