



JEFFERSON COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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FINAL DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE AND LEAD AGENCY STATUS

DATE: March 24, 2023

PROPONENT: Jefferson County Sportsmen Association – Gun Club Shooting Range

APPLICATION: OTH2019-00016

Application Proposal:

EXISTING COMMERCIAL SHOOTING FACILITY OPERATING PERMIT. The proposal is for a commercial shooting facility (CSF) operating permit under Article III of Chapter 8.50 JCC for an existing shooting range at 112 Gun Club Road, Port Townsend, Washington (site). The existing shooting range is on a site of approximately 43 acres of land, which is owned by Jefferson County, Washington. The existing shooting range is operated by the Jefferson County Sportsmen’s Association under a 2019 license and operating agreement with Jefferson County. The Jefferson County Sportsmen’s Association has been operating trap shooting, handgun, rifle and archery ranges at the site since 1962.

The proposal complies with Article III of Chapter 8.50 JCC adopted on February 24, 2020. An overview of Article III of Chapter 8.50 JCC is below. Specifically, Article III of Chapter 8.50 JCC:

- Is not a development regulation under Chapter 36.70A RCW (Growth Management Act);
- Regulates the operation, but not siting or development, of existing and future CSFs in unincorporated Jefferson County;
- Requires a safety and environmental health plan for operations at a CSF, including:
- An operations plan for compliance with requirements under existing law for the handling and closure of facilities for storage or use of the hazardous substance or hazardous waste other than lead; and,
- An operations plan for financial assurance consistent with existing law for addressing any remediation of hazardous substances or hazardous waste, other than lead resulting from operations at a CSF.
- Requires compliance with environmental Best Management Practices (BMPs) for operation of CSFs, including;
- BMPs for the collection and disposal of bullets, cartridges, and shotgun wadding;
- BMPs for lead at outdoor CSFs as recommended by the 2005 USEPA Region 2 in its 2005 publication entitled Best Management Practices for Outdoor Shooting Ranges, as it exists now or later is amended;
- BMPs to maximize sound suppression for operations consistent with the NRA Range Source Book and Chapter 8.70 JCC (noise control);
- Requires consistency with the 2012 NRA Range Source Book for minimizing noise, increasing safety, and increasing environmental protection during operations of a CSF;
- Requires that operations not create a public nuisance;
- Contains enforcement procedures;

- Requires that the owner or operator maintain comprehensive general liability insurance coverage, with a minimum coverage amount of one million dollars for each occurrence and combined single limit and two million in the aggregate during operation of the CSF;
- Requires an annual report with a current statement of general liability insurance and any monitoring data required by an operating permit;
- Requires pre-operation, annual, and compliance inspections;
- Requires the operating permit be reviewed by a qualified shooting range evaluator and approved by the Jefferson County Environmental Health Division of the Department of Public Health; and,
- Provides for administrative review of permit decisions under Jefferson County's Hearing Examiner Code (Chapter 2.30 JCC) and the Jefferson County Hearing Examiner Rules of Procedure.
- By agreement reflected in the 2019 license and operating agreement, compliance with Ordinance 12-1102-18 is required, where it is more stringent than Chapter 8.50 JCC. The proposal satisfies both Chapter 8.50 JCC and Ordinance 12-1102-18.

Legal Description and Location:

Parcel Number 001083012 in Section 8, Township 30N, Range 1W, WM, JEFF CO FIRE PROTECTION SHORT PL LOT 1 SUBJ/EASE R/W, located at 112 Gun Club Road, Port Townsend, WA 98368

NOTICE OF LEAD AGENCY: Jefferson County has determined it is lead agency for the above-described proposal under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE: Jefferson County has determined that the above-described proposal would not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment, and an environmental impact statement is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This threshold determination under SEPA was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the agency, and an inspection of the site.

COMMENTS: The notice of application was published in the local newspaper of record, the *Port Townsend & Jefferson County Leader* on June 15, 2022, posted on site, mailed to adjacent property owners within one mile of the property and local agencies. The 30-day comment period ended on July 14, 2022. Fourteen (14) public comments and no agency comments were received. See the attached comment list. Commenters concerns will be covered in the regulations and permit conditions, and therefore, shall not require mitigation.

APPEAL PERIOD: This final threshold determination is issued pursuant to WAC 197-11-340(2)(f). Jefferson County has considered comments on its preliminary Determination of Non-Significance (DNS). There is no additional comment period. Any appeal of this determination on the basis of noncompliance with the provisions of Chapter 43.21c RCW (State Environmental Policy Act) must be submitted in writing by 4:30 p.m., **April 7, 2023** to the Jefferson County Department of Community Development, 621 Sheridan St, Port Townsend, WA 98368 for consideration by the Jefferson County Hearing Examiner.



 Josh D. Peters, SEPA Responsible Official

3/24/23
 Date