



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of proposal **DeVries Family Farm/Martinez Livestock Co./WSDA liquid nutrient transport easement. This project is an easement for the placement of an underground pipe for liquid manure transport between properties owned by the three entities listed above.**

Proponent **Washington State Department of Agriculture**

Location of proposal, including street address, if any **The property for this proposed easement and pipeline is located in Yakima County east of Moxee in Section 27, Township 12 North, Range 21 East. The property is located at 46.49842 N, -120.1725 W. The proposed easement will go from east to west across Parcel No. 21122711402, and will be 8 feet wide by 1,320 feet long.**

Lead agency **Washington State Department of Agriculture** _____

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

There is no comment period for this DNS.

This DNS is issued after using the optional DNS process in WAC 197-11-355. There is no further comment period on the DNS.

This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date below. Comments must be submitted by **January 4, 2018**.

Responsible official **Kelly McLain** _____

Position/title **Senior Natural Resource Scientist/Agency SEPA Lead** _____ Phone. 360.902.2067

Address **P.O. Box 42560 Olympia, WA 98504-2560** _____

Date. **December 21, 2017**

Signature

Kelly McLain

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 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 [\[help\]](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: DeVries Family Farm/Martinez Livestock Co./WSDA liquid nutrient transport easement
2. Name of applicant: Washington State Department of Agriculture
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: 1111 Washington Street SE, 2nd Floor, Olympia, WA 98504, Kelly McLain, WSDA SEPA Lead, (360) 902-2067

4. Date checklist prepared: September 25, 2017
5. Agency requesting checklist: Washington State Department of Agriculture
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): October 2017
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? No. If yes, explain.
8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. A basic soil survey and construction erosion control plan will be prepared for installation of the liquid nutrient conveyance system after the easement is established. USDA-NRCS soil maps confirmed with test digs. Easy excavation, no shallow groundwater, perched layers or other obstacles anticipated.
9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? No. If yes, explain.
10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. The placement of the pipe is exempt from local building permits, but 811 will be contacted 48 hours prior to digging.
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.

This SEPA checklist covers the completion of an easement agreement between DeVries Family Farm and the Washington State Department of Agriculture on Yakima County Parcel No. 21122711402. This easement will cover approximately 10,560 square feet (8 feet wide by 1,320 feet long) on the property, positioned south of a small seasonal Type V stream (surface flows approximately 1-2 weeks annually). This property is currently operated as a USDA research station, and the proposed route is the least disruptive of the current agricultural land use practices.

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. See attached aerial photos taken recently with location of pipeline drawn in with a red marker.

The property for this proposed easement and pipeline is located in Yakima County in Section 27, Township 12 North, Range 21 East. The property is located at 46.49842 N, -120.1725 W. The proposed easement will go from east to west across Parcel No. 21122711402, and will be 8 feet wide by 1,320 feet long. The property is currently in use as a USDA research station, and

the soils are predominantly Cleman very fine sandy loam, Esquatzel silt loam, and Ritzville silt loam. The portion of the parcel covered by the easement is relatively flat, with slopes no greater than 5 percent.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS [\[help\]](#)

1. Earth [\[help\]](#)

- a. General description of the site: The northern 80% of the property is flat, and the property has a moderate increase in elevation along the souther portion of the property. The area intended for [\[help\]](#)

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

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? The steepest slopes on the site are 18 percent, but the ground that is covered in the easement has a slope of 2-3 percent. [\[help\]](#)
- 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 soils on this property include silt and sandy loam soils, and all the soils types of conducive to the agricultural uses on the land. No materials on the site are going to be removed. [\[help\]](#)
- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. No
- 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. The purpose of the easement is to allow for a 12" diameter buried pipe installation for the transport of liquid manure from Devries Family Farms to Martinez Livestock Co. The total area of the easement is 8 feet by 1,320 feet. The installation will include excavation of 4 feet of native soils. This will be done in two parts – the top 2 feet of topsoil will be removed and placed along one side of the hole, and the bottom 2 feet of subsoil will be placed on the other side. All 4 feet of soil removed will be used to backfill and anchor the pipe in place. No fill will be used. The site will be graded to previous grade after backfill.
- f. Could erosion occur as a result 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)? No change in impervious surface
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: This project will be completed quickly and during the dry fall months. No erosion is expected, but if high winds occur during construction, erosion control tools may be used. Typically a water truck is used, backup is spreading of straw to control wind erosion.

2. Air [\[help\]](#)

- 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. None
- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. No [\[help\]](#)
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: Not applicable [\[help\]](#) Note the DeVries Family Farms is compliant for air emissions under a current YRCAA permit.

