

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ANNOUNCES THE AVAILABILITY OF THE
ENGINEERING EVALUATION AND COST ANALYSIS REPORT
and UPDATED ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD
for
THE NEWHALEM PENSTOCK SITE
ROSS LAKE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

The National Park Service (NPS) announces the availability for public review of documents comprising the updated Administrative Record File, now including the Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA) Report for the Newhalem Penstock Site (Site) in Newhalem, Washington, located within Ross Lake National Recreation Area. The penstock is part of a small hydroelectric Site on land under NPS's jurisdiction, custody, or control and operated by Seattle City Light under a FERC license.

The results of soil sampling tests in 2014 and 205 showed elevated levels of lead, arsenic, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons above Washington State's Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) cleanup levels in the vicinity of the penstock. After a wildfire burned across the site in 2015, a total of 171 tons of contaminated soil were removed from the site in 2016 and 2017 as part of a Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The original treated wood saddles that support the penstock tube were also replaced with concrete at that time. Following the TCRA and based on the results of the risk assessment, the Site currently poses no unacceptable risk to people or ecological receptors and removal action objectives have been met. Therefore, an additional removal action is not required, and a No Action alternative is the only alternative retained in the EE/CA.

The NPS seeks to inform the public of the availability of the Administrative Record File at the information repositories listed below, and to encourage the public to review documents in the Administrative Record File including the EE/CA Report. Basic information and more details can also be found at the link below. Although public comments are welcome at any time, a formal public comment period will begin on or after January 9, 2023 and will extend for 30 days following. During this time, public comments can be made electronically or submitted via mail to the contact listed below.

The NPS conducted an EE/CA under CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601 *et seq.*, and Executive Order 12580, as amended, and in accordance with the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), 40 C.F.R Part 300, to fully characterize the nature and extent of contamination at the Site and to evaluate removal action alternatives to protect human health and welfare and the environment from risks associated with contamination at the Site.

Review and Comment Period: The 30-day public comment period begins on or after January 9, 2023.

Providing Your Comments: An information summary of the EE/CA is available at and comments on the EE/CA Report can be submitted via the project website at:

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/NewhalemPenstockEECA>.

By mail: Rob Burrows
North Cascades National Park Service Complex
7280 Ranger Station Rod
Marblemount, WA 98267

All comments received from the public will be placed in the Administrative Record File for the Site. As part of the administrative record, comments will be made available for inspection by the general public, and copies may be provided to the public. If you submit a comment that includes personal identifying information, you may request in your comment that we withhold this information from public review. However, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

The full Administrative Record File is available for review in person in the following locations:

North Cascades National Park Service Complex
810 State Route 20
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
Phone: 360-854-7200
Tues.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (closed from Noon to 1 pm)

North Cascades National Park Service Complex
7280 Ranger Station Rod
Marblemount, WA 98267
Phone: 360-854-7313
Mon.-Thurs. 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.