



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 173-308 WAC, Biosolids Management

May 2007

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## ***Implementation Plan for Chapter 173 - 308 WAC, Biosolids Management***

### **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.**

Much of the infrastructure, process, policies, and procedures related to this rule are already in place. Regional staff will continue to be the primary implementers of the biosolids program. Headquarters staff will continue to provide technical assistance and training to the Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program (SWFAP) staff dedicated to biosolids permit reviews.

During the 2007-2009 biennium, 1 staff member at headquarters will manage the update of the biosolids management guidelines to reflect the rule changes. Until the guidelines update is complete, SWFAP staff will provide operators of wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) and Septage Management Facilities (SMFs) with interim guidance, explaining the changes occurring in the biosolids program. Ecology will also continue to provide technical assistance and information as needed to the regulated community and the various - committees and individuals that have interest in this rule.

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

Ecology will inform and educate by taking the following actions:

- Mail the Rule Adoption Notice to all affected parties. [could we specify who we mean?]
- Post the Concise Explanatory Statement and Rule Notification on Ecology's website.
- Publish notices, articles, and news briefs in various publications whose readers have facilities subject to the rule.
- Work with media to address inquiries.
- Provide technical assistance to permit holders, assisting them in meeting the new standards.
- Answer any questions about the changes.

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

To bridge the gap between existing rules and adopted rule changes, Ecology will:

- Update existing guidance documents, providing details and examples for compliance.
- Publish regulations and guidance documents on Ecology's website.
- Train regional staff on new regulations.
- Conduct training and presentations for the regulated community.
- Build on existing relationships with regulated communities and stakeholder groups.
- Continue to provide technical assistance and permit assistance.
- Continue site inspections.

**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.**

Ecology will use several criteria to determine program implementation success, including:

- The number of permit applications received within the specified timeframe after the issuance of a new biosolids general permit in 2010.
- The amount of fees collected at the end of each biennium.
- The issues raised by interested persons concerning the content of the rule and working with the rule.
- The number of enforcement actions taken.

In addition, the Agency can employ other criteria to determine program implementation success, including:

- The length of time applicants take to complete permit applications.
- Ease of understanding and working with biosolids guidelines and program parameters.

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

Most Ecology staff involved with implementation were involved with the rule-making process and are aware of the rule and law. Extra training will be conducted on specific rule changes that staff will encounter most commonly.

**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.**

Ecology will need to revise the following:

- SWFAP website
- Biosolids Management Guidelines

New or supporting documents that need to be developed include the following:

- Rule Adoption Notice

Ecology will develop additional documents in response to needs it identifies after the rule goes into effect.