
List of Acronyms and Glossary

Final Environmental Impact Statement
Vancouver Rail Project

List of Acronyms and Glossary

Acronyms

AADT

Average Annual Daily Traffic

ADA

Americans with Disabilities Act

ADT

Average Daily Traffic

BC

British Columbia

BMPs

Best Management Practices

BN

Burlington Northern Railroad

BNSF

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company

BTU

British Thermal Unit

CAA

Clean Air Act

CEA

Cumulative Effects Analysis

CEQ

Council on Environmental Quality

CFR

Code of Federal Regulations

cfs

Cubic feet per second

CRT

Community Resource Team

CWA

Clean Water Act

dB

Decibels

DEIS

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

DOE

See WDOE

DOT

See USDOT

DPM

Dispatch Model

DPS

Distinct Population Segment

EIS

Environmental Impact Statement

EO

Executive Order

EPA

See USEPA

ESA

Endangered Species Act

ESU

Evolutionary Significant Unit

FEIS

Final Environmental Impact Statement

FEMA

Federal Emergency Management Agency

FHWA

U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration

FIRMs

Flood Insurance Rate Maps

FRA

U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration

GMA

Growth Management Act

HSB

House Substitute Bill

LOS

Level of Service

MOU

Memorandum of Understanding

mph

Miles per hour

MTCA

Model Toxics Control Act

NAAQS

National Ambient Air Quality Standards

NEPA

National Environmental Policy Act

NFIP

National Flood Insurance Program

NMFS

National Marine Fisheries Service

NP

Northern Pacific Railroad

NPDES

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

NPL

National Priorities List

NRCS

National Resource Conservation Service

NRHP

National Register of Historic Places

NWI

National Wetlands Inventory

PAHs

Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons

PDEIS

Preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement

PHS

Priority Habitat Species

PM₁₀

Fine Particulate Matter

PNWRC

Pacific Northwest Corridor

OR

Oregon

RCW

Revised Code of Washington

ROD

Record of Decision

ROW

Right-of-way

RTC

Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council

SEPA

Washington State Environmental Policy Act

SHB

Senate House Bill

SHPO

State Historic Preservation Officer

SIP

State Implementation Plan

SPCC

Spill Prevention, Containment and Countermeasure Plan

SWAPCA

Southwest Air Pollution Control Authority

SWPPP

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan

TES

Threatened, Endangered and Special Status species

TIP

Transportation Improvement Plan

USDOT

U.S. Department of Transportation

USEPA

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

USFWS

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

USGS

U.S. Geological Service

WA

Washington

WDFW

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

WDOE

Washington State Department of Ecology

WISHA

Washington Industrial Safety and Health Administration

WNHP

Washington Natural Heritage Program

WRIA

Water Resource Inventory Area

WSDOT

Washington State Department of Transportation

WUTC

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

Glossary

Action

A transportation project proposed for federal funding or approval. It also includes activities such as joint and multiple use permits, changes in access control, etc., that may or may not involve a commitment of federal funds. The SEPA Rules define “action” as either project or nonproject actions. Project actions involve an agency decision on a specific project (“construction or management activity located in a defined geographic area”). Nonproject actions involve agency decisions on policies, plans, or programs. WAC 197-11-704 (SEPA).

Active Warning Device

Flashing lights and/or gates used at grade crossings.

Advance Warning Signals

A sign used along a roadway to warn that a roadway-rail grade crossing is ahead.

Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT)

Daily traffic that is averaged over a calendar year.

Aquatic Resources

All waters of the US/Waters of the State and associated sensitive species (both defined below).

Aquifer

An underground geological formation containing usable amounts of groundwater that can supply wells and springs.

At-Grade Crossing

The surface where the rail and a roadway (or pathway) cross at the same level.

Average Daily Traffic (ADT)

The average number of vehicles that pass a specified point during a period. Unless otherwise stated, the period is a year.

