

# SEPA<sup>1</sup> Environmental Checklist

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## Purpose of checklist

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization, or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

## Instructions for applicants

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. **You may use “not applicable” or “does not apply” only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown.** You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to **all parts of your proposal**, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

## Instructions for lead agencies

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

## Use of checklist for nonproject proposals

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B, plus the Supplemental Sheet for Nonproject Actions (Part D). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in “Part B: Environmental Elements” that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/Checklist-guidance>

## A. Background

[Find help answering background questions<sup>2</sup>](#)

**1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:**

Avista Wood Ash Landfill timber harvest

**2. Name of applicant:**

Avista Corporation

**3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:**

Todd McLaughlin, (509) 495-2559, [todd.mclaughlin@avistacorp.com](mailto:todd.mclaughlin@avistacorp.com)

**4. Date checklist prepared:**

02/06/2025

**5. Agency requesting checklist:**

WA Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR)

**6. Proposed timing of schedule (including phasing, if applicable):**

April 2025

**7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.**

None

**8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.**

None

**9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.**

None

**10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.**

Forest Practice Class IV Conversion Permit - DNR

3027514

**11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)**

Avista is proposing to harvest approx. 13.0 acres of Ponderosa pine adjacent to our existing Wood Ash Landfill in Stevens County. The area will not return to timber and will remain cleared.

<sup>2</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-A-Background>

Margin Notes by  
Annette Painovich  
FP Coordinator  
NE Region DNR  
2/14/2025



- 12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.**

The Kettle Falls Generating Station (KFGS) Wood Ash Landfill is located in Stevens County, Washington, approximately one mile southwest of the town of Kettle Falls. The site is accessed by a private service road connected to US Highway 395. Wood ash generated at Avista's nearby KFGS has been landfilled at this location since 1986. The landfill parcel is surrounded by additional property owned by Avista.

General Project Location: T36 R37 S24

Parcel # 1705000 48.6025 N lat. / -118.0906 w Long.

## **B.Environmental Elements**

### **1. Earth**

[Find help answering earth questions<sup>3</sup>](#)

- a. General description of the site:**

Site is generally gentle sloping.

**Circle or highlight one: Flat, **rolling**, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other:**

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?**

20%

- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them, and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.**

The predominant soil types at the site are silt, sandy silt, clayey silt, and sand. Per NRCS Web Soil Survey Data: Bisbee loamy fine sand, 0 to 15% slopes.

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.**

None known

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<sup>3</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-earth>

- e. **Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.**

Excavated material related to the permitted landfill expansion will be temporarily stockpiled in the harvested area.

- f. **Could erosion occur because of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.**

No

- g. **About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?**

This project involves no construction of additional buildings, pavement, or paved roads with no impervious surfaces proposed.

- h. **Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any.**

The site's current erosion and sediment control plan and measures will remain in effect.

## 2. Air

[Find help answering air questions<sup>4</sup>](#)

- a. **What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.**

During construction – Typical exhaust emissions from heavy equipment.

After construction – There are no known air impacts by the completed project.

- b. **Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.**

No

- c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:**

If needed, a water spray truck can be used to control fugitive dust.

## 3. Water

[Find help answering water questions<sup>5</sup>](#)

- a. **Surface:**

[Find help answering surface water questions<sup>6</sup>](#)

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<sup>4</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-Air>

<sup>5</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water>

<sup>6</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-Surface-water>



- 1. Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.**

No

- 2. Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.**

No

- 3. Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.**

There will be no fill or dredge material placed in or removed from surface waters or wetlands.

- 4. Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

There will be no surface water withdrawals or diversions.

- 5. Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.**

No

- 6. Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.**

None, not applicable.

**b. Ground:**

[Find help answering ground water questions<sup>7</sup>](#)

- 1. Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

No

- 2. Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals...; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.**

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<sup>7</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-Groundwater>

No waste will be discharged from the site.

**c. Water Runoff (including stormwater):**

- 1. Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.**

Stormwater is the only source of runoff that may occur onsite. Stormwater will naturally flow into the future leachate pond constructure onsite.

- 2. Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.**

No

- 3. Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.**

No

**d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:**

Proper erosion and sediment controls will be installed before, during, and after construction to control water and runoff impacts. Routine inspections will be conducted to examine the effectiveness of BMPs and stormwater controls when needed.

## 4. Plants

[Find help answering plants questions](#)

**a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:**

- deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- shrubs
- grass
- pasture
- crop or grain
- orchards, vineyards, or other permanent crops.
- wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- other types of vegetation

**b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?**

The dominate vegetation for this project area is Ponderosa pine. Approximately 50 mbf of P. pine will be harvested under the FPA.



- c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

None known

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any.

No landscaping is proposed, this is an FPA conversion application.

- e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

Knapweed, tumble mustard

No known T+E plant species were found during FP Risk Assessment.

## 5. Animals

[Find help answering animal questions](#)<sup>8</sup>

- a. List any birds and other animals that have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.

Examples include:

- Birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:
- Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
- Fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

Deer, black bear, hawks, songbirds

- b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

None known

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

No

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any.

