



Focus *on Northwest Regional Office*

Water Quality Program

Overview

The mission of the Department of Ecology's Water Quality Program (WQP) is to protect and restore Washington's waters.

The following goals support this mission:

1. Provide water quality partners with technical and financial assistance.
2. Provide useful information for the public, partners, and agency and involve stakeholders in decision-making.
3. Support all staff so that we can be successful as an organization and as individuals.

As one of the primary subdivisions of Ecology, the WQP is guided by three major program mandates:

- The WQP administers the State Water Pollution Control Act (R.C.W. 90.48), which requires the prevention and control of pollution to streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, marine waters, groundwater, and other waters of the state.
- The WQP implements the Federal Clean Water Act (U.S.C. s/s 1251 et seq. [1977]). In this capacity, the WQP develops and administers surface water quality standards, monitors and assesses water quality, manages the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) wastewater discharge permit program, administers nonpoint pollution source control programs, serves as co-manager of the Puget Sound Estuary Program, and develops Water Cleanup Plans* (also known as Total Maximum Daily Loads or TMDLs) for the recovery of impaired waters in the State of Washington.
- The WQP executes major elements of the Puget Sound Water Quality Management Plan. This plan was developed to protect and restore biological health and diversity and address prevention and reduction of pollution in Puget Sound waters, sediments, and shorelines.

Northwest Regional Office (NWRO)

The WQP at the NWRO is subdivided into four units that support the program's mission. The following is a descriptive list of the specific responsibilities and related activities for each unit followed by the name of each unit's manager with phone and email contact information:

Compliance and Technical Assistance Unit

Don Seeberger 425-649-4424/dsee461@ecy.wa.gov

- Technical assistance to small businesses and farms
- Dairy nutrient management oversight
- Stormwater permit compliance site inspections for: construction, sand and gravel, boatyards, and industrial locations
- Permit compliance enforcement for wastewater treatment facilities
- Review of reports for permitted discharges
- Salmon recovery coordination

Industrial Permits and Stormwater Unit – John Drabek 425-649-7293/jdra461@ecy.wa.gov

- Engineering review of industrial wastewater treatment and stormwater systems
- Industrial wastewater permitting for the protection of ground and surface water
- Complaint response and investigation of industrial facilities
- Compliance assurance and enforcement
- Industrial pretreatment program including oversight of local governments with delegated programs
- State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review and 401 certifications for hydroelectric projects

Municipal Permit Unit – Dave Nunnallee 425-649-7050/dnun461@ecy.wa.gov

- Financial assistance from State Revolving Fund and Centennial Clean Water Fund
- NPDES Permitting of municipal wastewater treatment facilities
- Municipal Treatment Plant Compliance Inspections
- Water Cleanup Plan* implementation for municipal point sources
- Complaint response and investigations related to municipalities
- Enforcement of municipal permits and related water quality laws
- Engineering review of municipal wastewater treatment facilities

Watershed Unit – Dave Garland 425-649-7031/dgar461@ecy.wa.gov

- Forest & Fish Agreement--water quality regulation of timber harvesting and forest roads
- Management of Centennial Clean Water Fund and other grants and loans
- Coordination of community involvement in water cleanup decisions and actions
- Water quality education and information outreach
- Water Cleanup Plans*
- Aquatic Pesticide Permitting and Lake Water Cleanup Plans*

*A Water Cleanup Plan, or Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) determination, is a science-based approach to cleaning up polluted water so that it meets approved state water quality standards.

For More Information...

Please contact the Water Quality Program at the Department of Ecology's Northwest Regional Office 3190 160th Ave. SE, Bellevue WA 98008-5452; you may also reach the following individuals by telephone or email:

Tricia Miller, Permit Coordinator

Phone: 425-649-7201

Email: tmil461@ecy.wa.gov

Kevin Fitzpatrick, Section Manager

Phone: 425-649-7033

Email: kfit461@ecy.wa.gov

The Department of Ecology is an equal opportunity agency and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, disability, age, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, disabled veteran's status, Vietnam Era veteran's status, or sexual orientation.

If you have special accommodation needs or require this document in an alternative format, please call DouGlas Palenshus at 425- 649-7041. The TTY number is 7-1-1 or 1-800-833-6388.