

Diana Dupuis
Director



STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

300 Desmond Dr SE, Lacey, WA 98503 • P.O. Box 42650, Olympia, WA 98504-2650 • (360) 902-8500
TDD Telecommunications Device for the Deaf: 800-833-6388

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

Determination of Nonsignificance

Date of Issuance: June 25, 2025

Lead Agency: Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Agency Contact: Hannah Ross, Environmental Planner
sepa@parks.wa.gov

Project Name: Mount Spokane Undergrounding 2025

Description of Proposal: Inland Power and Light Co proposes to install approximately 9,092 lineal feet of underground electric line and remove approximately 8,903 lineal feet of overhead line and 33 utility poles. Half of the new line will follow the route of the existing overhead line and poles. Half of the new line would follow existing roads. Most of the underground line will be plowed in. The new line will be bored under roads and streams at 3 locations, requiring excavation of 6 bore pits. Excavation will also be done for installation of 8 junction boxes and 5 transformers.

Location of Proposal: This project is located in Sections 28, 29, 32, and 33 of Township 28 North, Range 45 East, Willamette Meridian, in Spokane County on parcel numbers: 58325.9020, 58321.9021, 58321.9024, 58321.9001, 58335.9001, 58294.9005, 58285.9002, and 58284.9003. The majority of the project will occur within Mount Spokane State Park.

Threshold Determination: Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission has determined that this proposal will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030. We have reviewed the attached Environmental Checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available at:
www.parks.wa.gov/SEPA

This determination is based on the following findings and conclusions:

1. The proposed undergrounding of power lines will reduce the risk of fire.
2. Inland Power will comply with the Spokane County Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance by using methods described in Erosion and Sediment Control

Techniques BP-19A. Techniques will include restricting access to approved routes, avoiding drainage courses, and minimizing vegetation removal at excavation sites. Silt fences will be used around excavation activities to ensure material does not enter the streams. A native seed mixture will be applied to areas where bare soil results from excavation.

3. The project design includes three stream crossings.
 - a. At two of the crossings, the new line will be bored a minimum of 36 inches below the stream beds.
 - b. At one location, it will be plowed into the existing road prism above a culvert.
 - c. In addition, there are three unclassified streams mapped in the project area. No water has been observed in these mapped locations and underground line installation will occur in an existing road in the dry.
4. Installation of new underground lines and removal of existing overhead lines will disturb vegetation.
 - a. Plowing in of underground line will minimize disturbance. Boring under streams will minimize disturbance of vegetation near streams.
 - b. Excavation for bore pits, junction boxes, and transformers will be limited to areas of previous disturbance to reduce impacts to vegetation. The portion of the proposed underground line that is not within the easement corridor will be in existing access roads within the State Park, which will reduce impacts to vegetation.
 - c. A native seed mixture will be applied to areas where bare soil results from excavation for bore pits or installation of junction boxes and transformers.
5. The Washington Department of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Program Data Explorer indicates a portion of the project is within an *Abies grandis/Clitonia uniflora* (Grand Fir/Queens Cup) Forest
 - a. The portion of the project occurring within this occurrence will be located within the existing utility corridor, existing roads, or developed areas and there will be no further intrusion into natural areas as a result of the project.
6. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's online Priority Habitat and Species Map indicates the project area may contain Northern goshawk breeding areas.
 - a. Inland Power and Light Co will refrain from using any loud machines in the area of the goshawk nest habitat until after July 1.
 - b. Removal of large trees in the park is prohibited. However, if it becomes necessary to remove large trees, Inland Power and Light Co shall contact Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Protection Division Habitat Program to schedule a wildlife survey prior to tree removal.
7. Utility poles are often treated with creosote.

- a. Removed utility poles will be returned to the Inland Power and Light Co yard and then transported to Cannon Hill for recycling.
8. Building #2 (Superintendent's Residence) was determined to be eligible for the National Register.
 - a. The project will avoid impacts to the eligible residence as the project will occur in an existing roadway in the vicinity.
9. A cultural resources study is being conducted for the project. Inland Power and Light Co will follow State Parks mitigation recommendations following receipt of the study and consultation with affected Tribes. An inadvertent Discovery Plan will be in place for any work requiring ground disturbance.

This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340 (2) and the comment period will end on **July 11, 2025**.

Responsible Official: Hannah JB Ross
Position/Title: Environmental Planner
Phone: 360-790-8842
Address: P.O. Box 42650
Olympia, WA 98504-2650
Email: sepa@parks.wa.gov

Date: June 25, 2025

Signature: _____

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There is no agency SEPA appeal; however all comments are welcome and will be thoroughly considered.