Washington State Department of Transportation

Utility Accommodation Variance Justification

Permit/Franchise #	Date	SR	MP Limits
Applicant			
Installation Description			
Type of Variance - Policy Citation(s) (Cite RCW, WAC, or WSDOT Policy)			

e.g. "Open cut - WAC 468-34-190" or "Shallow depth installation - WAC 468-34-200"

A variance is a proposed utility installation that is contrary to the Utilities Accommodation Policy established by WSDOT. **Please note that variances to the Utilities Accommodation Policy are highly discouraged and may not be approved.**

Section A: Answers, documents and all other items requested are to be provided by the utility. The utility must justify the necessity of the requested variance and the answers below will need to provide sufficient detail for WSDOT review. Failure to provide sufficient detail will result in delays and may result in a rejected proposal.

Use additional pages if more information is required than space allows. The answers on additional pages should be labeled with the corresponding question number in Section A below.

Alternatives Considered and Proposed Alternative

A1. Provide plan views of all alternatives and utility alignments considered with labels such as street or highway names and a north arrow. All Alternatives need to meet the Utilities Accommodation Policy requirements to the extent feasible. Along with the engineering plans, provide profiles, cross sections, etc. as needed.

A2. Explain why each alternative considered but not selected is unusually difficult or impossible to install per the standards of Utilities Accommodation Policy and were rejected.

A3. Explain why the proposed alternative was selected.

A4. Detailed cost estimates of each alternative must be provided if cost is included as a reason for the proposed alternative.

Utility Submittals

(Note: Required only if not already provided as part of your application)

A5. Provide plan views showing the full proposed installation. Show details of the proposed installation relating to the width of travel lanes, turn lanes, shoulders, widened areas, location in relation to bottom of ditch and right of way (depicting existing utilities) and other features.

A6. Provide cross sections (if applicable) that show attributes, including but not limited to, existing pipe and casing, trench width, pipe zone bedding, backfill, existing embankment and roadway surfacing adjacent to the proposed installation, and highway facilities on or near it (examples: rock-lined ditches guardrail, drainage features, slope treatment, vehicular barriers, signs, guideposts, milepost markers, or other utilities).

A7. Provide photographs showing existing conditions at the location and in the vicinity along the proposed alternative. Include a description of the anticipated or potential impacts to vegetated areas, geologic features, guardrail, drainage features, or other items adjacent to the proposed option.

A8. Provide proposed traffic control plans/strategy for the construction and maintenance of the proposed alternative.

A9. Provide a maintenance plan with an explanation of the nature, frequency, duration, and management of maintenance operations, including proposed access to the utility, traffic control methods, and other aspects of maintenance operations. If no maintenance is expected, then provide explanation as to why maintenance is not needed.

A10. Provide answers to the supplemental questions on the following page if applicable to the proposed utility installation.

Utility Signature

A11. This form must be signed by an authorized utility representative. To the best of your knowledge, the information provided herein is complete, accurate, and factually represents all aspects of the proposed utility installation.

Signature	Printed
Title/Company	

A10 - Supplemental Questions

Scenic Classification Variance

A10.1 Is the proposed installation within Scenic Class A or B?

If yes, continue answering the questions in this section

A10.2 Does the proposed utility installation have power lines in excess of 35Kv?

If yes, explain the special design features that will be incorporated into the project to minimize the visual impact of the proposed facility.

A10.3 Is undergrounding technically feasible?

If no, please explain and provide geotechnical reports or similar evidence.

A10.4 Is this overhead installation to use existing utility poles?

If so, are these poles on an existing permit or franchise; if on a franchise, has it been renewed at least once (when) or has it expired (when)?

Limited Access/Encroachment

A10.5 Is there limited access encroachment?

Is the access break proposed temporary or permanent?

Section B: Administrative Assessment and Coordination: This section is provided for your information only and will be completed by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).

B1. Will the proposed utility have any potential adverse effects on the traffic and/or pedestrian movements or/on the overall operation of the facility, safety, structural integrity, maintenance, appearance, or operation of the highway now or that may occur in the future?
☐ Yes ☐ No

B2. Are there any design or construction projects currently programed that will be adversely affected by this installation?
☐ Yes ☐ No

B3. Variance Review:

Approval Authority: ☐ **Region** ☐ **Headquarters** ☐ **FHWA**

Region Utility Engineer recommendation: ☐ Concurrence ☐ Application Denied

Headquarters recommendation: ☐ Concurrence ☐ Application Denied

FHWA recommendation: ☐ Concurrence ☐ Application Denied

Regional Approval	
Signature	Printed
Title	Date

Headquarters Approval	
Signature	Printed
Title	Date

FHWA Approval	
Signature	Printed
Title	Date