

8.0 ACRONYMS AND GLOSSARY

100-year Floodplain – Areas that have a 1 percent chance of being flooded in a given year. (See Floodplain.)

Access road – Roads and road spurs that provide vehicular access to the project area. Access roads are built where no roads exist.

AF – Acre-feet.

Airshed – An air supply of a given geographic area, usually defined by topographic barriers or atmospheric conditions that confine air emissions.

Alluvium – Sediments deposited by flowing water.

Alternatives – Different choices available for a project.

Ambient noise – Noise from sources such as a substation that occur over a long period of time.

APE – Area of potential effect.

Aquatic bed – Includes wetlands and deepwater habitats dominated by plants that grow principally on or below the surface of the water for most of the growing season in most years. Aquatic beds generally occur in water less than 2 meters (6.6 feet) deep and are placed in the Littoral Subsystem (if in Lacustrine System).

Aquifer – Water-bearing rock or sediments below the surface of the earth.

BA – Biological assessment.

Backdropped – Landscape elements behind facilities; a background setting.

Biodiversity – A measure of the number of different species in a given area; species richness.

BMP – Best management practices.

BOR – Bureau of Reclamation, in the U.S. Department of the Interior.

BPA – Bonneville Power Administration, in the U.S. Department of Energy.

Cairn – A mound of stones erected as a memorial or landmark.

Caisson – A watertight structure within which construction work is performed under water.

Cataract – Large waterfall.

CFR – Code of Federal Regulation.

cfs – Cubic feet per second.

Circuit breaker – See power circuit breaker.

Clean Water Act (CWA) – A federal law intended to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters, and secure water quality.

Colluvium – Soil material, rock fragments, or both, accumulated at the base of steep slopes.

Crossdrain – Channel or dip constructed across a road to intercept surface water runoff and divert it before erosive runoff volumes and concentrations occur.

Culvert – A corrugated metal or concrete pipe used to carry or divert runoff water from a drainage; usually installed under roads to prevent washouts and erosion.

Current – The amount of electrical charge flowing through a conductor (as compared to voltage, which is the force that drives the electrical charge).

Cut and fill – The process where a road is cut or filled on a side slope. The term refers to the amount of soil that is removed (cut) or added (fill).

dBA – The first two letters (dB) are an abbreviation for “decibel,” the unit in which sound is most commonly measured. The last letter (A) is an abbreviation for the scale (A scale) on which the sound measurements were made. A decibel is a unit for expressing relative difference in power, usually between acoustic signals, equal to 10 times the common logarithm of the ratio of two levels.

Debris flow – Rapid movement of water-charged mixture of soil, rock, and organic debris down a steep stream channel.

DEIS – Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Dissolved solids – Solids that are in solution.

DNR – State of Washington, Department of Natural Resources.

DO – Dissolved oxygen.

DSIs – Direct Service Industries.

Easement – A grant of certain rights to the use of a piece of land (which then becomes a “right-of-way”). BPA acquires easements for many of its transmission facilities. This includes the right to enter the right-of-way to build, maintain, and repair the facilities. Permission for these activities are included in the negotiation process for acquiring easements over private land.

Ecology – State of Washington, Department of Ecology.

Emergent – Characterized by erect, rooted, herbaceous hydrophytes, excluding mosses and lichens. This vegetation is present for most of the growing season in most years. These wetlands are usually dominated by perennial plants.

Endangered species – Those species officially designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that are in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – A detailed statement of environmental impacts caused by an action, written as required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency.

Equivalent sound level (L_{eq}) – Generally accepted as the average sound level.

ESA – Endangered Species Act.

ESU – Environmentally significant unit.

Exceedence levels (L levels) – Refers to the A-weighted sound level that is exceeded for a specified percentage of the time during a specified period.

