



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Battery Stewardship Program Rulemaking Public Hearing

Megan Warfield

August 28, 2025, 1:00 PM

Meeting Agenda



1:00 PM

Welcome & meeting logistics



1:05 PM

Battery stewardship program presentation



1:30 PM

Q&A session



2:00 PM

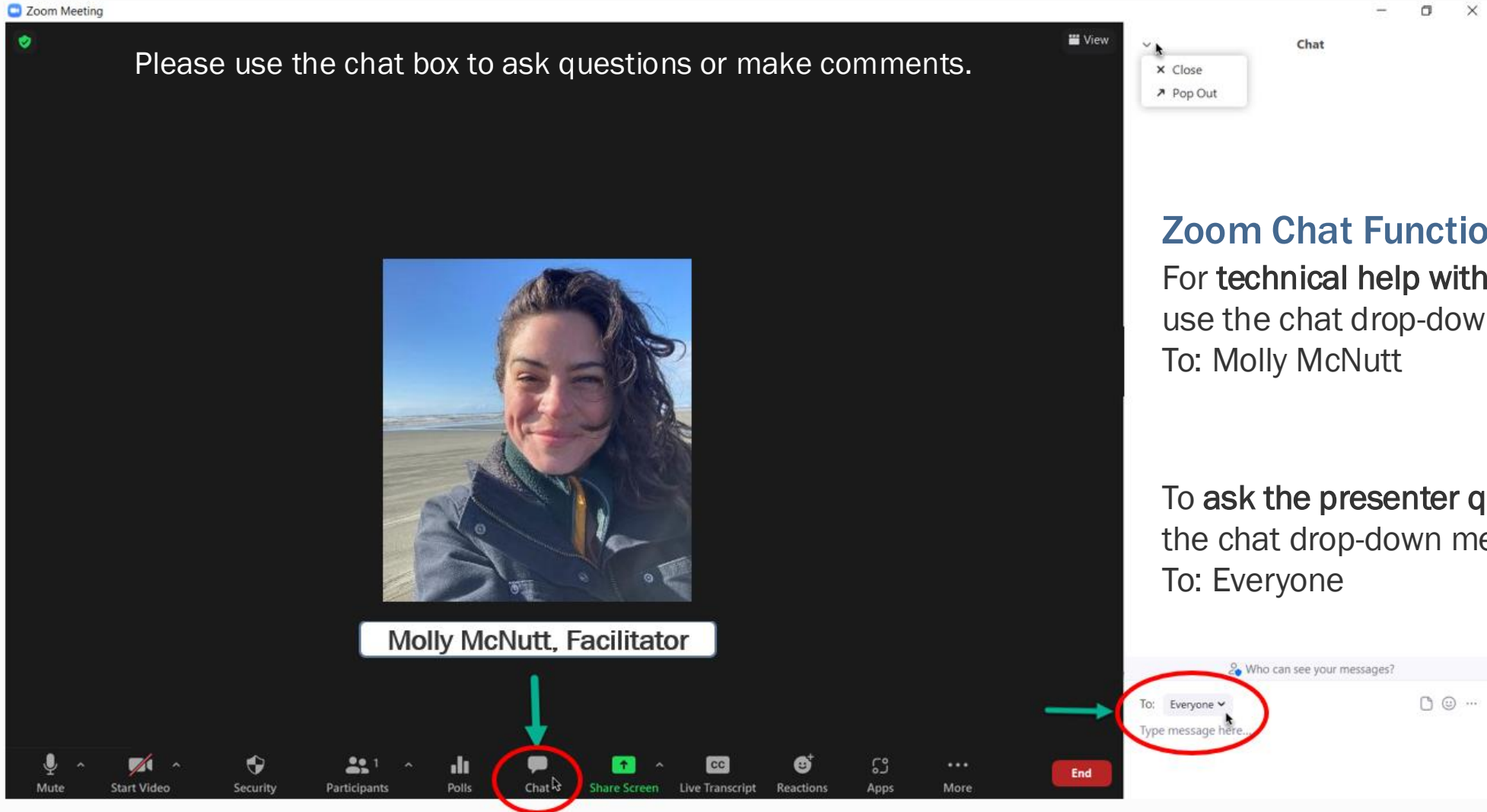
Public hearing



4:00 PM

Wrap up

Assisting with this meeting:



