

# Environmental Impact Statement Scoping Guide

## Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project

### Public Scoping Meeting Agenda

#### Open House: 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

- Staffed exhibits
- Opportunity to provide written comments
- Court reporter available to record private oral comments

#### Oral Public Comments: 5:15 p.m. to 8 p.m.

- Welcome
- Short presentation
- Lottery style oral comment period
- Adjourn

### Comments on the Scope of Environmental Studies

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District is proposing the Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are holding a 31-day scoping period for the environmental review process on the proposed project from **September 28 through October 29, 2018**. Ecology and USACE have determined the proposal could have significant adverse environmental impacts and will require formal studies of those probable impacts through separate state and federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) processes. The first step in the environmental review process is to receive public input on the scope of the EIS to help identify project alternatives, probable significant adverse impacts, potential mitigation measures, and licenses or other approvals that may be required.

Ecology will evaluate the proposal under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). USACE, representing the federal government, will conduct a separate, but synchronized review as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Each state and federal EIS document will provide a comprehensive and objective evaluation of probable environmental impacts, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures that would avoid or minimize impacts. This analysis is necessary before any agency can act on any permit.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the Chehalis Basin project EIS website:  
<http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis>

To be added to the email list:  
[info@chehalisbasinstrategy.com](mailto:info@chehalisbasinstrategy.com)

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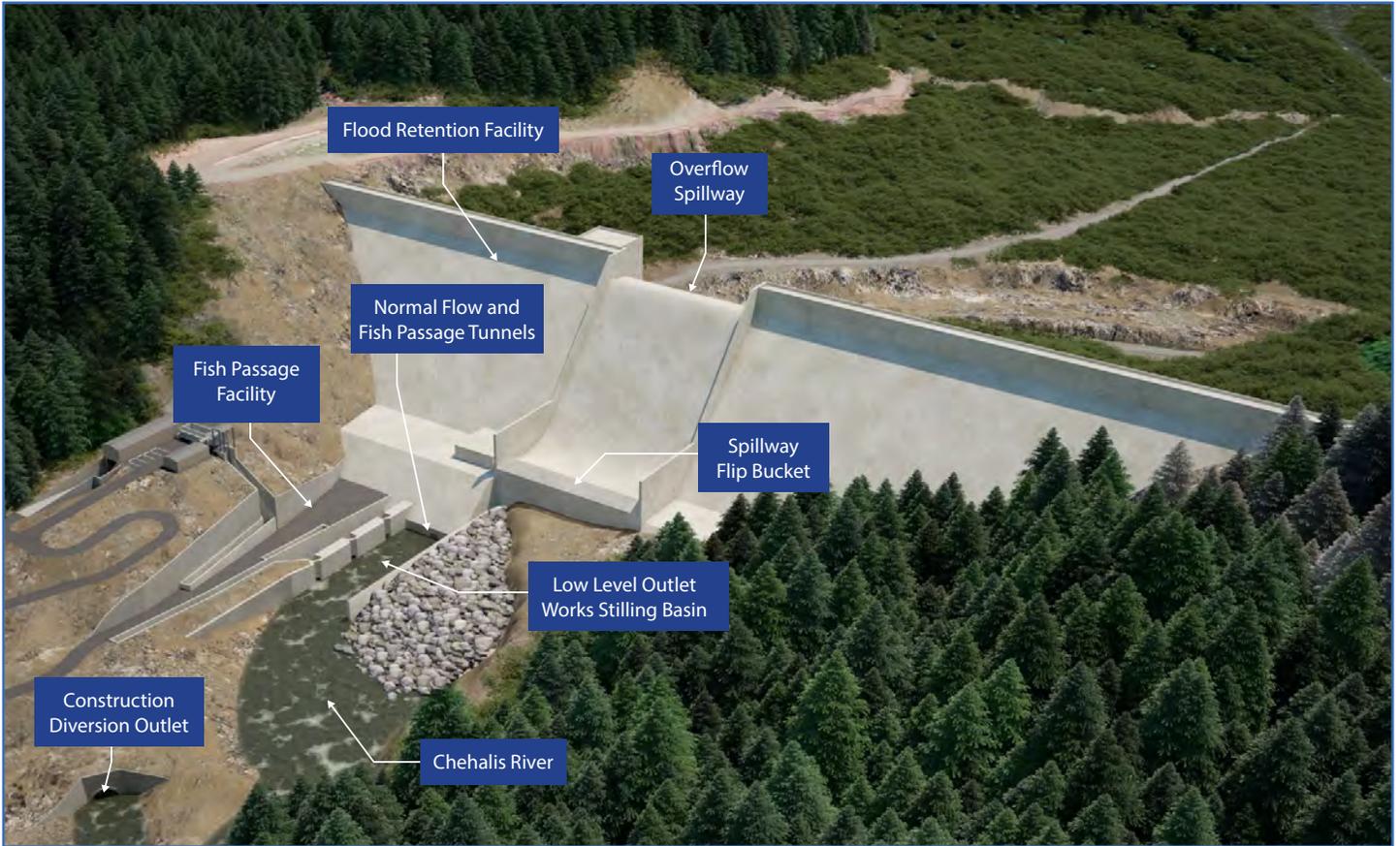
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#### Equal Access

To ensure equal access to materials, Ecology and USACE will provide auxiliary aids/services to persons with disabilities. Please call (206) 219-5900 with any requests. Persons with hearing loss and speech disability can contact 711 for the Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability may call TTY at (877) 833-6341.



