Print Form

Washington State Department of Transportation

Utility Permit or Franchise Application

Open Cut Pavement Variance Request

Justification Questionnaire

Permit/Franchise #:		Date:
SR:	MP Limits:	
Applicant:		
Installation Description:		

INSTRUCTIONS: Please read each question carefully and provide thorough and complete answers in all sections. Unanswered questions or vague, incomplete justifications will delay review of your utility permit or franchise application. The WSDOT Region Utilities Office must complete Section 2, *Regional Considerations*. (It is attached for your information only.)

SECTION 1 – *JUSTIFICATION OF VARIANCE PROPOSAL* (to be completed by applicant)

1. Reason for Open Cut Installation

Explain why it is unusually difficult or impossible to employ subsurface (trenchless) installation techniques to install the proposed utility beneath the pavement structure:

2. Alternative Routes Considered

Identify all other route and/or installation alternatives considered, and explain why they were rejected. Attach a plan or sketch showing all routes considered:

3. Basis for Selection of Proposed Route

Explain the basis for selection of the chosen route and why it is critical to the alignment of the utility:

4. Cost Justification

If cost is a basis for justification, explain in detail what elements make the alternative locations cost-prohibitive. Attach a complete, detailed estimate of the costs.

5. *Utility Maintenance*

Will utility maintenance be necessary during the life of this utility? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain the nature, frequency, duration, and management of maintenance operations, including proposed access to the utility, traffic control methods, and other aspects of maintenance operations:

6. *Existing Surface Material*

Identify existing surface material of traveled lanes, shoulders and widened areas, embankments, and special construction details (such as rock-lined ditch or slope treatment) at open cut location:

7. *Existing Conditions*

Provide photographs showing the existing conditions on both sides of highway at location of open cut. Include vegetated areas, geologic features, guardrail, drainage features, or other items that will be impacted by this open cut proposal:

8. *Profile of Proposed Open Cut Installation*

Provide a roadway cross section showing a profile of the proposed open cut installation across the entire WSDOT right of way at the proposed open cut location. This information should include (1) the location of all existing utilities, (2) the width of traveled lanes, turn lanes, shoulders, and widened areas outside of shoulders, and (3) the angle and depth of the proposed utility installation in relation to the existing roadway surface, ditching and/or embankments. Dimension all information from the centerline of the highway horizontally and depth information from appropriate points vertically.

9. *Proposed Open Cut Trench Cross Section*

Provide a proposed open cut trench cross section showing pipe and casing ID and OD (if applicable); typical trench construction width; typical pipe zone bedding depth and material; typical trench backfill depth and material; and existing and replacement surfacing depth and material and the width and method of repair of roadway surface.

10. *Additional Information*

Provide additional information in support of this Variance Request:

Part B – Variance Justification Submittal Requirements

All accommodation applications that include a variance proposal to use open cut construction methods must include the following:

- This Open Cut Pavement Variance Request Justification Questionnaire
- Plan showing all alternative routes considered.
- Engineering plans, profiles, and details for the chosen route.
- Protective Measures Plan detailing protective measures installation and construction.
- Roadway cross section of the entire right of way where the open cut installation is normal to centerline, or at regular intervals if a longitudinal installation. Show details relating to width of travel lanes, turn lanes, shoulders, and widened areas, and location of existing and proposed utilities.
- Open cut cross section showing pipe and casing (if applicable), trench width, pipe zone bedding material, backfill material, and existing and replacement material, width, depth, and specification.
- Utility Maintenance Plan (if necessary).
- Cost estimate (if cost is the reason for rejection of alternatives).
- Additional supporting information.

Applicant Certification and Signature

To the best of my knowledge, the information provided herein by me, employees under my supervision, or consultants hired by me is complete and accurate and factually represents all aspects of the proposed utility installation.

Signature	Date
Print name	
Title	

SECTION 2 – *REGIONAL CONSIDERATIONS* (to be completed by WSDOT)

Background

Is the proposed installation a Franchise Amendment? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what is the franchise number that authorizes the parent utility?

Is the parent franchise expired? If yes, process the application using the Franchise Consolidation process. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Administrative Assessment and Coordination

Is there a need for a Notice of Filing (WAC 468-34-030)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain why:

Will the proposal have adverse effects on the structural integrity, maintenance, appearance, or operation of the highway? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain the adverse effects:

Will the proposal have negative impacts or potentially adverse effects on traffic and/or pedestrian movements or on the overall operation of the limited access facility that may occur in the future due to the proposed installation? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain the adverse effects:

Will the utility installation affect design or construction of currently programmed projects? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, list the projects and explain the effects of the utility installation:

What is the schedule of the proposed utility installation and WSDOT projects identified above and are there potential conflicts?

Have appropriate design and construction offices been given an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed installation? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If so, what steps will be taken to coordinate utility installation with affected projects?

Region Utility Office Recommendation

What is the region's recommendation regarding approval of this application?

☐ Application Approved
☐ Application Denied

Explain the reason(s) for approval or denial: