

WAC 399-30-034 How will the board address "substantial environmental degradation" as found in RCW 43.155.070? "Substantial environmental degradation" means a situation causes or is about to cause real, documented, substantial environmental degradation that contributes to violations of the state's air quality, water quality, or soil contaminate standards, interferes with beneficial uses of the air, water, or land, and the problem generally involves a discrete area including, but not limited to, a county, city, subdivision, or an area serviced by on-site wastewater disposal systems.

In determining whether a project is necessary to address substantial environmental degradation, the board shall consider the following factors:

(1) For bridge and road projects - Whether motorized or nonmotorized vehicle traffic has caused substantial environmental degradation of the air, water, or soils of the state at the site for which a proposed public works project is the subject of a financial assistance application, and; whether the proposed public works project will eliminate or reduce the chance of such vehicle-caused critical substantial environmental degradation.

(2) For domestic water projects - Whether a drinking water system regulated by the department of health has caused substantial environmental degradation of the air, water, or soil of the state including, but not limited to: Causing disease or illness to humans, the attraction of rodents, or the killing of fish and shellfish that reside in the waters of the state, and; whether the proposed public works project will eliminate or reduce the chance of substantial environmental degradation.

(3) For sanitary sewer projects - Whether failure of an existing wastewater system, including individual on-site systems, has caused substantial environmental degradation of the air, water, or soil of the state including, but not limited to: Causing disease or illness to humans, the attraction of rodents, or the killing of fish and shellfish that reside in the waters of the state, and; whether the proposed public works project will eliminate or reduce such substantial environmental degradation.

(4) For storm sewer systems - Whether failure of an existing storm sewer system has caused substantial environmental degradation of the air, water, or soil of the state including, but not limited to: Causing disease or illness to humans, the attraction of rodents, or the killing of fish and shellfish that reside in the waters of the state, and; whether the proposed public works project will eliminate or reduce such substantial environmental degradation.

(5) For solid waste or recycling projects - Whether failure of an existing solid waste system or recycling system has caused substantial environmental degradation of the air, water, or soil of the state including, but not limited to: Causing disease or illness to humans, the attraction of rodents, or the killing of fish and shellfish that reside in the waters of the state, and; whether the proposed public works project will eliminate or reduce such substantial environmental degradation.

(6) For all projects - Whether more efficient operation of an existing system, changing public access, or modifying other regulatory standards (e.g., reduced speed limits, water conservation measures, rodent control, restricted shellfish harvesting) is likely to provide the same or similar level of resolution.

(7) For all projects - Whether the substantial environmental degradation is caused by failure to maintain or periodically replace, reconstruct, or rehabilitate a public works system.

(8) For all projects - Other factors the board finds on the record are significant in light of facts and circumstances unique to the project. Fish passage, water quality, or water quantity issues directly impacting salmonid fish survival in a watershed which is designated as a candidate for listing, proposed for listing, threatened listing, or endangered listing under the federal Endangered Species Act may be considered significant and unique to a project.

(9) The factors enumerated in subsections (1) through (5) of this section must be addressed in a letter of request, with supporting documentation, to the director of the Washington state department of ecology and signed by the public official who signed the application for financial assistance. A determination of substantial environmental degradation may be made by the director or designee and addressed to the same public official. The board will consider the determination of the director. The board will also consider information presented on factors enumerated in subsections (6) through (8) of this section, which must be documented in a manner acceptable to the board.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.155.040(4). WSR 07-05-029, § 399-30-034, filed 2/13/07, effective 3/16/07; WSR 99-09-020, § 399-30-034, filed 4/14/99, effective 5/15/99.]