



Focus on Ecology to Reissue Draft Industrial Stormwater General Permit

from Ecology's Water Quality Program

Ecology to Reissue the Industrial Stormwater General Permit

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) has begun a process to update and reissue the NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) general permit for stormwater discharges associated with industrial activities, known as the "Industrial Stormwater General Permit." Ecology released a draft Industrial Stormwater General Permit for public review and comment on February 21, 2007. In response to public comments, Ecology made substantial changes to the draft permit. Therefore, Ecology issued second draft permit for public review and comment on November 21, 2007. Ecology believes the reissued draft permit addresses issues raised during the initial public comment period. Ecology plans to issue the final permit in April 2008.

Ecology seeks public comments on the proposed permit

Ecology will accept written and oral comments on the proposed draft permit and fact sheet for an extended comment period. The comment period will run from November 21 until 5 p.m. on January 10, 2008. Comments should reference specific text when possible. Ecology prefers comments be submitted by e-mail to: industrialstormwatercomments@ecy.wa.gov.

Hard copy written comments may also be mailed to:

Lionel Klikoff
Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Ecology will conduct a series of public hearings to provide opportunities to give oral comments on the draft permit. (See text on the left for a schedule of workshops and public hearings.)

What does the permit regulate?

The Industrial Stormwater General Permit regulates stormwater discharges from industrial facilities to surface water bodies. This statewide permit currently covers approximately 1,150 industrial facilities that conduct specific activities and discharge stormwater into waters of the state. Ecology may also require industries to seek permit coverage if their stormwater may pollute surface or ground waters. Ecology typically determines if this applies to an industry on a case-by-case basis.

Who must apply for the permit?

Ecology requires permit coverage for industrial facilities with specific Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes and those that conduct similar activities. These facilities must apply for coverage if they discharge stormwater from their industrial



Workshops and Public Hearings

A public hearing will immediately follow each workshop.

Centralia

January 4, 2008, 2 p.m.
Timberland Regional Library
110 S. Silver
Centralia
360-736-0183

Mount Vernon

January 7, 2008, 9 a.m.
Skagit County PUD
1415 Freeway Drive
Mount Vernon
360-424-7104

Spokane

January 8, 2008, 1 p.m.
Shadle Library
W. 2111 Wellesley Ave.
Spokane
509-444-5390

Yakima

January 9, 2008, 9 a.m.
Yakima County Courthouse
128 N 2nd Street
Yakima
509-574-1000

areas to storm drains or directly into surface waters. If the facility has no potential to expose stormwater to pollutants, that facility may apply for a Conditional No Exposure Certificate rather than a permit.

What are the differences between this permit and the previous permit?

The outline format of the draft permit provides greater clarity of permit requirements. In addition, Ecology removed technical jargon and simplified the wording. Ecology has made several other changes to the draft permit. For example, the draft permit:

- Sets levels called “benchmarks” for metals such as zinc and copper, based on levels at least 50% of the facilities have achieved.
- Uses results from a whole wet season of sampling to trigger corrective actions. However, if there is a serious water quality problem (10 times above a benchmark), the permit requires industries to notify Ecology.
- Provides definitive schedules for industries to meet the benchmarks.
- Tailors sampling requirements to Eastern and Western Washington.

Please refer to the following table for an explanation of the major changes.

2002 Permit	Proposed 2008 Permit
Quarterly sampling.	Wet season sampling.
Benchmarks based on federal requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benchmarks based on attainable levels for conventional pollutants. • Benchmarks based on levels permittees have demonstrated are attainable for metals.
Quarterly reporting of sample results.	Annual reporting of results.
Inspections quarterly and once in dry season.	Monthly inspections in wet season and once in dry season.
Corrective actions in complex three-tiered system based upon layered data.	Corrective actions in a streamlined, two-tiered system that sets specific schedules requiring source control and treatment Best Management Practices (BMPs) to meet benchmarks.

Where can I get copies of the permit and other information?

You can find information on this topic, including a list of industry categories and SIC codes on Ecology’s Web site at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/industrial/index.html>

If you need this publication in an alternate format, please call the Water Quality Program at 360-407-6401. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.