Flood Retention Facility



Chehalis-Centralia Airport Levee Improvements



Vicinity Map

## Proposed Project

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District (District) is proposing to construct a new flood retention facility and temporary reservoir near the town of Pe Ell, Washington, and levee improvements around the Chehalis-Centralia Airport in Chehalis, Washington, to reduce flood damage in the Chehalis River Basin. Project elements include:

**A proposed flood retention facility and associated temporary reservoir** intended to reduce damages during a major flood. The temporary reservoir would be present only during a major flood, and the water in the reservoir would be released back to the Chehalis River as soon as it is safe to do so. At all other times the river would flow through the structure's low-level outlet works at its normal rate of flow and volume and allow fish passage both upstream and downstream.

**Airport Levee Improvements** would include raising the existing levee around the Chehalis-Centralia Airport as well as a portion of Airport Road, to provide protection from 100-year flood levels for the Chehalis-Centralia Airport, local businesses, and a portion of I-5. In addition to the levee, 1,700 feet of Airport Road would be raised to meet the airport levee height along the southern extent of the airport.

## Participating in SEPA and NEPA Scoping

### Scoping Period: September 28 through October 29, 2018

During the scoping period from **September 28 through October 29, 2018**, you can learn about the District's proposal, the EIS process, and provide scoping comments. There are multiple ways to submit comments. All scoping comments are valued equally, regardless of how they are submitted.

- In person at a public scoping meeting
- Online: [chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis/comment-form](http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis/comment-form)
- By mail: *Chehalis Flood Damage Reduction Project EIS Anchor QEA—720 Olive Way, Suite 1900 Seattle, WA 98101*

### Each Scoping Meeting Will Include:

- A welcome area where you can learn about the meeting format and obtain a ticket to provide oral comments
- A short presentation beginning at 5:15 p.m.
- An exhibit area where you can review information and talk to staff
- A quiet area where you can provide written comments either by filling out a comment form or by talking to a court reporter
- A public comment area where you can provide oral comments to USACE and Ecology representatives

### Scoping Comments

Scoping is designed to gather input for developing the draft EISs. Ecology and USACE have already determined that there may be probable significant adverse impacts from this proposal and that is why the EISs are being developed.

The most useful scoping comments focus on the topics below and provide input to Ecology and USACE on what should be included in environmental reviews.

- Potentially affected resources and extent of study and analysis needed to understand each probable impact
- Measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate (offset) effects of the proposal
- A reasonable range of alternatives, including alternative sites and project designs

All substantive comments will be considered by the reviewing agencies. Scoping comments will be summarized, and separate SEPA and NEPA scoping reports will be issued later in 2018.

# Scoping Meeting Ground Rules

Ecology and USACE are committed to providing safe and effective scoping meetings. Public input is an important part of scoping. The scoping period and related meetings offer the public an opportunity to be involved in the environmental review process and hear suggestions, questions, and concerns.

Ecology and USACE propose specific ground rules to create a secure, non-intimidating, and respectful atmosphere that allows all voices to be heard. Individuals who do not follow the ground rules and create an unsafe or intimidating environment will be asked to leave scoping meetings.

Ecology and USACE ask all participants to honor the ground rules to help maintain an open, secure, and respectful tone for each meeting, and allow everyone's voice to be heard equally. Use of these ground rules will support productive and civil meetings.

## Ground Rules

1

Intimidating behavior will not be tolerated because it creates a disrespectful and threatening environment. Examples of intimidation that are prohibited include:

- Confronting, blocking, or interfering with attendees when they approach, enter, or engage in the scoping meeting venue
- Conducting rallies or demonstrations at the entrance or within the scoping meeting venue

2

Ecology and USACE may close the space to additional attendance if facility capacity is reached. When people depart and space becomes available, additional people will be allowed to enter.

3

Ecology and USACE reserve the right to close the meeting at any time if disruptions interfere with the opportunity for participants to make oral comments before an audience or if there is a safety risk.

4

In anticipation that many people will want to provide oral comments to the agencies, Ecology and USACE have established a 2-minute time limit per speaker for all scoping meetings; and this limit will be enforced.

- Speakers will be chosen by a lottery drawing method to provide an unbiased selection of speakers.
- Silent expressions of support or opposition by giving a "thumbs up" or "thumbs down" or raising one's hand, or a small sign for a few seconds are allowed if they do not disrupt speakers.
- Clapping, cheering, or jeering disrupts speakers. Such noise contributes to an intimidating atmosphere and is prohibited within the scoping meetings.
- Speakers may be stopped when disruptive behavior such as sign waving or a mass activity like standing up as a group occurs. These actions will reduce the overall time allotted for people to speak and therefore fewer people will be able to provide comments.
- Signs no larger than 100 square inches (such as 10" x 10") are allowed in the public comment areas. Signs should not be held up for extended periods as they block the view of others.