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RE: Boring for Subterranean Cable Thermal Testing – Shoreline Exemption

To Whom It May Concern:

PSE is seeking a *shoreline exemption* for our proposal to conduct on-land exploratory boring to test the thermal properties of the soil at the Barnabie and Flood Cable Stations. The bores would be located within the shoreline jurisdiction of Lake Washington, and is necessary to support the future design of a replacement subterranean cable at this location.

The scope of work for this project is classified as *information collection, research, site exploration and investigation activities*. The location of the bore must be in the vicinity of the existing cable to appropriately gauge the thermal properties of the underlying soil ahead of cable replacement. Because this activity is related to a study associated with a future proposal, this project is exempt from SEPA review pursuant to WAC 197-11-800(17). Because the proposed activity meets the criteria listed below, this project is also exempt from the substantial shoreline development permit requirement of Mercer Island's Shoreline Master Program (WAC 173-27-040(m)).

- The activity does not interfere with normal public use of surface waters.
- The activity will have no significant adverse impact on the environment, including but not limited to fish, wildlife, fish or wildlife habitat, water quality, and aesthetic values.
- The activity does not involve the installation of any structure, and upon completion of the activity the vegetation and land configuration of the site will be restored to conditions existing before the activity.
- The activity is not subject to the permit requirements of RCW 90.58.550, as the project does not relate to oil or natural gas exploration in marine waters.

The proposed bore locations at the Barnabie and Flood Cable Stations are roughly 75 and 61 feet landward of the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) for Lake Washington, respectively. Neither of the bores will involve any in-water work, and both project areas are outside of all critical areas and their buffers. This information was obtained using publicly available GIS resources including those provided by King County and the City of Bellevue, and confirmed through a site visit to the project area.

For this project PSE and its subcontractor will use a soil drill rig to bore roughly 10 feet into the ground at the proposed bore location. After a sample has been collected, the bore location will be restored to its original surface condition. Boring will utilize a hollow-stem auger with a 6-8 inch diameter outer casing, resulting in a surface disturbance of about 0.35 square feet and excavation volume of about 0.13 cubic yards.

Best management practices (BMPs) will be used to protect the land from erosion and nearby waterbodies from sedimentation. Erosion and sediment control measures will be applied and maintained on an as needed basis, depending on the site conditions at the time of construction. Disturbed surfaces will be restored to their original condition or better upon completion of construction. All work will occur during reasonable hours and construction limits clearly marked.

Below are the required site photos as part of the shoreline exemption application. Note that no vegetation/tree removal is required and PSE will work to address any impacts that may occur during construction.

Barnabie Site Photos

Flood Site Photos

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at dylan.marcus@pse.com.

Sincerely,

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