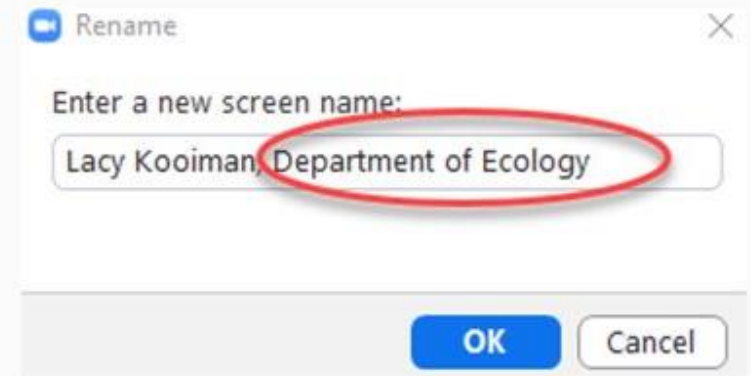
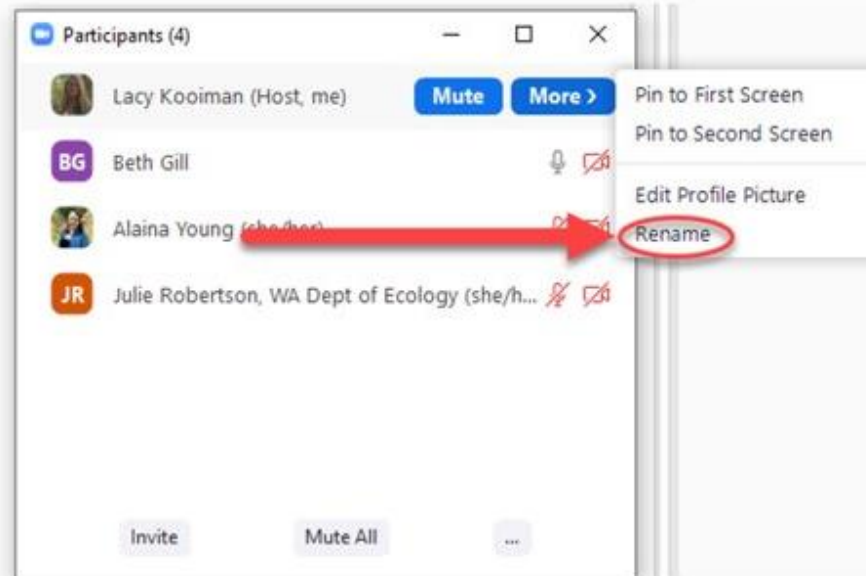
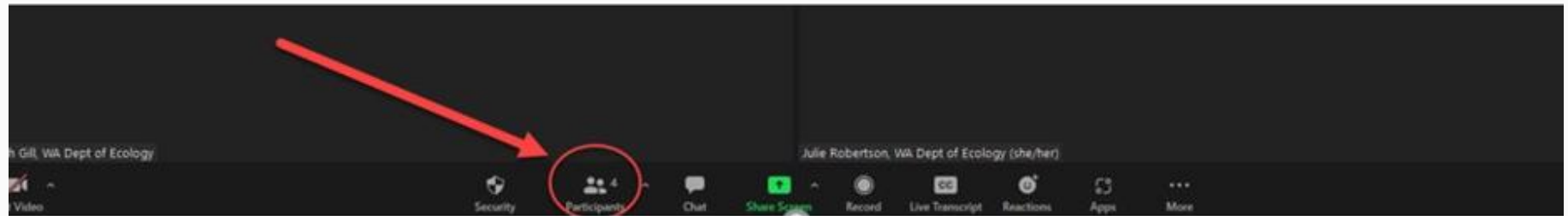
The image shows a Zoom meeting interface. At the top, a text box says "Please use the chat box to ask questions or make comments." Below this is a video feed of a woman, Molly McNutt, with the caption "Molly McNutt, Facilitator". At the bottom, the Zoom control bar is visible, with the "Chat" icon circled in red. A green arrow points from the "Chat" icon to a chat window on the right. The chat window has a "To:" dropdown menu set to "Everyone", which is also circled in red. A green arrow points from the "Chat" icon to this dropdown menu. The chat window also shows "Close" and "Pop Out" options.