Areas not part of this proposal will be maintained in a natural state to the fullest extent possible.

- e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

None known

No known T+E animal species were found during FP Risk Assessment.

All of Washington State is part of the Pacific Flyway. This project does not have resting, nesting or forage opportunities for migrating birds.

## 6. Energy and natural resources

[Find help answering energy and natural resource questions](#)<sup>9</sup>

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

<sup>8</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-5-Animals>

<sup>9</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-6-Energy-natural-resou>

None, this is a timber harvest.

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.**

No

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any.**

None, there are no energy conservation features appropriate for this proposal.

## 7. Environmental health

[Health Find help with answering environmental health questions](#)<sup>10</sup>

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur because of this proposal? If so, describe.**

No health hazards are anticipated for this proposal.

- 1. Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.**

None known.

- 2. Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.**

None

- 3. Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.**

No toxic or hazardous chemicals will be stored, used, or produced by the proposal.

- 4. Describe special emergency services that might be required.**

None

- 5. Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any.**

Proper maintenance and daily inspection of all equipment will be routine during the logging operation.

### **b. Noise**

- 1. What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?**

No noise currently exists in the area that will affect the project.

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<sup>10</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-7-Environmental-health>



2. **What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site)?**

Short term – Noise associated with logging equipment: saws, skidders, trucks, etc.

Long term – No long term noise is anticipated when the timber harvest is complete.

3. **Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:**

None proposed.

## 8. Land and shoreline use

[Find help answering land and shoreline use questions](#)<sup>11</sup>

- a. **What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.**

The site has multiple uses, including a Wood Ash landfill and vacant timber. The harvest of timber in this location will not affect the landfill operations.

The adjacent properties are generally undeveloped/natural areas, light industrial, and residential.

- b. **Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses because of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?**

No

1. **Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how?**

No affects anticipated.

- c. **Describe any structures on the site.**

The onsite Wood Ash Landfill has a metal/chain link perimeter fencing, automatic gate for security and overhead lights. The timber harvest area is located outside this secure area.

- d. **Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?**

None

- e. **What is the current zoning classification of the site?**

The parcel is zoned RA-5 (Rural Area, 5 acres/dwelling). The existing landfill is permitted as a solid waste disposal facility in Stevens County, Washington.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-8-Land-shoreline-use>

- f. **What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?**  
The current comprehensive plan designation of the site is Rural.
- g. **If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?**  
There is no shoreline designated around the subject property.
- h. **Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.**  
No
- i. **Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?**  
None
- j. **Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?**  
None
- k. **Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any.**  
Not applicable
- l. **Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any.**  
None required.
- m. **Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:**  
None required.

## 9. Housing

[Find help answering housing questions](#)<sup>12</sup>

- a. **Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.**  
None
- b. **Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.**  
None
- c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:**  
None

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<sup>12</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-9-Housing>



## 10. Aesthetics

[Find help answering aesthetics questions](#)<sup>13</sup>

- a. **What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?**

No new buildings are proposed for the site.

- b. **What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?**

None

- c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:**

None

## 11. Light and glare

[Find help answering light and glare questions](#)<sup>14</sup>

- a. **What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?**

No light or glare is associated with this timber harvest.

- b. **Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?**

No

- c. **What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?**

None

- d. **Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:**

None, not applicable.

## 12. Recreation

[Find help answering recreation questions](#)

- a. **What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?**

None

- b. **Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.**

No

- c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:**

None, not applicable.

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<sup>13</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-10-Aesthetics>

<sup>14</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-11-Light-glare>

### 13. Historic and cultural preservation

[Find help answering historic and cultural preservation questions](#)<sup>15</sup>

- a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe.

No, none known.

- b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

No, none known.

- c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

DAHP WISAARD check on February 06, 2025 showed no known historic sites within the project APE.

- d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

Avista will provide and instruct contractors on the Inadvertent Discovery Plan. If evidence of archaeological resources are located during construction or operation, the area of the site will be protected until a professional evaluation is made.

A potential site is near the project area. The site has not been evaluated by SHPO.  
No known Indian or historic use in the project area.

Inadvertent Discovery Plan is included in FPA Question 29.

### 14. Transportation

[Find help with answering transportation questions](#)<sup>16</sup>

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

US Highway 395 and a private paved access road serve the site.

- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

No

<sup>15</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-13-Historic-cultural-p>

<sup>16</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-14-Transportation>



- c. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle, or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No

- d. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No

- e. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

No additional vehicle trips would be generated by the completed project.

- f. Will the proposal interfere with, affect, or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

No

- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

None

## 15. Public services

[Find help answering public service questions<sup>17</sup>](#)

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

Not applicable, none required.

## 16. Utilities

[Find help answering utilities questions<sup>18</sup>](#)

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other:

None

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<sup>17</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-15-public-services>

<sup>18</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-16-utilities>

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

None, this is a timber harvest proposal.

## C. Signature

[Find help about who should sign](#)<sup>19</sup>

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

X 

**Type name of signee:** Todd McLaughlin

**Position and agency/organization:** Environmental Scientist for Avista Corp

**Date submitted:** 02/06/2025

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<sup>19</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-C-Signature>