Ballast

Material selected for placement on the roadbed for the purpose of holding the track in place.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Used during construction, methods that have been determined to be the most effective, practical means of preventing or reducing pollution from nonpoint sources.

Built Environment

The elements of the environment generally built or made by people as contrasted with natural processes, as specified by RCW 43.21C.110(1)(f) and WAC 197-11-444(2) (SEPA)

Bypass

A track that goes around other rail facilities (bypasses them). A bypass may be as simple as a track that goes around a small yard, or may be as significant as a complete route revision.

Capital Costs

Non-recurring costs required to construct (or improve) the rail line. Capital costs include the purchase of vehicles, track improvements, station rehabilitation, and design and administrative costs associated with these improvements.

Capacity

(1) The maximum number of vehicles that have a reasonable expectation of passing over a given section of a lane or roadway in one direction, or in both directions for a two lane or three-lane highway, during a given time period under prevailing roadway and traffic conditions. (2) The number of passengers that can be transported over a given section of a transit line in one direction during a given time period (usually one hour) under prevailing traffic conditions.

Categorical Exemption

A type of SEPA action, specified in WAC 197-11 Part Nine, that does not significantly affect the environment.

Categorical Exclusion (CE)

Actions/projects under NEPA that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and that have been found to have no such effect in procedures adopted by a federal agency implementing these regulations (771 for FHWA) and for which, therefore, neither an EA nor an EIS is required. 40 CFR 1508.4.

Centralized Traffic Control (CTC)

A computerized system that uses remote controls to change signals and switches along a designated portion of railroad track.

Chokepoint

An area along the railroad track that is often congested, making it difficult for trains to pass uninterrupted.

Coastal Zone Management Determination (CZM Determination)

A certification with Washington's Coastal Zone Management Program is required for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) authorized projects, and other federally licenses or permitted projects. Ecology reviews the proposed project for consistency with state environmental requirements, including shoreline permits.

Commuter Rail

Operates between a central city and its suburbs, and runs on a railroad right-of-way. Examples include the Sound Transit's commuter rail system in Puget Sound, Metrolink in Los Angeles, California and British Columbia's West Coast Express.

Congestion Delay Time

Delay caused by the inability of the system to expeditiously handle all the trains without incurring delay to some or all of the trains, even though no part of the system is inoperable.

Consist

The number of vehicles forming a train.

Continuous Welded Rail

Rails welded together in lengths of 400 feet or more.

Cooperating Agency

NEPA term for any agency other than a lead agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposal (or reasonable alternative) for legislation or other major federal action/project significantly affecting the human environment. A state or local agency of similar qualifications, or, when the effects are on a reservation, an Indian Tribe, may by agreement with the lead agency become a cooperating agency. 40 CFR 1508.5.

Corridor Train

Intercity rail passenger service that links major transportation centers within a limited geographic region. In the Pacific Northwest Rail Corridor (PNWRC), trains that only travel within the corridor (between Vancouver, BC and Eugene, OR) are corridor trains.

Crossbuck (Railroad Crossbuck)

A type of sign found at public railroad crossings. This sign should be treated as a yield sign.

Crossover (and Power Crossover)

A set of turnouts that connects multiple tracks. A crossover allows a train to move from one track to another. A power crossover is controlled by Centralized Traffic Control (CTC).

Cumulative Impact

The impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. 40 CFR 1508.7 (NEPA) or WAC 197-11-330 (SEPA).

Deficiencies

Areas along the track that cannot handle expected increased train frequencies.

Derail (and Power Derail)

A device on the tracks used to remove a non-moving train from the tracks in case of an emergency. A power derail is operated by Centralized Traffic Control (CTC).

Design Concept

The type of facility identified by the project; e.g., freeway, expressway, arterial highway, grade-separated highway, reserved right-of-way rail transit, mixed-traffic rail transit, exclusive busway, etc. 40 CFR 51.392 (NEPA).

