

Pioneer Aggregates South Parcel Project Environmental Impact Statement | FAQs

September 2021



What is the proposed project?

CalPortland, a building materials company producing cement and construction material products, is applying to expand sand and gravel mining operations currently occurring at the Pioneer Aggregates Mine in the City of DuPont. The expansion to the South Parcel and at the existing mine would extend mining at the current rate for approximately 14 additional years, subject to market conditions. The proposed project includes:

- Horizontal expansion of mining into the South Parcel, approximately 188 acres previously undisturbed by mining.
- Vertical expansion of approximately 125 acres where re-mining will deepen a portion of the existing Pioneer Aggregates mine.
- The initial installation of wells to intercept and pump groundwater to dry out gravels for mining. The intercepted groundwater would be re-infiltrated on the floor of the existing mine.

The South Parcel Project site is located to the southeast of the existing Pioneer Aggregates Mine in DuPont. The site is 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, and to the south by Sequatchew Creek and the Creekside Village residential development.

The City of DuPont reviewed CalPortland's application and determined the project may have probable significant environmental impacts, requiring preparation of an EIS. As the Lead Agency, The City will oversee preparation of all aspects of the Pioneer Aggregates South Parcel Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the impacts of CalPortland's permit application. The Lead Agency is the party responsible for carrying out the environmental analysis and procedural steps under SEPA, the State Environmental Policy Act.

What is an EIS?

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a document that is prepared when a project or action could significantly impact the environment. The EIS process is a tool for identifying and analyzing probable adverse environmental impacts, reasonable alternatives, and possible mitigation.

What is the EIS schedule?

The EIS is currently in the scoping phase. The City issued a Determination of Significance (DS) and request for comments on the Scope of the EIS on Sept. 17, 2021. After Oct. 20, All comments received will be reviewed and considered in defining the scope of the Draft EIS. Comments, identified alternatives, and the environmental elements to be analyzed will be documented in a scoping summary.

The project team will then prepare supporting discipline reports, prepare, and issue the Draft EIS and invite comments on the Draft EIS in a 30-day comment period. After the comment period has ended, the project team will review comments received on the Draft EIS and select the preferred alternative. Comments received on the Draft EIS will be responded to in the Final EIS.

What will the EIS consider in its analysis?

The City of DuPont 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

Additional elements to analyze in the Draft EIS may be identified during scoping.

What alternatives will the EIS analyze?

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 Sequatchew Creek) – Implementation of proposed South Parcel Project within the context of creek restoration.

Additional alternatives to analyze in the Draft EIS may be identified during scoping.

When can I submit comments on the project?

The City of DuPont is currently asking for comments on the Scope of the EIS; comments will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Oct. 20, 2021.

The next opportunity for public comment will be when the Draft EIS is issued, currently anticipated to be issued early in spring 2022.

How can I submit scoping comments?

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

Comments will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Oct. 20, 2021.

- *Submit comments online:* dupontwa.gov/619/Pioneer-Aggregates-Project-Portal
- *Email comments:* bskincaid@dupontwa.gov
- *Mail comments:* Barbara Kincaid, City of DuPont, 1700 Civic Drive, DuPont, WA 98327

Comments that provide specific feedback regarding the elements of the environment and alternatives being analyzed by the EIS are especially helpful. Any comments will become public information and all Public Disclosure rules and regulations apply. All comments received will be reviewed and considered in defining the scope of the Draft EIS, which is anticipated to be issued early in spring 2022.

Where can I go for more information?

All project documents, including application plans and reports, are posted online at dupontwa.gov/621/Pioneer-Aggregates-Project-Documents. Questions can be emailed to Barbara

Kincaid, City of DuPont Community Development Director and SEPA Responsible Official, at bkinaid@dupontwa.gov.