Zoom Chat Functions

For **technical help with Zoom**, use the chat drop-down menu to select To: Molly McNutt

To ask the **presenter questions**, use the chat drop-down menu to select To: Everyone

Rename/ Add Your Affiliation



Audio Settings

Mute/Unmute & Audio Settings

You can mute and unmute your microphone. If you click on the (bottom left main Zoom screen), you have additional options for your microphone, leave the computer audio or access the audio

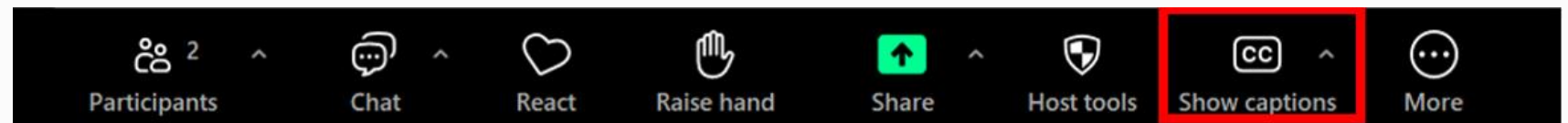


Closed Captions

Closed captions and a live transcript is enabled for this meeting.

To turn on the live transcript:

- Locate the cc “Live Transcript” or “Show Captions” option on your Zoom control bar.
- Different versions of Zoom look a little different.

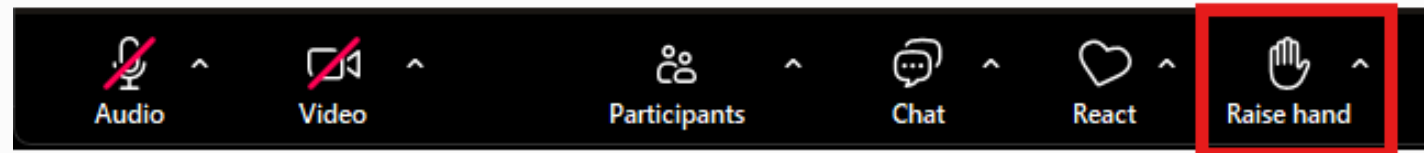


Raise Hand Function

Please use the "raise hand" function if you have a question or would like to testify.

To raise your hand:

- Locate the "Raise hand" option on your Zoom control bar.
- For those dialing in via phone, use *9 on your dial pad to raise and lower your hand.



Meeting Ground Rules

- Please keep your mic on mute.
- During the Q&A session and public hearing, if you would like to speak, please use the Zoom “raise hand” function. You will be called on when it is your turn to speak.
- Please be concise in your questions and comments. We ask that you keep your comments to 3 minutes or less to allow time for everyone time to speak. If time allows, we will ask for a second round of comment.

Washington's Battery Stewardship Program

- Passed in 2023, chapter 70A.555 RCW establishes a new extended producer responsibility program for battery recycling.
- This program is:
 - Funded by battery producers
 - Free for all Washington residents
 - More accessible than current battery collection in the state



About This Rulemaking

- Broad authority to adopt rules necessary to implement, administer, and enforce the chapter
- Definitions
- Clarify stewardship plan submittal
- Setting the agency fee
- Regarding battery marking
- Recycling efficiency rates

Program Goals and Objectives

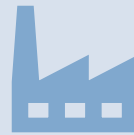
- Increases battery recycling to keep materials out of the landfill
- Reduces the risk of battery-related fires or release of toxic chemicals into the environment
- Increases education and outreach about battery disposal options
- Establishes collection sites that are convenient and accessible



Key Roles in the Program



Battery stewardship organizations (BSO)– Run the program, establish collection sites, and provide education and outreach



