



# Focus on **Complying with Washington's Well Drilling Regulations**

For Well Operators

Water Resources Program

## For more information:

Online visit:  
[www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/wrhome.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/wrhome.html)  
– click on wells

To leave a recorded message, call  
1-800-468-0261

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PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504

**Bellingham**  
Field Office  
1440 – 10th Street,  
Suite 102  
Bellingham, WA 98225

**Bellevue**  
Northwest Region Office  
3190 – 160th Ave. SE  
Bellevue WA 98008  
(425) 649-7000

**Olympia**  
Southwest Region Office  
PO Box 47775  
Olympia WA 98504  
(360) 407-6300

**Vancouver**  
Field Office  
2108 Grand Blvd.  
Vancouver WA 98661  
(360) 690-7171

**Yakima**  
Central Region Office  
1250 W. Alder Street  
Union Gap, WA 98903  
(509) 575-2490

**Spokane**  
Eastern Region Office  
N. 4601 Monroe, #202  
Spokane WA 99205  
(509) 329-3400

Ecology's goal is to serve the people of Washington State and protect the environment. Sometimes, this places us in the role of enforcer of laws and regulations. The goal of enforcement is to help people comply, not to punish violators.

When we discover violations, we want to point out the problem and clearly state what responses are appropriate. Often Ecology does this informally with a phone call, site visit, or written notice. This is to identify a potential violation and outline steps to achieve compliance. Ecology may also use a *Notice of Correction*.

**Notice of Correction: an informal notice of a potential violation, typically with needed corrections noted.**

Ecology may issue an *Administrative Order* rather than (or after) a Notice of Correction when the violation is considered serious and prompt action is needed. It is also used when requests for voluntary compliance have failed.

**Administrative Order: a formal requirement to correct a documented violation. An order may be appealed.**

Ecology may issue a *Notice of Penalty*. We usually issue penalties for serious or repeated violations.

**Notice of Penalty: a formal notice used to impose a monetary fine for a documented violation. A penalty may also be appealed.**

Here are some tips about working with Ecology toward voluntary compliance:

1. **Do** talk to Ecology before problems develop. If you are wondering whether there is a compliance problem, ask us! We are happy to provide assistance to help people operate within the law, stay in business, and protect the environment.
2. **Do** respond when Ecology uses informal methods to encourage compliance. Often we are seeking information that will allow us to help find solutions. These could be gaining proper well construction, permits, or other written approvals. We consider the effort you made when deciding on an appropriate response to a violation.
3. **Do** read any notice Ecology provides to see what we have decided, and what must be done to correct the problem.

4. **Do** contact Ecology as soon as possible to talk about the situation. Ecology's regional offices are listed on the sidebar on page one.
5. **Do** look at when you are required to respond. If you cannot act by then, contact Ecology right away. You must request time extensions in writing and provide good reasons for them.
6. **Do** be aware of the contents of your permit and/or license. It is your responsibility to follow the provisions.

### **What if I disagree with Ecology?**

Orders and penalties can be appealed to the Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB). Procedures for appealing are provided in the order or penalty document.

Remember, you can also request Ecology to reconsider a penalty based on new information you provide, prior to a formal appeal.

We want to work with you to help correct problems before they impact human health or the environment.