



Focus on Public Comments Invited on Draft Industrial Stormwater General Permit

from Ecology's Water Quality Program

Ecology to Reissue the Industrial Stormwater General Permit

The Washington State 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 will release the draft Industrial Stormwater General Permit for public review and comment on February 21, 2007. Ecology plans to issue the final permit on August 20, 2007. Ecology believes the reissued permit provides greater clarity on permit requirements and will address issues raised during the current permit cycle.

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 60-day comment period will run from February 21 to April 20, 2007. Comments should reference specific text when possible. Ecology prefers written comments be submitted by e-mail to: industrialstormwatercomments@ecy.wa.gov.

Written comments may also be mailed to:

Jim LaSpina
Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Written comments must be postmarked or received by e-mail no later than midnight, April 20, 2007. Ecology will conduct a series of public hearings to provide opportunities to give oral comments on the draft permit. (See side bar 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 provides coverage for approximately 1,150 industrial facilities that discharge stormwater to waters of the state. Ecology may also require industries to seek permit coverage for areas of their industrial sites if their stormwater may pollute surface waters. Ecology typically determines if this applies to an industry on a case-by-case basis but may also apply it to an industrial sector when reissuing the permit.

Who must apply for the permit?

Ecology requires permit coverage for industrial facilities that conduct activities with specific Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes. Facilities with one of these SIC codes must apply for coverage if they discharge stormwater from their industrial



Workshops and Public Hearings

A public hearing will immediately follow each workshop.

Moses Lake

March 26, 2007, 1:30 pm
Moses Lake Fire
Department
Conference Room
701 E. Third Avenue
509-765-2204

Lacey

March 28, 2007, 1:30 pm
Department of Ecology
Headquarters Building
300 Desmond Drive
360-407-6000

Longview

March 29, 2007, 1:30 pm
Cowlitz County PUD
961 12th Avenue
360-423-2210

Mt. Vernon

April 3, 2007, 1:30 pm
Skagit Transit Conference
Room
105 Kincaid St. Suite 101
360-428-8547

Seattle

April 5, 2007, 1:30 pm
University Heights Center
5031 University Way NE
206-527-4278

areas to storm drains or directly to surface waters. Facilities do not require a permit if they treat and retain all the stormwater on-site (discharge to ground). 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. These include who is required to apply, sampling requirements, benchmarks and action levels, and corrective actions. Please refer to the following table for an explanation of these changes.

Proposed Change
Coverage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires industries to identify all industrial activities conducted onsite by SIC • Requires two new categories of industry to obtain a permit — hazardous waste treatment and storage facilities (TSDs) and dangerous waste recycling facilities
Sampling
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removes specific storm event criteria allowing a permittee to sample any time during a discharge from the site
Benchmarks and Action Levels
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revises selected benchmarks and action levels to reflect Washington’s stream conditions for metals • Revises ammonia benchmarks and action levels to reflect updated EPA water quality values • Requires copper sampling for all permittees
Corrective Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarifies Level 3 adaptive responses to require permittee to investigate treatment best management practices (BMPs) • Adds Level 4 response requiring permittee to prepare an engineering report and surface water quality assessment <i>or</i> request a waiver with engineering report and surface water quality assessment.
Ecology is seeking comments on benchmarks , action levels , and corrective actions . The 6415 report from the Legislature recommended alternative approaches and can be found at: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/industrial/Eval_of_WA_Industrial_SW_Permit.pdf

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

Information on this topic, including a list of industry categories and matching SIC codes can be found 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.