3. Water [\[help\]](#)

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. There is a small transient stream that flows 5-7 days per year north of the proposed easement. This stream corridor will not be impacted by the project. [\[help\]](#)
- 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. This pipe placement will occur within 200 feet of the dry stream bed, and construction will occur only when the type V stream is dry. [\[help\]](#)
- 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. Not applicable. [\[help\]](#)
- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. No [\[help\]](#)
- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. Not applicable [\[help\]](#)

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. Not applicable. [\[help\]](#)

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. Not applicable. [\[help\]](#)

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. Not applicable. [\[help\]](#)

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. This pipe installation will occur during the dry period for Yakima County, and no stormwater or other runoff is expected as a result of the project. [\[help\]](#)

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. The 12 inch PVC pipe being used for liquid nutrient transport will be sealed in a manner to prevent leakage. [\[help\]](#)

3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe. No. [\[help\]](#)

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any: Not applicable. [\[help\]](#)

4. **Plants** [\[help\]](#)

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site: [\[help\]](#)

- 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? Some grasses exist in the area of the easement and will be disturbed during the pipe installation. [\[help\]](#) On completion of the project the limited disturbed area will be planted to a CRP type perennial grass mix suited for this area.
- c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. There are no documented T and E species on the site. [\[help\]](#)
- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: Not applicable [\[help\]](#)
- e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site. None are documented. [\[help\]](#)

5. **Animals** [\[help\]](#)

- 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. [\[help\]](#) Meadowlarks, sparrows, hawks in the general area.

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. [\[help\]](#)
- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. Not documented. [\[help\]](#)
- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: Not applicable. [\[help\]](#)

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site. None are documented.[\[help\]](#)

6. Energy and Natural Resources [\[help\]](#)

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. Not applicable. [\[help\]](#)

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. None. [\[help\]](#)

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 [\[help\]](#)

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. Not applicable.[\[help\]](#)

1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses. None are known. [\[help\]](#)

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. Not applicable.[\[help\]](#)

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. Not applicable.[\[help\]](#)

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required. None. [\[help\]](#)

5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any: None

b. Noise [\[help\]](#)

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? Not applicable.[\[help\]](#)

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. There will be some noise from the excavation, but should be limited and given neighboring agricultural activities, unobtrusive.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: None needed [\[help\]](#)

8. Land and Shoreline Use [\[help\]](#)

- 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 current land use for the easement parcel is agriculture, and the surrounding and adjacent uses are agriculture. This easement and subsequent pipe placement will actually improve connectivity between different agricultural activities in the area. [\[help\]](#)
- 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? The easement parcel was in commercial agriculture for almost 50 years, and for the past 75 years, has been an agricultural research facility. No land will be converted from this use under this project proposal. [\[help\]](#)
- 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: Not applicable. [\[help\]](#)
- c. Describe any structures on the site. The parcel itself has sheds, outbuildings, equipment storage, and an old house turned office. The area of the easement is unfarmed and utilized as a small road. [\[help\]](#)
- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? Not applicable. [\[help\]](#)
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? The land is currently zoned agriculture.
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? It is designated as agricultural resource land. [\[help\]](#)
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? Not applicable. [\[help\]](#)

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.
No [\[help\]](#)

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? None. [\[help\]](#)

- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? None. [\[help\]](#)

- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: Not applicable. [\[help\]](#)

- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: Not applicable. [\[help\]](#)

- m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any: Not applicable. [\[help\]](#)

9. Housing [\[help\]](#)

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. Not applicable. [\[help\]](#)

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. Not applicable. [\[help\]](#)

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: Not applicable. [\[help\]](#)

10. Aesthetics [\[help\]](#)

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? Not applicable. [\[help\]](#)

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? Not applicable. [\[help\]](#)

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: Not applicable. [\[help\]](#)

11. Light and Glare [\[help\]](#)

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? Not applicable. [\[help\]](#)

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? Not applicable. [\[help\]](#)

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? Not applicable. [\[help\]](#)

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: Not applicable. [\[help\]](#)

12. Recreation [\[help\]](#)

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? Not applicable. [\[help\]](#)

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. None.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: None. [\[help\]](#)

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. Not applicable. [\[help\]](#)

- 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 are known. [\[help\]](#)

- 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. None are proposed. [\[help\]](#)

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. None

14. Transportation [\[help\]](#)

- 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. Not applicable.
- 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? Not applicable.
- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? Not applicable. [\[help\]](#)
- 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). None.
- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. No [\[help\]](#)
- 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? None. [\[help\]](#)
- 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 [\[help\]](#)
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

15. Public Services [\[help\]](#)

- 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. Not applicable.
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. [\[help\]](#)

16. **Utilities** [\[help\]](#)

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: [\[help\]](#)

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. Not applicable. [\[help\]](#)

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 _____

Position and Agency/Organization _____

Date Submitted: _____

16. **Utilities** [help]

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: [help]

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. Not applicable. [help]

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: _____

Kelly McClain

Name of signee _____

Kelly McClain

Position and Agency/Organization _____

SEPA Lead, WSDA

Date Submitted: _____

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N/A