Exposure assessment – The process of estimating or measuring the intensity, frequency, and duration of human exposure to an agent (toxin, radiation, etc). Ideally, it describes the sources, pathways, routes, magnitude, duration, and patterns of exposure; the characteristics of the population exposed; and the uncertainties in the assessment.

Fiber optics – Special wire installed on the transmission line that is used for communication between one location and another.

Floodplain – That portion of a river valley adjacent to the stream channel that is covered with water when the stream overflows its banks during flood stage.

Forested – Characterized by woody vegetation that is 20 feet tall or taller.

Gabion basket – A cylindrical wicker basket filled with earth and stones, formerly used in building fortifications.

GIS – Geographic Information System. A computer system that analyzes graphical map data.

Glacial outwash – Materials deposited by glacial meltwaters.

Glacial-fluvial – Pertaining to glacial streams or sediments deposited by such streams.

GMA - Washington State Growth Management Act of 1990. This Act requires most counties and cities in Washington to adopt comprehensive plans.

HAER – Historic American Engineering Record.

Herbaceous – A plant having the characteristics of an herb, not woody; or having a green color and a leafy texture.

Hydrology – The science dealing with the properties, distribution, and circulation of water.

IMPLAN – IMpact Analysis for PLANning.

Intermittent – Referring to periodic water flow in creeks or streams.

Isolated wetland – A wetland that is not connected to other surface water bodies; although adjacent wetlands may be interconnected during high precipitation years.

Knickpoint – A knickpoint is located at that point along the longitudinal profile of a stream at which slope changes. Typically, the term is used where the change in slope is migrating upstream. The location of a knickpoint may be controlled by bedrock. Significant erosion typically occurs below a knickpoint, as it migrates upstream.

Lacustrine – Includes wetlands and deepwater habitats with all of the following characteristics: situated in a topographic depression or a dammed river channel; lacking trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, emergent mosses or lichens with greater than 30 percent areal coverage, and total area exceeds 8 hectares (20 acres).

Lithic – Rock containing a large proportion of debris from previously formed rocks.

Loess – Sediment composed of mostly silt-sized particles, deposited by the wind.

Mass movement – The dislodgment and downhill transport of soil and rock materials under the direct influence of gravity. Includes movements such as creep, debris torrents, rock slides, and avalanches.

Mat gabions – A galvanized wire basket filled with selected stones used to stabilize stream banks to control erosion and prevent stream gravel from shifting.

Metric ton – Equivalent to 1000 kilograms or 2,205 pounds.

MIG – Minnesota IMPLAN Group, Incorporated.

Mitigation – Steps taken to lessen the effects predicted for each resource, as potentially caused by the Project. They may include reducing the impact, avoiding it completely, or compensating for the impact.

MOA – Memorandum of Agreement.

MOU – Memorandum of Understanding.

Multiplier effects – The total increase in income and employment that occurs in the local economy for each dollar of local project expenditure.

MWG – Montgomery Water Group.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) – This act requires an environmental impact statement on all major federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment [42 U.S.C. 4332 2(2)(C)].

NEA – Northwest Economic Associates.

NHPA – National Historic Preservation Act.

NMFS –National Marine Fisheries Service, in the U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA. Now known as NOAA Fisheries.

NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency.

Non-attainment – An area which does not meet air quality standards set by the Clean Air Act for specified localities and periods.

Non-renewable – Not capable of replenishing.

Noxious weeds – Plants that are injurious to public health, crops, livestock, land or other property.

NPDES – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.

NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service, in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

NRHP – National Register of Historic Places.

NWI – National wetland inventory.

NWP – Nationwide Permit.

OAHP – State of Washington, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

OID – Okanogan Irrigation District.

Oil spill containment – Units installed in a substation to collect oil spilled from equipment.

Open water – Water covers the surface at a mean annual depth of greater than 6.6 feet or areas less than 6.6 feet in depth that do not support rooted-emergent or woody plant species.

ORWP – Okanogan River Water Exchange.