Design Scope

The design aspects that will affect the proposed facility's impact on regional emissions, usually as they relate to vehicle- or person-carrying capacity and control; e.g., number of lanes or tracks to be constructed or added, length of project, signalization, access control including approximate number and location of interchanges, preferential treatment for high occupancy vehicles, etc. 40 CFR 51.392 (NEPA).

Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS)

The written decision by the responsible official of the SEPA lead agency that a proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact, and therefore an EIS is not required. WAC 197-11-734.

Determination of Significance (DS)

The written decision by the responsible official of the SEPA lead agency that a proposal is likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact, and therefore an EIS is required. The DS form is in WAC 197-11-980 and must be used substantially in that form. WAC 197-11-736.

Dispatcher

The individual who plans and controls the movement of trains.

Double Track

Two sets of main line track located side by side, most often used for travel in opposite directions, like roadways.

Easement

A right to use or control the property of another for designated purposes.

Effects

“Effects“ and “impacts” are synonymous. “Effects” include ecological, aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic, social, or health, whether direct, indirect, or cumulative (see definition for cumulative impacts). “Effects” may also include those resulting from actions that may have both beneficial and detrimental effects, even if on balance the agency believes that the effect will be beneficial. “Effects” include:

- (1) Direct effects, that are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place.
- (2) Indirect effects, that are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect effects may include growth inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate, and related effects on air and water and other natural systems, including ecosystems. 40 CFR 1508.8 (NEPA), or WAC 197-11-330, WAC 197-11-752, WAC 197-11-782 and WAC 197-11-794 of SEPA.

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

The purposes of this Act are to provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved, to provide a program for the conservation of such endangered species and threatened species, and to take such steps as may be appropriate to achieve this conservation.

Environmental Assessment (EA)

An environmental analysis prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to determine whether a federal action (or project with federal investment) would significantly affect the environment and thus require a more detailed EIS.

Technical definition:

A concise NEPA public document for which a federal agency is responsible which includes brief discussions of the need for the proposal and the alternatives considered, and serves to:

- (1) Briefly provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact.
- (2) Aid an agency's compliance with NEPA when no environmental impact statement is necessary.
- (3) Facilitate preparation of an EIS when one is necessary.

Environmental Document

Any written public document prepared under NEPA and SEPA. The terms environmental analysis, environmental study, environmental report, and environmental assessment do not have specialized meanings and do not refer to particular environmental documents (unlike various other state or federal environmental impact procedures).

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

A document required by federal and state agencies under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Washington State's Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). An EIS is required for major project or legislative proposals that may significantly affect the environment. A tool for decision making, it describes the positive and negative effects of the undertaking and cites alternative actions.

Technical definition:

A detailed written statement prepared when an action is determined to likely cause a significant impact to the environment as required by Section 102 (2)(c) (NEPA) or WAC 197-11-405 (SEPA).

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

A federal agency that implements the federal laws designed to promote public health by protecting our nation's air, water, and soil from harmful pollution.

Exclusive Right-of-Way

A right-of-way that is to be used only for the rail line (either freight or passenger or both). It is usually completely grade-separated from other types of vehicles.

Fill

Depositing of dirt, mud or other materials into aquatic areas to create more dry land.

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

A NEPA document prepared by a federal agency briefly presenting the reasons why an action/project will not have a significant effect on the human environment and for which an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. It shall include the environmental assessment or a summary of it, and shall note any other environmental documents related to it (1501.7(a)(5)). If the assessment is included, the finding need not repeat any of the discussion in the assessment but may incorporate it by reference. 40 CFR 1508.13.

Flashing Light Signals

Used with the crossbuck signs at railroad crossings. When the lights are flashing, the motorist or pedestrian must stop.

Floodplain

The flat or nearly flat land along a river, stream, or lake that is covered by water during a flood.

Frequency

A term used to describe the level of rail service. For intercity rail, frequent service means that trains serve a particular station at least every four hours.

Gates

Used with flashing signals at certain crossings to warn that a train is approaching.

Generated Traffic

New traffic that develops as a result of an improvement or land use change.

