

**How to Comment and Ground Rules
for the Fairhaven Highlands Public Hearing
on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)**

To: Interested Public
From: Tim Stewart, SEPA Official
Date: September 30, 2009

The DEIS on the Fairhaven Highlands Development project was issued on Monday, **September 28, 2009**. A public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, **October 20, 2009** at 6 p.m. in the Whatcom County Council Chambers. The deadline for all public comment is Thursday, **November 12, 2009** at 5 p.m.

Comments may be submitted in writing, by fax, by email or verbally at the public hearing. Please include "Fairhaven Highlands" in the subject line of the email or written comment.

Send comments to:

Nicole Oliver, Communication Coordinator
Planning & Community Development
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
noliver@cob.org
FAX: 778-8302

1. Written comments and verbal testimony have the same weight and will be considered equally in the formation of the Final Environmental Impact Statement.
2. The 45-day comment period is the maximum allowed by state law, and expires Thursday, November 12th at 5:00 p.m.
3. At the public hearing, testimony will be heard in the order that people sign up – first come, first heard. Each person has 3 minutes to testify at the hearing. No limit is placed on comments submitted in writing.
4. At the public hearing, individuals may yield their time to a group, but the group must all be present to sign in together. Examples: 1) Dick and Jane sign in together. Dick may yield his time to Jane. Jane may then speak for 6 minutes. 2) Jane signs in but Dick does not. Jane may speak for 3 minutes. 3) Ten individuals sign in together and yield their time to a group represented by one of the ten individuals that signed up. The single speaker will have a total of 30 minutes to testify.
5. The public hearing will be filmed in its entirety, and broadcast on BTV 10 within a week after the hearing, and will also be available to view online in streaming video. A court reporter will record the entire meeting in a verbatim transcript.
6. If needed, the public hearing will be continued to Wednesday, October 21st at the City Council Chambers, 6 p.m.
7. Responses to any questions or issues raised during the public comment period will be addressed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement only after all comments have been received.

Process Chart

Fairhaven Highlands Development

To: Interested Public
From: Tim Stewart, Planning & Community Development Director, City of Bellingham
Date: September 30, 2009

1. A Final Environmental Impact Statement must be issued prior to the decision on the three permit applications that pertain to this development. The permits include a Wetland/Stream Permit, a Planned Development Permit, and a Preliminary Plat with variances.
2. The applicant declined the City's offer under BMC 21.10.060 to conduct a consolidated review of all three land use permits for this development in a letter dated September 11, 2009.
3. Pursuant to BMC 21.10.050, the City will conduct a concurrent review of the two Type II permit applications and issue a single decision that will include the Planned Development Permit and a Wetland/Stream Permit applications.
4. Pursuant to BMC 21.10.110.D.2, the Planning Director and the Chair of the Planning Commission have agreed to conduct an optional public meeting on the draft permit decision prior to issuance of the decision. Public comment will be allowed at the Planning Commission meeting. The Planning Commission will formulate recommendations on the draft decision and forward those to the Director. The Director will consider the Planning Commission's recommendations prior to issuing the administrative decision on the permit.
5. The administrative decision on the Wetland/Stream; Planned Development Permit will be appealable to the Hearing Examiner.
6. The Preliminary Plat will be processed separately as a Type IIIB permit pursuant to BMC 21.10.120.