

Exhibit III: Comments

- Department of Ecology, 6-24-24
- Colville Tribes, 6-25-24
- Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, 6-25-24
- Washington State Department of Health, 7-09-24



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Central Region Office
1250 West Alder St., Union Gap, WA 98903-0009 • 509-575-2490

June 24, 2024

Virgil Amick
City of Cle Elum, Planning Department/Kittitas County Public Works
119 West First Street
Cle Elum, WA 98922

RE: 202402509, SEP-2024-003

Dear Virgil Amick:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment during the Optional Determination of Nonsignificance process for the Kittitas County Search and Rescue project. We have reviewed the documents and have the following comments.

Water Resources Program

Your project is located within the boundaries of WAC 173-539A so it may be subject to the rule. If you planning on withdrawing groundwater for a new use within the boundaries of WAC 173-539A, your project must be water budget neutral. Before withdrawing or using any water please submit a *Request of Determination of Water Budget Neutrality* or an *Application for a New Water Right Permit*, depending on the size of your project either form may be required. If you have any questions or would like to respond to these Water Resources comments, please contact Nathan Longoria at (509) 907-1752 or email at nathan.longoria@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amber Johnson".

Amber Johnson
SEPA Coordinator
Central Regional Office
509-723-5677
crosepacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov



From: [Connor Armi](#)
To: [Virgil Amick](#)
Cc: [Guy Moura](#); [Hanson, Sydney \(DAHP\)](#)
Subject: Re: Kittitas County Public Works Regional Search and Rescue Facility.
Date: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 2:14:17 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Afternoon Virgil,

This consultation is in response to the Kittitas County Public Works Search and Rescue facility. The Confederated Colville Tribes commented on the FEMA proposed Cle Elum Search and Rescue Facility which seems to be the same project. Our recommendation is that the project continue under an IDP and should new cultural resources be uncovered a data recovery and mitigation plan should be implemented.

Sincerely,
Connor Armi | Archaeologist Senior MA, RPA
History/Archaeology Program
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
PO Box 150 | Nespelem, WA 99155
d: 509-634-2690 | c: 509-631-1131
connor.armi.hsy@colvilletribes.com

On Tue, Jun 11, 2024 at 1:58 PM Virgil Amick <vamick@cleelum.gov> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

The City of Cle Elum is requesting comments on the following **Notice of Application and Environmental Review for a Kittitas County Search and Rescue Facility.**

REQUEST FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS: Agencies, tribes, and the public are encouraged to review and comment on the proposed project and its probable environmental impacts. There is a 15-day comment period for this review. All written comments received by 4:30 p.m. on **June 26, 2024** will be considered prior to issuing the final SEPA determination. This proposal requires a Public Hearing which will be scheduled at a later date. Please reference file numbers (SEP-2024-003) and applicant's project name (Kittitas County Public Works) in any correspondence you submit. You can mail or submit your comments to:

Planning@cleelum.gov or City of Cle Elum, Attention: Planning Department/Kittitas County Public Works, 119 West First Street, Cle Elum, WA 98922.



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
South Central Region • Region 3 • 1701 South 24th Avenue, Yakima, WA 98902-5720
Telephone: (509) 575-2740 • Fax: (509) 575-2474

June 25, 2024

Planning Department
City of Cle Elum
119 West First Street
Cle Elum, WA 98922

SUBJECT: WDFW COMMENTS ON KITTITAS COUNTY SEARCH AND RESCUE FACILITY SEPA-2024-003, PMU-2024-002, CA-2024-001, SDR-2024-002

Dear City of Cle Elum,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Kittitas County Search and Rescue Facility (project), near the Cle Elum Airport. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has reviewed the application materials and are familiar with the area and critical areas that intersect this parcel.

We appreciate the site constraints on the parcel and efforts that have occurred to maximize the effectiveness of the search and rescue operations that serve our community. After reviewing the wetland forms, site photographs, and aerial imagery of the wetland, it appears to provide excellent wildlife cover with a complex mix of woody species, grasses, and forbs. The mitigation measures for encroachment into the buffer include planting the slopes of the stormwater pond with native grass and forbs as well as some red-osier dogwood. Because the slopes of the stormwater pond would likely naturally establish in these species and the stormwater pond will be fenced within the facility, we recommend additional mitigation measures be considered for impacts to the wetland buffer.

Potential mitigation measures for consideration may include: 1) Donating large conifers with rootwads to stream/wetland/river restoration projects within the Upper Yakima Watershed; 2) Minimizing the impervious surfaces associated with the project to reduce likelihood of changes to hydrology for the wetland, and/or 3) Additional native plantings in the riparian management zone for the watercourse at the eastern parcel boundary.

We offer these recommendations and requests for consideration to ensure the fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas and wetlands on and adjacent to this property are protected consistent with the purpose of the Cle Elum Critical Areas Ordinance (Cle Elum Municipal Code 18.01.010), which is to "...protect critical areas and to channel development to less ecologically sensitive areas".

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Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with the City and Kittitas County on this important project for our community. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any question about these comments at (509) 961-6639 or Jennifer.nelson@dfw.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Nelson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jennifer Nelson
Fish and Wildlife Biologist



From: [Smits, Brenda M \(DOH\)](#)
To: [Virgil Amick](#)
Cc: [Mau, Russell E \(DOH\)](#)
Subject: FW: MDNS/ Notice of Public Hearing - Kittitas County Public Works Regional Facility for Search and Rescue
Date: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 8:46:25 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[Notice of Public Hearing.pdf](#)
[MDNS.pdf](#)

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Hi Virgil,

The Department of Health (DOH) Office of Drinking Water (ODW) has reviewed the attached documents, generating the following comment(s):

1. This appears to be a new public water system. Whether Group A or Group B, the applicant would need to submit a water system application to the respective regulatory agency. Kittitas County Health has sole regulatory jurisdiction and authority for Group B water systems in Kittitas County. If a Group A water system, approval by the Dept. of Health is required. The applicant needs to provide more specific or detailed information regarding connections and population to determine the type of public water system.
2. For any well water use, DOH ODW requires the applicant to confirm that the groundwater extractions meet Kittitas County requirements – both existing (that the use is “perfected” and does not require mitigation) and proposed additional extractions show mitigation.

Please contact DOH with any questions or concerns,

Thanks,

Brenda Smits

Regional Planner
Office of Drinking Water
Washington State Department of Health
Brenda.Smits@doh.wa.gov
509-329-2122 | www.doh.wa.gov



From: Virgil Amick <vamick@cleelum.gov>

Sent: Monday, July 8, 2024 10:16 AM

Subject: MDNS/ Notice of Public Hearing - Kittitas County Public Works Regional Facility for Search and Rescue.

External Email