Geometrics

An engineering term that refers to the design of the tracks.

Grade Crossing

The area along the track where a roadway or pathway crosses.

Grade-Separated

Crossing lines of traffic that are vertically separated from each other (i.e., a roadway that goes over or under a railroad track).

Groundwater

Supply of fresh water found beneath the earth's surface, usually in aquifers, that supply wells and springs.

Habitat

The place where a population (human, animal or plant) lives and its surroundings.

Hazardous Materials

Material, often waste, that poses a threat to human health and/or the environment. typical hazardous substances are toxic, corrosive, explosive, or chemically reactive.

High Speed Rail

Trains like the famed Japanese Bullet Train are well known in European and Asian countries. These trains travel at speeds greater than 125 miles per hour on exclusive right-of-way and are economically feasible only in the world's densely populated areas.

Human Environment

"Human environment" shall be interpreted comprehensively to include the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with that environment. This means that economic or social effects are not intended by themselves to require preparation of an environmental impact statement. When an environmental impact statement is prepared and economic or social and natural or physical environmental effects are interrelated, the environmental impact statement will discuss all of these effects on the human environment. 40 CFR 1508.14 (NEPA).

Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA)

Any form of work that uses, diverts, obstructs, or changes the natural flow or bed of any fresh water or saltwater of the state requires a hydraulic project approval from the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Impacts

The effects or consequences of actions. Environmental impacts are effects upon the elements of the environments listed in WAC197-11-444 (SEPA).

Intercity Rail

Connects central city to central city on a railroad right-of-way in densely traveled corridors. Amtrak's metroliner service between Washington, DC and Boston is a well-known example of higher-speed intercity rail. Locally, the Amtrak *Cascades* train from Seattle to Portland is an example of intercity rail.

Induced Traffic

Traffic that is increased on a facility or route not by normal growth but solely by an improvement or change in the facility.

Intermodal

The use of different types of transportation modes to move freight shipments and people, i.e. ships, trains, buses and trucks.

Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application (JARPA)

Used to apply for Hydraulic Project Approvals, Shoreline Management Permits, Approvals for Exceedance of Water Quality Standards, Water Quality Certifications, Coast Guard Bridge Permits, Department of Natural Resources Use Authorization, and Army Corps of Engineers Permits.

Jurisdiction by Law

Agency authority to approve, veto, or finance all or part of a proposal. 40 CFR 1508.15 (Federal law).

Lead Agency

The agency or agencies preparing or having taken primary

responsibility for preparing the environmental impact statement. 40 CFR 1508.16 (NEPA) or WAC 197-11-758 and WAC 197-11-922 through 948 (SEPA).

Level of Service (LOS)

(1) A qualitative rating of the effectiveness of a highway in serving traffic, measured in terms of operating conditions. Note: The Highway Capacity Manual identifies operating conditions ranging from “A” for free flow operations to “F” for forced or breakdown flow (see definitions appendix). (2) The quality and quantity of transportation service provided, including characteristics that are quantifiable (safety, travel time, frequency, travel cost, number of transfers) and those that are difficult to quantify (comfort, availability, convenience, modal image).

Light Rail

Carries a light volume of traffic. “Light” refers to the number of riders that the train can carry, not the weight of the train. Light rail may share right-of-way on a roadway or operate on exclusive right-of-way on a roadway, and can have multi-car trains or single cars. Trolley cars and Portland, Oregon’s MAX system are examples of light rail.

Liquefaction

When a solid changes to a liquid. Often the case with some soils, resulting in landslides. Can also happen during an earthquake in certain filled areas.

Lock Switch (and Electric Lock Switch)

Operated by Centralized Traffic Control (CTC) to regulate when trains can enter on or off the tracks.

Long Distance (Long Haul) Train

A passenger train that serves major transportation centers within and beyond that of a corridor train. An example is Amtrak’s *Coast Starlight* that travels between Los Angeles and Seattle. Also, a freight train that serves cities along the Pacific Coast and in other parts of the United States.

