

LOCATION: Fred Hill Materials Inc. (FHM) has submitted a proposal on 165 acres referred as the Wahl Extraction Area. The 165 acres in portions of Section 1, Township 27 North, Range 1 West, lying approximately 1.25 miles west of the existing Shine Hub operated by FHM. The permit area includes a proposed 137-acre mining/excavation area, 19 acres identified as regulated critical areas and/or required mining setback areas, and a 60 foot easement from the extraction area to the Shine Hub that would total 9 acres.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: The 165 acre area is designated Commercial Forest by the Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan. This area is also designated as Mineral Resource Lands Overlay (MRLO) by Jefferson County's adoption of Ordinance 08-0706-04 on July 6, 2004, and is subject to 15 conditions of approval governing any activities conducted within the MRLO.

PROJECT SUMMARY: The proposed 137-acre extraction area would be mined sequentially, in 11 individual segments ranging in size from 12 to 15 acres. Resources would be transported from the excavation site to the Shine Hub via a conveyor located in the 9-acre conveyor and maintenance road route. Currently approximately 500,000 tons of material are transported annually by trucks from the Shine Hub on SR 104. It is anticipated that based on local market demand that the quantity of material will increase over time (approximately 10 to 15 years) to 750,000 tons annually of material by ground transport.

Topsoil and surface materials required for site reclamation would be stockpiled on site. Final reclamation of slopes created or disturbed by the mining would range between 2:1 and 3:1 (vertical to horizontal). All slopes and grounds would be prepared in a manner that would allow successful replanting and growing of trees and other vegetation. Reclamation of depleted segments would occur in a timely manner as prescribed under DNR mining reclamation permit requirements.

Maximum mining depth for this proposal is 90 feet. The seasonal high groundwater underneath the proposed mining extraction area ranges between 15 to 100 feet below the existing (pre-mining) ground surface. Mining is not permitted within 10 feet of the seasonal high water level (per condition #11 of Ordinance 08-0706-04). Only extraction activities are allowed in the MRLO (per condition #11 of Ordinance 08-0706-04).

This proposal is for mining sand and gravel that then be conveyed and processed at the applicant's existing Shine Pit and transported to local and regional markets solely by trucks and trailers. It is anticipated that the expected rate of extraction of sand and gravel would deplete the 137-acre mining area in approximately 20 years. If a substantial increase in the rate of extraction would occur this agency shall require that either a new or amended permit be applied for and potentially a new threshold determination under SEPA (per condition #14 of Ordinance 08-0704-06). Finally, the existing Shine Hub Processing area is also required to conform to these 15 conditions of approval along with all requirements of the Unified Development Code (UDC).

Independent of this proposal the applicant has applied to construct a pier on Hood Canal along with a conveyor system -- running north to south -- that would transport sand and

gravel from their existing Shine Pit to the proposed pier. That proposal (Type III permit), if approved and constructed, would allow the applicant to load sand and gravel onto barges and ships for marine transport to local, regional, intrastate and interstate markets. Condition #14 of Ordinance 08-0706-04 requires that a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be completed as part of the consideration and review of the Central Conveyor and Pier proposal.

Periodic inspection of the mine and its operations by this agency to assure compliance of all conditions of approval would occur pursuant to condition #15 of Ordinance 08-0706-04.

RELATED ACTIONS/PERMITS: Jefferson County has a Type I Stormwater Permit to review and is the lead agency for the environmental review of the proposal under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). SEPA review will include and be based upon previously prepared environmental documents, including the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) prepared in the promulgation and adoption of Ordinance 08-0706-04.

Jefferson County is seeking comments on this proposal from agencies with jurisdiction and interested parties by January 5, 2005. After comments are received Jefferson County will review all relevant information and issue a threshold determination with an additional two week comment period. Anyone who comments on this proposal may request a copy of the subsequent threshold determination.

The SEPA Responsible Official will make the threshold determination after considering MRLO conditions, the requirements of other agencies with jurisdiction (DNR Reclamation Permit & DOE General Sand & Gravel Permit), the existing development regulations (including requirements for mining found in the Unified Development Code), and comments received. The threshold determination will be based on whether the proposal would have any probable significant adverse impact(s) after factoring the existing requirements in place for the proposal.

The applicant will be required to obtain a new WA State DNR Reclamation Permit for the new mineral extraction areas, and an amended NPDES General Sand and Gravel permit from the WA State Department of Ecology.

The following studies were submitted as part of this application: Geologic Report, Wetland Report, Mammal Movement, Visual Analysis, Habitat Management Plan, Stormwater Plan, Noise Study, Lighting Analysis, Transportation Study and site maps. These documents, the complete application for this proposal, the SEIS for Ordinance 08-0706-04, Ordinances 14-1312-02, 08-0706-04, and the complete application for the Central Conveyor and Pier are available for review at the Jefferson County DCD office. Some of the above listed and other information is available at <http://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/commdevelopment/FHMhome.htm> website.