



WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
E C O L O G Y

As required by the Washington State Administrative Act, RCW 34.05.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE ADOPTION OF
Chapter 173-224 WAC, *Wastewater Discharge Permit Fees*

05/22/2006

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IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE ADOPTION OF
CHAPTER 173-224 WAC, WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMIT FEES

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Implementation Plan for Chapter 173-224 - WAC, Wastewater Discharge Permit Fees

- 1. Please describe how the Agency intends to implement and enforce the rule. Please include a description of the resources the Agency intends to use.**

The Water Quality Program will be the lead in implementing and enforcing this rule. The Permit Fee Unit staff, consisting of three full-time employees, is responsible for mailing out invoices and identifying delinquent accounts. The delinquent accounts are turned over for collection action if payment is not submitted by the requested due date. For those permit holders who fail to pay the collection agency, the Fee Administrator coordinates with the Regional Office Water Quality Section Manager in preparing and mailing out a permit revocation letter for nonpayment of fees. If a permit holder continues to discharge once the permit has been revoked, they are subject to fines as well as criminal enforcement action.

- 2. Please describe how the Agency intends to inform and educate affected persons about the rule.**

Permit holders have been directly notified of proposed changes to their fees during the rule development process. After adoption, Ecology will mail out a rule adoption notice directly to each permit holder and all interested parties on the permit fee mailing lists.

- 3. Please describe how the Agency intends to promote and assist voluntary compliance for this rule.**

To date, the Water Quality Permit Fee Unit has maintained a 98% collection rate. It is a priority of the Permit Fee Unit staff to respond quickly to permit holders who have concerns/questions about permit fees.

- 4. Please describe how the Agency intends to evaluate whether the rule achieves the purpose for which it was adopted, including, to the maximum extent practicable, the use of interim milestones to assess progress and the use of objectively measurable outcomes.**

The Water Quality Program continually monitors the Permit Fee Account. As mentioned above, the historical collection rate per year averages 98%. Having assigned staff continuously working on assessing fees, invoicing, making adjustments for small business/extreme hardship fee reductions, and responding to issues of concern to permit holders seems to promote submittal of payments.

- 5. Please describe how the Agency intends to train and inform Ecology staff regarding a new rule or rule amendment.**

The Permit Fee Unit has offered to attend meetings with Ecology staff throughout the state to discuss the proposed rule changes.

- 6. Please identify supporting documents that may need to be revised because of the rule amendment, or identify new supporting documents that need to be developed because of a new rule.**

The Permit Fee Web page will need to be updated with the proposed changes. Copies of the adopted fee schedule will need to be printed so they can be mailed to interested parties upon request.