Main Line

A railroad’s primary track that usually extends great distances. It usually carries both freight and passenger trains.

Maintenance

Procedures taken to retain equipment and material in a serviceable condition or to restore them to serviceability.

Mitigation

Measures taken to reduce adverse impacts on the environment.

Technical definition:

“Mitigation” includes in order of sequence

(1) Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action. (2) Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation, by using appropriate technology, or taking affirmative steps to avoid or reduce impacts. (3) Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment. (4) Reducing or eliminating the impact over

time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action. (5) Compensating for the impact by replacing, enhancing, or providing substitute resources or environments; and/or (6) Monitoring the impact and taking appropriate corrective measures. 40 CFR 1508.20 (NEPA) and WAC 197-11-768 (SEPA).

Mode

A means of transportation. Automobile travel, rail, air, ferries, etc., are different modes of travel.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Like SEPA, but at the federal level. The federal NEPA regulations are located at 40 CFR 1500 et seq.

National Pollution Elimination Discharge System (NPDES)

A provision of the Clean Water Act which prohibits discharge of pollution into waters of the United States unless a special permit is issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, a state agency, or where delegated, a tribal government.

Natural Environment

Those aspects of the environment frequently referred to as natural elements, or resources, such as earth, air, water, wildlife, and energy, as specified in WAC 197-11-444(1) (SEPA).

Nonattainment Area

A geographic region designated by EPA in which federal air quality standards are not or were not met by a certain date. Areas once designated as nonattainment that now meet air quality standards remain nonattainment until EPA has approved a redesignation request and maintenance plan.

Nonpoint Source

Pollution sources without a single point of origin. The pollutants are generally carried off the land by stormwater.

Notice of Intent (NOI)

A NEPA notice filed with EPA for publishing in the Federal Register that informs agencies and the public that an environmental impact statement will be prepared and considered. 40 CFR 1508.22.

Operational Costs (Operating Costs)

Recurring costs of operating passenger or freight service. These costs include wages, maintenance of facilities and equipment, fuel, supplies, employee benefits, insurance, taxes, marketing and other administrative costs.

Overpass

The upper level of a grade separation where a road or highway crosses a railroad.

Ozone

Formed when nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds react with one another in the presence of sunlight and warm temperatures. A component of smog.

Pacific Northwest Rail Corridor (PNWRC)

One of five federally-designated passenger rail corridors in the United States, but the only passenger rail corridor in the nation with both international and bi-state ties. It is 464 miles long, and extends from Eugene, Oregon, through Seattle to Vancouver, BC.

Passive Warning Device

Signs or markers used at all grade crossings.

Patronage

The number of people carried by the passenger train during a specified period.

Pavement Markings

Painted on the pavement in advance of a railroad highway crossing, it warns the motorist or pedestrian of the rail crossing.

Point Source

Pollution sources with a single point of origin.

Positive Train Separation (PTS)

A new railroad communication system that uses high tech equipment to monitor train locations.

Practicable

Available and capable of being done after taking into consideration cost, existing technology, and logistics in light of overall project purposes. 40 CFR 230.3(q).

Project Scoping

A compilation of project data including a statement of the problem to be corrected; what work is needed to correct it (such as lanes, bridge work, safety improvements); estimated cost; manpower data; and schedule.

Public Hearing

A public proceeding conducted for the purpose of acquiring information or evidence that will be considered in evaluating a proposed transportation project and/or a COE permit action, and that affords the public an opportunity to present for the record their views, opinions, and information on such projects and permit actions. See 33 CFR 327.3(a) (Federal law).

Rail Yard

A system of tracks within defined limits that are designed for storing, cleaning, and assembling (to each other) rail cars.

Railroad Crossbuck (Crossbuck)

A type of sign found at public railroad crossings. This sign should be treated as a yield sign.

Railroad Tie

The part of the track, often wood or concrete, where the rails are spiked or otherwise fastened.

Recharge Area

A land area in which water reaches the zone of saturation from surface infiltration, e.g. where rainwater soaks through the earth to reach an aquifer.