Palustrine – Includes all nontidal wetlands dominated by trees, shrubs, emergents, mosses or lichens, and all such wetlands that occur in tidal areas where salinity due to ocean derived salts is below 0.5 parts per thousand.

Particulate matter (PM) – Airborne particles including dust, smoke, fumes, mist, spray, and aerosols.

PDEIS – Preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Perennial – Streams or creeks with year-round water flow.

Permanently Flooded – Water covers the land surface throughout the year in all years.

Permeable – Capable of transporting liquids.

Prime and unique farmland – Prime farmland is land with the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food and other agricultural crops. Unique farmland is land other than prime farmland that is used to produce specific high-value food and fiber crops. It also has special characteristics to economically produce sustained high quality or high yields of specific crops.

PUD – Public Utility District.

Record of Decision (ROD) – The document notifying the public of a decision taken on a Federal action, together with the reasons for the choices entering into that decision. The Record of Decision is published in the Federal Register.

REIS – Department of Commerce, Regional Economic Information System.

Remedial action scheme – A set of fast, automatic control actions used to ensure acceptable power system performance following disturbances.

Resource protection area – A designation given to a stream reach by Washington State if the reach flows through a State Park, or is a component of the Washington State Scenic Rivers System, or if the reach has been designated as a component of the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers System or is being studied for potential designation.

Revegetate – Reestablishing vegetation on a disturbed site.

Right-of-way (ROW) – An easement for a certain purpose over the land of another, such as a strip of land used for a road, electric transmission line, pipeline, etc.

Riparian – Of, on, or relating to the bank of a natural course of water.

Riprap – Broken stones put in areas to prevent erosion, especially along river and stream banks.

Scabland – Areas scoured by ice age floods characterized by shallow soils and rock outcrops.

Scarp – An escarpment, cliff, or steep slope of some extent along the margin of a plateau, mesa, terrace, or bench.

Scoping – A part of the NEPA process where significant issues to be analyzed in detail in the environmental document are identified.

Scrub/shrub – Includes areas dominated by woody vegetation less than 6 m (20 feet) tall. The species include true shrubs, young trees (saplings), and trees or shrubs that are small or stunted because of environmental conditions.

Seasonally flooded – Surface water is present for extended periods especially early in the growing season, but is absent by the end of the growing season in most years. The water table after flooding ceases is variable, extending from saturated to the surface to a water table well below the ground surface.

Semi-permanently flooded – Surface water persists throughout the growing season in most years. When surface water is absent, the water table is usually at or very near the land's surface.

SHPO – State Historic Preservation Office.

Slash windrows – Rows of slash or cut vegetation placed on the side of an access road to control erosion.

Sole source aquifer – An aquifer designated by the Environmental Protection Agency which provides at least half of an area's drinking water.

SPCC – Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan.

Subsoiling – Breaking up compacted soils, without inverting them, using a plow or blade.

SWPP – Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.

Tackifiers – A water-based agent used to bind soil particles together to provide erosion protection.

Talus – Rock debris that has accumulated at the base of a cliff or steep slope.

TCP – Traditional cultural properties.

Temporarily flooded – Surface water is present for brief periods during growing season, but the water table usually lies well below the soil surface. Plants that grow both in uplands and wetlands may be characteristic of this water regime.

Threatened species – Those species officially designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that are likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of their range.

Transient noise – Noise from sources such as passing aircraft or motor vehicles that is usually of short duration.

TSS – Total suspended solids.

USBR – U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

USFWS – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in the U.S. Department of the Interior.

WAC – Washington Administrative Code.

Water bar – Smooth, shallow ditch excavated at an angle across a road to decrease water velocity and divert water off and away from the road surface.

WDW – State of Washington, Department of Wildlife.

Wetland – An area where the soil experiences anaerobic conditions because of inundation of water during the growing season. Indicators of a wetland include types of plants, soil characteristics and hydrology of the area.

Woodland – Land having a cover of trees and shrubs.