



Focus on Aquatic Pesticide Irrigation District Permit

from Ecology's Water Quality Program

Workshops and Public Hearings

Ecology will host two informational workshops and public hearings on its proposed permit. A public hearing will immediately follow each workshop.

Kennewick

December 10, 2007

6:30 p.m.

Benton PUD

Auditorium

2721 West 10th Ave

(corner of Hwy 395
and 10th Ave)

Kennewick, Washington

Ellensburg

December 11, 2007

6:30 p.m.

Hal Holmes Center

209 N. Ruby St.

Ellensburg, Washington

Ecology to Reissue the Aquatic Pesticide Irrigation District General Permit

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) has revised the Aquatic Pesticide Irrigation District General Permit and is issuing a draft of the permit for public comment.

What does the permit regulate?

The draft general permit covers the discharge of pesticides used in irrigation systems in Washington State to control plant and algae growth. Under the Washington State Water Pollution Control Act, a permit is required to discharge pollutants that alter the biological or chemical characteristics of a water body. The proposed permit addresses these legal requirements and regulates the discharge of pollutants to protect water quality in Washington.

Ecology issues a general permit in place of a series of individual permits for similar permitted activities. Individual activities that receive coverage under the general permit must comply with the terms and conditions of the permit.

How does the draft permit differ from the current permit?

Ecology made changes in the draft permit to the point of compliance, the copper limit, and many other permit requirements. The draft permit and fact sheet are available online at: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/pesticides/irrigation/irrigation_index.html

When does Ecology plan to issue the permit?

The public may review and comment on the draft permit and fact sheet from November 7, 2007 to January 11, 2008. This permit, once issued, will replace and revoke the current permit that Ecology issued on April 10, 2002 and that expired on May 10, 2007. The official title of the revised permit is *Irrigation System Aquatic Weed Control National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and State Waste Discharge General Permit*.

Ecology will issue the final permit after it considers all public comments. Ecology expects to issue the general permit soon after the end of the public comment period. It will be effective 30 days later. When Ecology issues the permit, it will send a response to everyone who commented.

Public comments

Ecology encourages the public to give written comments during the public comment period or oral comments at the public hearings. Ecology will accept written and oral comments on the draft Aquatic Pesticide Irrigation District general permit and fact sheet.

Comments should reference specific text when possible. Comments may address the following:

- Technical issues.
- Accuracy and completeness of information.
- Scope of activities proposed for coverage.
- Adequacy of environmental protection and permit conditions.
- Other concerns that might result from issuance of the new permit.

How do I submit comments or request more information?

To submit written comments, ask questions, or request copies of the permit, contact:

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Phone 360-407-7543; Fax 360-407-6426
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The draft permit and fact sheet are available online at:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/pesticides/irrigation/irrigation_index.html

Ecology **must receive** written, emailed, and faxed comments **no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, January 11, 2008**. The two public hearings will provide the opportunity to give oral comments on the draft permit. Please see the sidebar of this document for a schedule of workshops and public hearings.