Record of Decision (ROD)

A concise public document prepared by the federal agency at the end of the NEPA process stating its decision or recommendation to Congress that

(1) States what the decision was. (2) Identifies all alternatives considered by the agency in reaching its decision, specifying the alternative or alternatives that were considered to be environmentally preferable. (3) Identifies and discusses relevant factors including economic and technical consideration, agency statutory mission, and any essential considerations of national policy that were balanced by the agency in making its decision, and states how those considerations entered into its decision. (4) States whether all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the alternative selected have been adopted, and if not, why they were not. (5) Adopts and summarizes monitoring and enforcement programs where applicable for any mitigation. 40 CFR 1505.2 (NEPA).

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

The official intermodal transportation plan that is developed and adopted through the metropolitan transportation planning process for the metropolitan planning area. 23 CFR 450.104 (Federal law).

Regulatory Agency

An agency that has jurisdiction by law.

Ridership

The number of people carried by the passenger train during a specified period.

Reliability

In transit planning, if a train or bus arrives within 10 minutes of its scheduled time, it is considered reliable. Reliability can be dictated by congestion on the tracks, delays at stations, and equipment malfunction.

Resource Agency

An agency that has special expertise with respect to any environmental issue.

Right-of-way (ROW)

The horizontal and vertical space occupied by the rail service. In the Pacific Northwest Rail Corridor, The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) owns the right-of-way. Amtrak, the Washington State Department of Transportation, and Sound Transit run their trains on the BNSF's right-of-way through operating agreements.

Technical definition:

A general term denoting land, property, or interest therein, usually in a strip, acquired for or devoted to transportation purposes.

Rolling Stock

Train vehicles.

Runoff

That part of precipitation, snow melt, or irrigation water that runs off the land into streams or other surface water. It can carry pollutants from the air and land into receiving waters.

Scoping

Determining the range of proposed actions, alternatives, and impacts to be discussed in an EIS. Because an EIS is required to analyze significant environmental impacts only, scoping is intended to identify and narrow the EIS to the significant issues.

Section 4(d)

A provision of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Act requires the publication of 4(d) rules for species listed as “threatened”. These 4(d) rules put “take” prohibitions in place, and also limit “take” prohibitions for specific categories of activities that contribute to conserving listed salmon and steelhead.

Section 4(f)

A provision of the U.S. Department of Transportation providing protection for publicly owned public parks, recreation areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, or historic sites on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. 49 U.S.C. 303 and 23 U.S.C. 138, 23 CFR 771.107(e) and 771.135 (Federal law).

Section 106 -- of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

Requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties, and afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment.

Section 401 Certification (Water Quality Certification)

A water quality certification, issued by the Washington State Department of Ecology, is required of any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct any activity that may result in any discharge into surface waters. This includes discharge of dredge and fill material into water or wetlands. Many excavation activities that occur in streams, wetlands, or other waters of the state also require a 401 certification.

Section 404 Permit

A Department of the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) permit to authorize the discharge of dredged or fill material into Waters of the U. S. pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C. 1344). Includes the following specific types of permits:

Individual Permit - An COE authorization that is issued following a case-by-case evaluation of a specific project involving the proposed discharge(s) in accordance with the procedures of 33 CFR Parts 323 and 325 and a determination that the proposed discharge is in the public interest pursuant to 33 CFR Part 320. 33 CFR 323.2(g).

General permit - A COE authorization that is issued on a nationwide or regional basis for a category or categories of activities when

(1) Those activities are substantially similar in nature and cause only minimal individual and cumulative environmental impacts or (2) The general permit would result in avoiding unnecessary duplication of regulatory control exercised by another federal, state, or local agency, provided it has been determined that the environmental consequences of the action are individually and cumulatively minimal. (See 33 CFR 323.2(e) and 33 CFR Part 330.) 33 CFR §§ 322.2(f) and 323.2(h).

