DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Draft 2025 Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit

Presentation on the Draft Permit

JULY 22, 2025 | William Weaver, Ph.D., P.E.

PSNGP presentation outline

1. Permit history
2. Permit reissuance schedule
3. Proposed permit changes
4. Questions

Permit history

- Dec. 1, 2021: first permit was issued.
- Dec. 2021 & Jan. 2022: Several appeals were filed at the Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB).
- Feb. 28, 2025: PCHB invalidated the permit “insofar as it is mandatory.”
- April 3, 2025: Ecology sent letter terminating mandatory permit coverage

Permit reissuance schedule

June 18
comment period begins

July 1
public information session

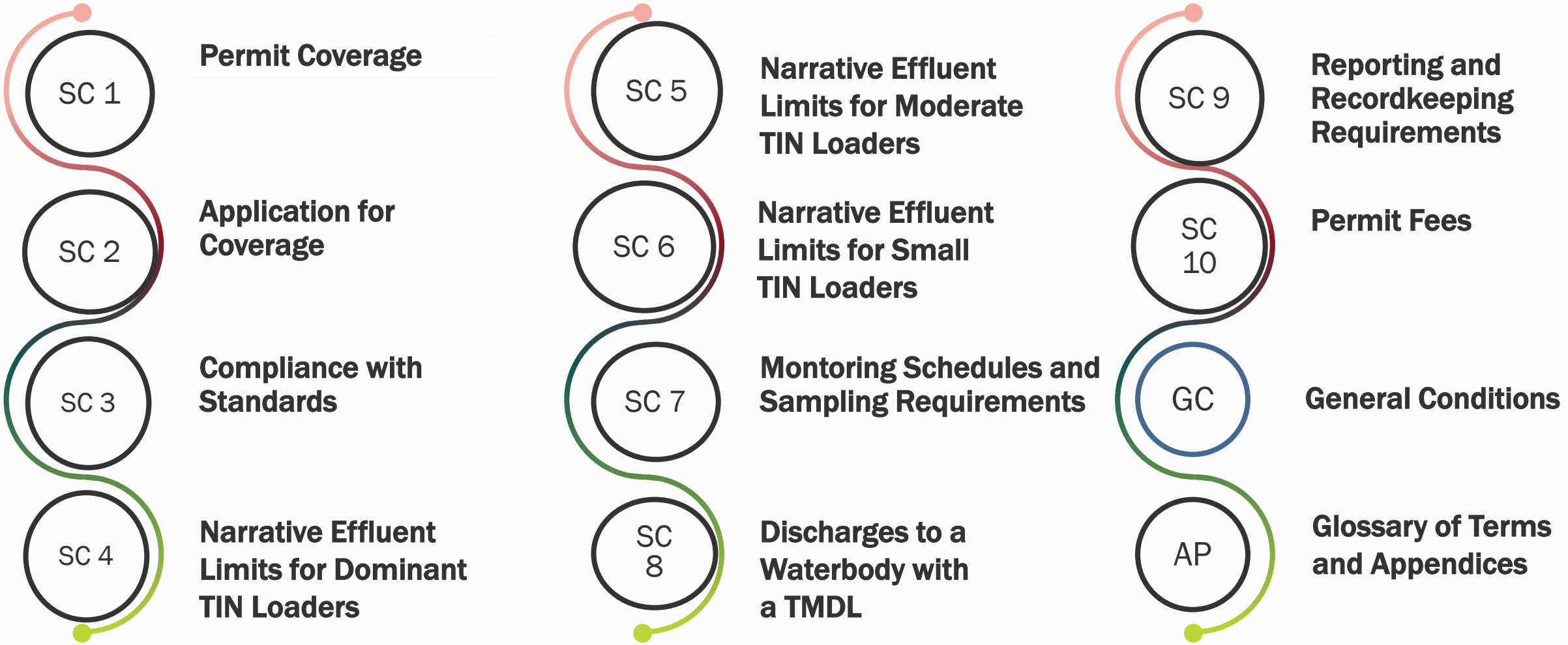
July 22
public meeting and hearing

August 27
comment period closes

Fall/Winter
anticipated permit issuance–effective 30 days after

Winter
permit application due 45 days after effective date

Permit Table of Contents



SC = Special Condition

Proposed changes for the draft permit

“OPT IN” permit coverage

- Clarifying permit requirements apply only to permittees who apply for and obtain “OPT IN” permit coverage under the reissued permit

Voluntary Application for Coverage

- Will need to submit a Notice of Intent
- Coverage becomes effective when Ecology issues a permit coverage letter

Proposed changes (continued)

Compliance with Standards

- Removing "end-result" requirements:

  ~~*"Discharges shall not cause or contribute to violations of surface water quality standards…"*~~

- Consistent with *City and County of San Francisco, California v. U.S.E.P.A.*

  (U.S. Supreme Court, March 2025)

Proposed changes (continued)

New Submission Due Date June 30, 2026

Nitrogen Optimization Report

for all: dominant, moderate, and small

Nutrient Reduction Evaluation Report

for dominant and moderate loaders

AKART Evaluation for Small Loaders

Proposed changes (continued)

Anticipated Expiration Date: Winter 2027

Proposed changes (continued)

Discharges to a waterbody with a TMDL

- Permittees must comply with effluent limits that are consistent with the assumptions and requirements of wasteload allocations from a US EPA-approved dissolved oxygen Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Ecology will address permit requirements, including narrative and/or numeric effluent limits associated with any such TMDL, in the General Permit coverage letter for a Permittee's facility.

Proposed changes (continued)

Since the February 2025 PCHB order was issued, all terms and conditions of the entire draft permit are open for public comment. The entire final and reissued permit will be subject to appeal.

Ways to comment on the draft general permit

- Submit PSNGP comments online (preferred): ecology.wa.gov/nutrientpermit

- Send via U.S. mail (postmarked by August 27, 2025)

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- Testify at our public hearing

Thank You

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Permit web page:
https://ecology.wa.gov/NutrientPermit