

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

As part of its planning activities under the Washington State Growth Management Act, Jefferson County has designated the Port Hadlock and Irondale sewer service area as a potential center for county growth. If the proposed Sewer Facility Plan is approved, then the Port Hadlock and Irondale communities will become eligible for designation as an unincorporated urban growth area (UGA). The UGA would coincide with the Port Hadlock Sewer Planning Area (PHSPA), which is an unincorporated area approximately 6 miles south of the City of Port Townsend, Washington, as shown in Figure 1-1. The community is mostly residential, with some commercial and retail businesses on the main arterials (Rhody Drive (SR 19), Ness' Corner Road, and Chimacum Road).

Currently, the PHSPA is served by public water, but no sewer facilities exist. On-site septic tanks and drain fields serve the existing dwellings and commercial establishments. This project would result in construction of a collection system, treatment plant, and discharge/reuse system. The systems will be selected and sized to provide capacity matching population growth in a cost-effective manner that minimizes potential harm to the environment. This report discusses potential project environmental impacts and mitigations.

PURPOSE AND NEED OF PROJECT

Designating the Irondale/Port Hadlock area as a UGA (PHUGA) would change the density and growth of the region. Currently the only urban area in Jefferson County is Port Townsend. The projected increases in populations from higher density land uses will not be able to be supported by the current system of septic tanks and drain fields. A sewer system and wastewater treatment plant are being designed to meet the needs of the PHSPA. Candidate sites for the wastewater treatment plant and infiltration basins are shown in Figure 1-2. In order to build a sewer system in the Port Hadlock area, many requirements must be met. As part of the requirements, the County retained Tetra Tech, Inc. to prepare a Sewer Facility Plan to evaluate alternatives for developing a sewer system. In developing the Sewer Facility Plan, alternatives for wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal were evaluated. The Sewer Facility Plan must:

- Assist the County in planning for growth in the area over the 20 year planning period.
- Satisfy Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 36.94, which outlines the County's sewerage, water, and drainage system responsibilities.
- Be approved by the Department of Ecology.

The collection system will be installed in phases during the 20 year planning period.

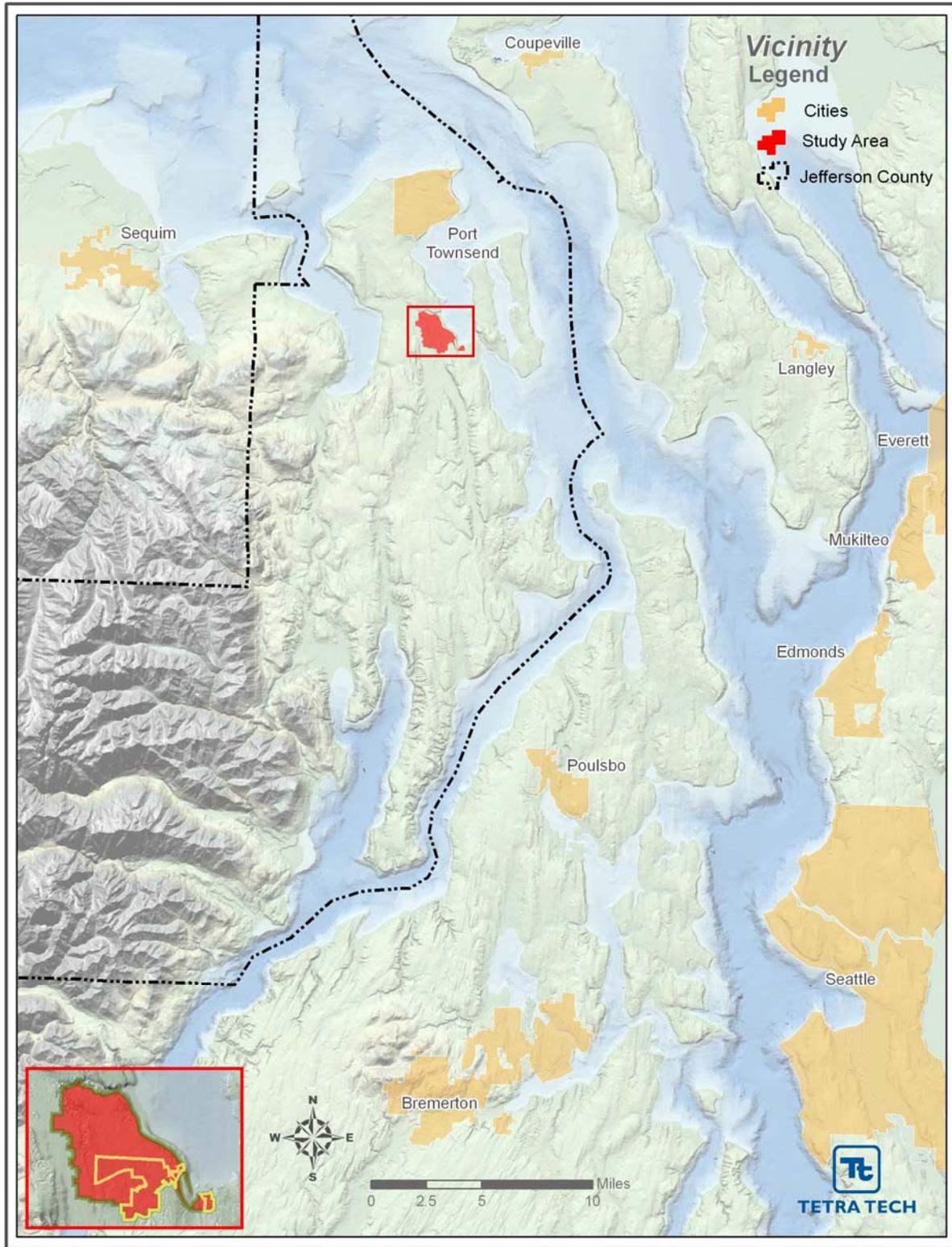


Figure 1-1 Vicinity Map