Regional permit - A type of general permit. It may be issued by a division or district engineer after compliance with the other procedures of the Section 404 permit regulations. If the public interest so requires, the issuing authority may condition the regional permit to require a case-by-case reporting and acknowledgment system. However, no separate applications or other authorizations documents are generally not required. 33 CFR §§ 325.2 (e)(2) and 325.5 (c)(1).

Nationwide permit - A type of general permit that represents COE authorizations that have been issued by the regulation (33 CFR Part 330) for certain specified activities nationwide. If certain conditions are met, the specified activities can take place without the need for an individual or regional permit. 33 CFR § 325.5 (c)(2).

Programmatic permit - A type of general permit that may be issued if it would result in avoiding unnecessary duplication of regulatory control exercised by another federal, state, or local agency, provided it has been determined that the environmental consequences of the action are individually and cumulatively minimal. (See 33 CFR 325.2(e) and 33 CFR Part 330). 33 CFR § 323.2 (h)(2).

Letter of permission (LOP) - A type of permit issued through an abbreviated processing procedure that includes coordination with federal and state fish and wildlife agencies, as required by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, and a public interest evaluation, but without the publishing of an individual public notice. 33 CFR § 325.2(e)(1).

Siding

An auxiliary track located next to a main line that allows a train to move out of the way of an oncoming train. Sidings are also used to store trains or to add/subtract rail cars.

Special Expertise

Statutory responsibility, agency mission, or related program experience. 40 CFR § 1508.26 (Federal law).

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)

Adopted in 1971. Provided Washington's State's basic environmental charter. The SEPA Rules that implemented the Act directed agencies to consider environmental information (impacts, alternatives, and mitigation) before committing to a particular course of action. Chapter 43.21C RCW (State law) and Chapter 197-11 WAC (SEPA Rules).

Stormwater

That part of precipitation, snow melt, or irrigation water that runs off the land into streams or other surface water. It can carry pollutants from the air and land into receiving waters.

Switch

A set of levers and gears that guides a train over a turnout or crossover. The levers and gears are moved manually or electronically.

Travel Time

The elapsed time between a trip's beginning and end. It includes, travel, transfers, and waiting time.

Turnout

A set of tracks that connect the main line to a siding or rail yard. A turnout allows the train to move off or onto the main line.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

A federal agency that implements the federal laws designed to promote public health by protecting our nation's air, water, and soil from harmful pollution. Often called by the acronym EPA.

Waters of the State

Lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, inland waters, underground waters, salt waters and all other surface waters, and watercourses within the jurisdiction of the state of Washington. RCW 90.48 (State law).

Waters of the U. S.

Waters within the jurisdiction of the federal government.

Includes

(1) All waters that are currently used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide. (2) All interstate waters including interstate wetlands. (3) All other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds, the use, degradation or destruction of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce including any such waters

(a) Which are or could be used by interstate foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes. (b) From which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce. (c) Which are used or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce. (4) All impoundments of waters otherwise defined as waters of the United States under this definition. (5) Tributaries of waters identified in paragraphs (1)-(4).

(6) The territorial seas. (7) Wetlands adjacent to waters (other than waters that are themselves wetland) identified in paragraphs (1) through (6). Waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons designed to meet the requirement of the Clean Water Act (CWA) (other than cooling ponds as defined in 40 CFR § 123.11 (m) that also meet the criteria of this definition) are not Waters of the United

States. In addition, Waters of the U. S. do not include prior converted cropland. Notwithstanding the determination of an area's status as prior converted cropland by any other federal agency, for the purposes of the CWA, the final authority regarding CWA jurisdiction remains with EPA. 33 CFR § 328.3(a); 40 CFR § 232.2 (Federal law)

Wetlands

Areas saturated by surface or groundwater with vegetation adapted for life under those soil conditions. Examples of wetlands are swamps, bogs, and estuaries.

Technical definition:

Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. 33 CFR § 328.3 (b); 40 CFR § 230.3(t) (Federal law).