

NOISE AND DUST ABATEMENT

COE Question 14

***“Noise and Dust Abatement Plan.** Several comments to the public notice indicate that noise and air pollution in downtown Sandpoint during construction could make the downtown area ‘unfriendly’ to tourists and residents, with the potential for businesses to close. Please evaluate this and describe measures you would propose to minimize noise and dust that would be generated during the 3 years of construction activities.”*

Response:

As discussed in the FEIS and EA, air quality and noise impacts may occur but are minimized by implementing best available technology. The temporary impacts anticipated will be mitigated to the maximum extent practicable. The resulting impacts are not anticipated to be significant enough to be considered a negative tourist deterrent and or create conditions where business will be forced to closed from noise or air quality impacts. In addition, the Special Provisions for the project direct the contractor to conduct the following measures. Temporary generation of PM-10, PM-2.5, NOx and CO emissions will occur during construction of the Byway phase of the project; and temporary construction generation of emissions will be mitigated through the implementation of the best available control technology.

Mitigation for construction noise will include the following measures: construction industry best management practices to reduce noise produced by equipment, limiting noisier construction activities to between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on weekdays in urban areas; equipping engines with adequate mufflers that are in working order; spraying water for dust abatement; prohibiting pile driving or blasting operations within 300 feet of an occupied dwelling unit on Sunday or legal holidays; and between the hours of 7p.m. and 7 a.m. without the written approval from the resident engineer; intake silencers or enclosures for high noise activities; turning-off equipment for prolonged periods of non-use; and locating stationary equipment away from any dwelling.

Equipment to be used on this project will be required to not exceed 95 decibels when measured from a distance of 15 meters (50 feet).