Producers – Fund the program through their participation in a BSO, comply with marking requirements, and certify their compliance to retailers



Retailers – Ensure they are selling covered batteries only from compliant producers



Ecology – Review and approve plans and annual reports, rulemaking, and oversee and enforce the program

Battery Collection

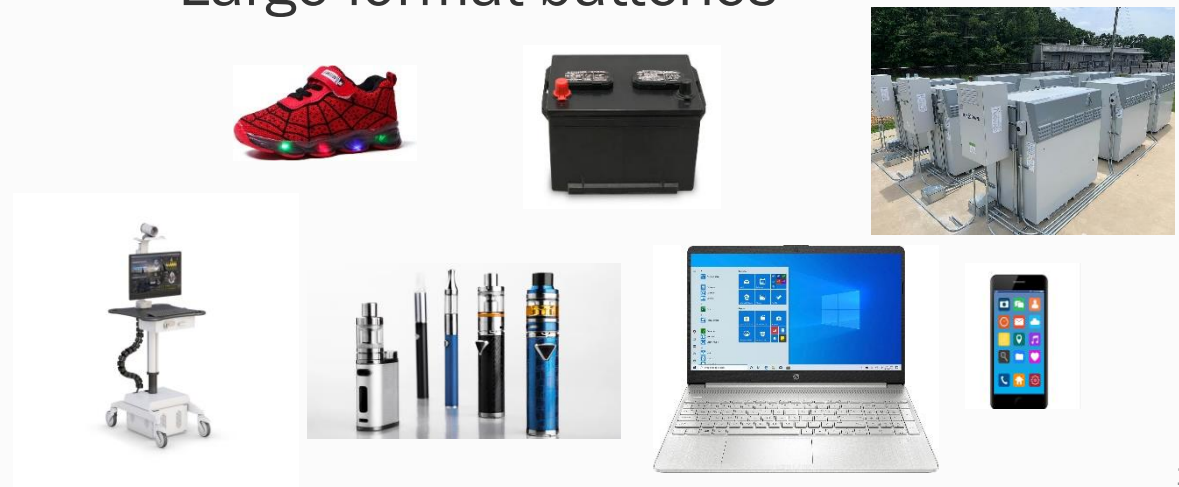
Collected

- Loose Portable batteries
- Loose Medium format batteries



Not Collected

- Embedded batteries
- Batteries used in medical devices that are not marketed to consumers
- Lead acid batteries >11 pounds
- Large format batteries



Convenience Standards

- 95% of Washington residents will have a collection site within 15 miles of where they live.
- Most urban areas will have roughly a 50% increase in the number of collection sites.
- Consideration for collection opportunities for people living in overburdened communities and collection events for areas without a permanent collection site, including island and geographically isolated communities.



Agency Fees

- Administrative fee
 - Beginning 2026 and due each year on June 1
 - Based on administrative costs from the previous calendar year
- Plan review fee
 - One-time base fee due from the battery stewardship organizations upon first plan submittal
 - If cost of review exceeds base fee, a per-hour additional fee charged
- These fees will be posted to Ecology's website.

Marking Requirements

- Beginning January 1, 2028: Mark of battery producer's brand required.
- Beginning January 1, 2030:
 - A crossed-out wheeled bin mark to indicate the battery should not be disposed of as household waste
 - A mark indicating the elemental name or symbol
- If the battery does not have a surface greater than ½ inch, the producer must instead mark the packaging of the battery.

Figure 1: Example battery mark



NiCd

Collection Site Safety and Training

- The rule establishes new battery handling standards with special consideration for damaged and defective batteries
- Safety training for collection site staff
- Battery stewardship organizations are required to provide to collection sites:
 - Training materials
 - Safety information
 - Emergency supplies
 - Decontamination equipment



Agency Discretion - Definitions

- Battery related incident
- Best available technologies
- Chemistry
- Collection event
- Demonstrable costs
- Geographically isolated community
- Regulated generator
- Retailer



