



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
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Exemption from Shoreline Substantial Development Permit

July 21, 2017

Todd McLaughlin
Avista Utilities
1411 E. Mission Avenue
Spokane, WA 99220

RE: Bluff Avista Pole Replacement; File #Z17-420 SDET

Dear Mr. McLaughlin:

Avista has requested an Exemption from a Shoreline Substantial Development permit for the replacement of a three-pole 115 kV transmission structure that falls within the 200' Shoreline Jurisdiction of Latah/Hangman Creek, at approximately 4001 S. Inland Empire Way. The work within the shoreline jurisdiction would include replacing the wooden transmission line structure with a distressed steel pole. This is part of a larger replacement project, the remaining poles being outside of the shoreline jurisdiction.

The maintenance activities are located above the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) of Latah Creek in the City of Spokane in the SW 1/4 Section 31, Township 25N, Range 43 East Willamette Meridian. Latah Creek is designated as a shoreline of statewide significance (RCW 90.58.030). The City of Spokane Shoreline Master Program designates the east bank of Latah Creek with the Shoreline Environmental Designation of Natural Environment. This proposal is in the Zone 6 Riparian Habitat Area (RHA). The Comprehensive Plan Designation for this area is Residential 4-10 and the zoning is Single Family Residential.

The City of Spokane Planning and Development Department finds the above outlined project to be exempt from a shoreline substantial development permit under the provisions of the Washington Administrative Code section 173-27-040(2)(b) and Spokane Municipal Code Section 17E.060.300 (B.2). *The proposed activities are found to be "normal maintenance" to prevent a decline, lapse, or cessation of a lawfully established condition and would not cause substantial adverse effects to the shoreline resources or environment.*

This project is permitted in compliance with Spokane Municipal Code, Section 17E.060.230 (G) which states: *Normal maintenance or repair of existing utilities and facilities within an existing degraded shoreline area shall be allowed if the activity does not further alter or degrade shoreline ecological functions or vegetative cover, and there is no increased risk to life or property as a result of the proposed operation, maintenance or repair.*

This project is SEPA Exempt under WAC 197-11-800(3) as minor repair of structures; additionally, no expansion of facilities are included in this proposal.

The project will be within shorelines of statewide significance (RCW 90.58.030) and within the Natural Environment along Latah Creek as designated by the Spokane Shoreline Master Program. The proposal meets the intent of the Spokane Shoreline Master Program and is consistent with the policies of the Shoreline Management Act. The project will not have an adverse impact on the shoreline area, its values or functions. As such, City of Spokane Planning and Development authorizes the proposed replacement of the existing utility pole at approximately 4001 S. Inland Empire Way subject to the conditions stated below and of any other agency permits.

Condition(s):

1. In compliance with the Spokane Municipal Code 17E.020.070 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Areas-Exemptions: All exempt activities shall be undertaken using best management practices; the applicant shall maintain records documenting compliance with best management practices.
2. In compliance with the Spokane Municipal Code 17E.060.230 (H), this maintenance work shall not expand further into the critical area, shall not directly impact endangered species and shall result in no net loss of shoreline ecological functions.
3. This project shall conform to the requirements of any additional agency permits and required mitigations.
4. In compliance with the Spokane Municipal Code 17E.060.300 Uses, Modifications, and Developments Exempt from Shoreline Substantial Development Permit Requirement: An exemption from the shoreline substantial development permit process is not an exemption from compliance with the Shoreline Management Act or provisions of these shoreline regulations, or from any other regulatory requirements. To be authorized, all uses, modifications, and developments must be consistent with the policies and regulations of the entire SMP and the Act.

If you have any questions regarding this exemption, please contact Tami Palmquist, Development Services Center, at 509-625-6157 or tpalmquist@spokanecity.org.

Sincerely,



Tami Palmquist, AICP, CFM
Associate Planner
City of Spokane Planning and Development

Cc: Jacob McCann, Washington Department of Ecology