



915 Washington Street NE, Olympia, Washington 98501 Tel 360.528.8000 Fax 360.528.8090 Web www.portolympia.com

Press Release

APRIL 16, 2007

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Ed Galligan Executive Director	(360) 528-8001 ~ edg@portolympia.com
Jim Amador, Marine Terminal Director	(360) 528-8032 ~ jima@portolympia.com
Jeff Lincoln, Director of Engineering	(360) 528-8061 ~ jeffl@portolympia.com
Patti Grant, Communications Manager	(360) 528-8012 ~ pattig@portolympia.com

Port of Olympia Issues Environmental Determination for Port Cargo Yard and Weyerhaeuser Facilities Improvements

Today, the Port of Olympia's Responsible State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Official issued a Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance concerning infrastructure improvements at the Port's marine terminal and the operation of the Weyerhaeuser log handling facility expected to relocate to the Port. The Port and Weyerhaeuser recently prepared and submitted the Checklist required by SEPA to review the environmental impacts for improvements to the Port's cargo yard and the log handling operation. This decision, made after review of the Checklist and supporting studies, means the Port has concluded that the proposal will not have a significant environmental impact.

The SEPA checklist, Port determination and supporting documents are available for review or purchase from the Port at 915 Washington St. NE, Olympia, WA 98501 and are available on the Port's website at www.portolympia.com. The Port has extended the public comment period to 21 days, rather than the standard 14 days required by statute, to provide additional time for public review. Comments should be submitted no later than 5:00 PM, May 7, 2007, to the Port's SEPA Environmental Review Officer:

Andrea Fontenot
Port of Olympia
915 Washington St. N.E.
Olympia, WA 98501

The environmental determination assesses the impact of the Port's paving, lighting, utility work and buildings within the Port's cargo yard, as well as the impacts of the planned Weyerhaeuser Company log handling facility, which is being relocated from Tacoma to a 24.5-acre site on the Port's marine terminal.

The Port's planned infrastructure improvements reviewed in this environmental determination include paving 3.38 acres of unpaved marine terminal cargo yard; installing improved lighting; extending and upgrading existing utilities, constructing building foundations and upgrading storm water facilities.

Weyerhaeuser plans to make improvements to support its operations, including building an

equipment maintenance shop and installing modular buildings for an office, dispatch building and a lunchroom.

Early this year, the Port and Weyerhaeuser decided to combine the projects for the purpose of environmental review in order to comprehensively review the impacts of both the Port infrastructure and the Weyerhaeuser Company improvements. Because this review includes both public agency action and private entity action, the Port is the SEPA lead agency. As part of this process, the Port and Weyerhaeuser, assisted by various environmental consultants, undertook an extensive review of the environmental impacts of the proposed activities, including air, storm water treatment, noise, lighting, and traffic.

“The Port has gone through a thorough process to ensure all the concerns brought up in the prior SEPA processes were addressed,” said Ed Galligan, the Port’s Executive Director and Responsible SEPA Official. “The environmental studies were prepared by experts in the areas of noise, air, traffic and light impacts, and the review has been extensive and comprehensive. The Port is committed to working with Weyerhaeuser to make sure planned improvements and the new facility meet or exceed all regulatory requirements.”

Once the Weyerhaeuser facility is fully operational, it is expected to handle up to 18 export vessels and 30 barges of in-bound logs a year. The log facility will employ about 40 people, and 12-18 new longshore jobs will be added.

###

About the Port of Olympia

The southernmost deepwater port on Puget Sound, the Port of Olympia is Thurston County's partner in economic opportunity. The Port owns and operates a diversified international shipping terminal, an established niche facility that handles a range of breakbulk and project cargoes. The Port also owns and operates a strategically located regional airport, a vibrant 656-slip recreational marina and boat haulout/repair facility, and a thriving real estate division. A community port, it generates an estimated 2,600 jobs in Thurston County and indirectly over 5,000 jobs in Washington State.