Other Agency Discretion

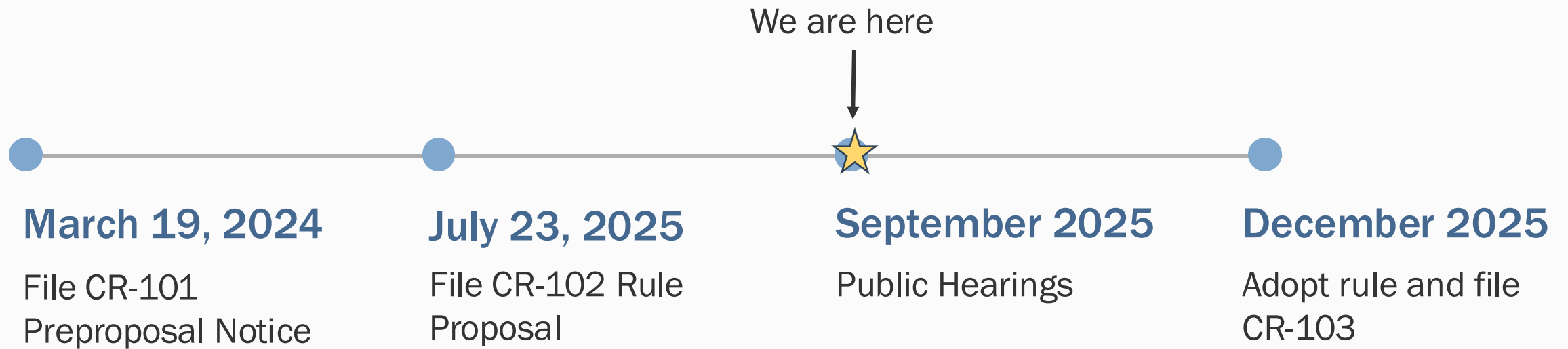
- **Education and outreach** – Specify that activities are required quarterly
- **Stewardship plans**
 - Clarify plan content requirements
 - Add information about plan submittal process and when plans must be resubmitted or amended
 - Allow Ecology to amend and approve a plan after two rounds of review and disapproval
 - Criteria for “full implementation”



Other Agency Discretion Continued

- **Certification Process** – Establish process between BSO, producers, Ecology and retailers
- **Annual report** - Add, expand, or clarify report content requirements
- **Quarterly updates** - Identify topics to be covered
- **Multiple BSOs** – How BSOs must coordinate activities
- **Collection network requirements** - Add, expand, or clarify where sites must be located and how service must be provided

Rulemaking Timeline



Program Implementation Timeline

July 1,
2026

- Deadline for battery stewardship organizations to submit a plan to Ecology for approval

July 1,
2027

- Program begins; collection sites will begin collecting covered portable batteries; prohibition on retailers selling covered portable batteries unless producer has certified compliance

Jan 1,
2028

- Producers must mark their batteries with their brand

June 1,
2028

- Deadline for battery stewardship organizations to submit their first annual report to Ecology

Jan 1,
2029

- Collection sites will begin collecting medium format batteries

July 1,
2029

- Prohibition on retailers selling covered medium-format batteries unless producer has certified compliance

Jan 1,
2030

- Producers must mark their batteries with the chemistry of the battery and the crossed-out wheelie bin

Q&A Session Ground Rules

- If you would like to ask a question, please use the Zoom “raise hand” function. The host will call on you when it is your turn to speak.
- Please be concise when asking your questions.
- Staff will do their best to provide a concise answer to questions. If the question requires a lengthy answer, staff may ask you to follow-up after the meeting.



Q&A Session



10-minute Break



Public Hearing

- If you would like to provide comment, please use the Zoom “raise hand” function.
- The hearing officer will call on you when it is your turn to provide comment.
- Please keep your comments to within 3 minutes to allow enough time for everyone to speak. If time allows, we will ask for an additional round of comment.



Want to send us comments after the meeting?

Visit the comment site:



<https://swm.ecology.comcommentinput.com?id=84Dx26bpJ9>

Thank you!

Visit the Comment Site:



<https://swm.ecology.commentinput.com?id=84Dx26bpJ9>

Comment Period Ends:

September 10, 2025, 11:59 PM

Questions or Comments?

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