

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST**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 SEPA 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: [\[help\]](#)

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.

A. Background

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: **Usk Clay Mine**
2. Name of applicant: **Mutual Materials Company**
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: **10627 S. Hwy 27, Mica WA 99023 Contact: Mason McCuddin 509-924-2120 Office. 509-953-9631 Mobile**

4. Date checklist prepared: **12/12/2017**
5. Agency requesting checklist: **Washington State Department of Natural Resources**
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): **No Activity planned until summer 2018 then once every two or three years.**
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. **There are no plans for additions or expansions at this time. Both are possible in the future.**
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. **None are known at this time.**
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 are known at this time.**

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. **Washington State Dept of Natural Resources Reclamation Permit**

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.) **Initial Mine Reclamation permit as required by DNR. Proposed use is mining of clay for brick and tile manufacturing. Approximate size is 69 acres.**

11. The proposed project is for a 63-acre clay mine that would be mined to a depth of 7 feet (comment by Nicole Damer, DNR 07/29/2020)

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. **That Portion of the East 1/2 of Northwest Section 7 lying East of county road. T32N R44E in Pend Oreille County**

12. The project area is located off Bennett Road, approximately 2 miles southeast from the town of Usk (comment by ND, DNR 07/29/2020)

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site:

(circle one): **Flat**, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other _____

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? **The site will be mined to a depth of 5 feet therefore no slopes will be created onsite.**

1. b. The proposed depth of mining is 7 feet (comment by ND, DNR 07/29/2020)

- 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. **Thin layer of Topsoil, Clay, Fine sand**
- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. **No known indications of unstable soils in the vicinity**
- 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. [\[help\]](#)
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. **Erosion is possible as a result of use as a mine site but unlikely given the shallow depth.**
- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? **None of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces**
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: [\[help\]](#)

1. e. No backfill is proposed for this mining permit.

2. Air

- 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. **Minimal amounts of dust are expected to be produced. Some exhaust from operating equipment.**
- 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: **None**

3. Water

a. 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. **Seasonal field drain that emptys into Calispel Creek**
- 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. **No fill or dredge activity is planned from surface water area or wetlands**

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. **No surface water withdrawals or diversions will be required.**

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. **There is no established 100-year floodplain.**

- 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. **No discharge of waste materials to surface waters**

b. Ground Water:

- 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 general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. **No groundwater will be withdrawn**

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: 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. **No discharge from septic tanks or other sources.**

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. **Storm water flows into a seasonal drain then into a water impoundment before exiting the site and eventually draining into Calispel Creek.**

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. **No waste materials will be generated from the mining process.**

3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe. **There would be no discharge of waste materials to surface or ground**

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any: **Water impoundment for storm water runoff. Storm water pollution prevention plan is in place.**

4. Plants

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

4. DNR special concerns report does not list any T&E plant species within the proposed permit boundary (comment by ND, DNR 07/29/2020)

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? **Grass and pasture vegetation will be removed when stripping thin topsoil layer and replaced during reclamation**

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. **There are no known endangered species on or near the site.**

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: **Grass and pasture vegetation removed during mining process will be replaced during reclamation.**

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site. **None known.**

5. DNR Special concerns report lists an osprey nest located on a power pole within the proposed permit area and another nest located across the street to the west. Per the applicant, the pole and nest will remain undisturbed by on-site mining related activities. No other T&E species are listed as being within 1000 feet of the project area (comment by ND, DNR 07/29/2020)

5. Animals

- a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. **Deer, Coyotes, Hawks, Small Birds have been observed.**

Examples include:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other _____

- 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. **The site is located within the pacific flyway, a known migratory path for various waterfowl.**

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: **Impoundment pond for water**

- e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site. **None Known**

6. Energy and Natural Resources

- 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. **This project will have no energy needs related to this question.**

- 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: **Not Applicable**

7. Environmental Health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe. **There would be a slight risk from a potential diesel spill resulting from operation of equipment within the mine.**

- 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 known**
- 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 produced or present at the site**
- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required. **In the event of a medical emergency, an ambulance might be necessary.**

Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: **Continue current procedures. Employee training, spill response training, medical first aid training, spill response kits on site. Controlled refueling at designated stations outside the mine**

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? **There are no noises in the area that would affect our project.**
- 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. Operating noise from equipment and machinery. **No earlier than 6 AM and no later than 5 PM**
- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: **No measures planned or thought to be necessary.**

8. Land and Shoreline Use

- 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. **Primary current use is mining and grazing for livestock. Adjacent land is small timber tracts and agriculture.**
- 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 as a result 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? **Primary use is grazing for livestock**

- 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: **Site will not be affected by working farm or forest land normal business operations.**
- c. Describe any structures on the site. **There are no structures on the site.**
- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? **No structures will be demolished.**
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? The current zoning is **NR20**
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? [\[help\]](#)
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? **There is no shoreline master program designation for the site.**
- i. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify. **No part of the site has been declared as a critical area.**
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? **No people would reside at the project, one to two people would work at the site for 1 week each year.**
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? **The project would displace no people.**
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: **None needed**
- L. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:
- m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any: [\[help\]](#)

9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. **Not applicable**
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. **Not applicable**
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: **Not applicable**

10. Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? **There are no structures planned**
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? **No views will be altered or obstructed**
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: **There should be no aesthetic impacts.**

11. Light and Glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? **No Light or Glare will be produced.**
- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? **There will be no Light or Glare produced**
- 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 needed**

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? **None known**
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. **No displacement of recreational uses will occur**
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: **None needed**

13. DNR special concerns report lists 49 archaeological sites within 1000 - 5280 feet of the proposed project area (comment by ND, DNR 07/29/2020)

13. Historic and cultural preservation [\[help\]](#)

- 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. **There are no buildings, structures, or sites on the site.**
- 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. **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. [\[help\]](#)
- 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. [\[help\]](#)

13. c. The applicant completed a Cultural Resources Survey of the site. The report has been filed with DAHP and sent to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, and the Spokane Tribe of Indians by the project archaeologist for review (comment by ND, DNR 07/29/2020)

14. Transportation

- 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. **Site is accessed via Bennett Road**
- 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? **The site is not served by public transit.**

13. d. An inadvertent discovery plan has been incorporated into the permit by the applicant and is on file with the DNR (comment by ND, DNR 07/29/2020)

- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? **No parking spaces needed.**
- d. 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 improvements needed**
- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. **No water, rail or air transportation in immediate vicinity**
- f. 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? **Approximately 8 trips per day maximum using dump trucks and trailers for 2 or weeks during the summer. Historically this is the maximum number of trips.**
- g. 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 effect expected**
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: **No effects expected**

15. Public Services

- 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 increased need for public services.**
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. [help]

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: **None**
 electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system,
 other _____
- 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**

C. Signature [\[help\]](#)

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.

Signature: 

Name of signee MASON MCCUDDIN

Position and Agency/Organization MINI-SUPERVISOR / MUTUAL MATERIALS COMPANY

Date Submitted: 12-31-18

D. supplemental sheet for nonproject actions [\[help\]](#)

(IT IS NOT NECESSARY to use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are: