

Ecology Seeking Comments on Industrial Stormwater General Permit

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) is seeking public comments on a draft Industrial Stormwater General Permit (ISWGP). The draft ISWGP is available for review and the public may submit comments on the proposal between June 3 and July 15, 2009.

Ecology will issue the final permit after we receive and consider all public comments. We expect to issue the new general permit on October 21, 2009. It will be effective January 1, 2010.

What is the Industrial Stormwater General Permit?

The ISWGP requires industrial facilities to manage and monitor stormwater runoff to ensure that contaminated stormwater is not discharged to water bodies, such as wetlands, creek, rivers, and marine waters. The statewide permit currently covers approximately 1,200 facilities engaged in a wide range of industrial activity including manufacturing, warehousing, processing, transportation, and recycling, among others.

How do I get more information or a copy of the draft Industrial Stormwater General Permit?

Visit: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/industrial/index.html. Or you may request copies from: Julie Robertson at 360-407-6575 or by email at jrob461@ecy.wa.gov.

How do I submit comments?

Ecology will accept written and verbal comments on the draft Industrial Stormwater General Permit, fact sheet, and application. Comments should reference specific text when possible.

ISWGP Workshops and Hearings

Vancouver (Workshop)

June 19, 2009
1 p.m.
Vancouver City Council
Chambers
210 East 13th St.
Vancouver
360-487-8600

Moses Lake (Workshop)

June 24, 2009
1 p.m.
Moses Lake Fire Station
701 E Third St.
Moses Lake
509-765-2204

Mount Vernon (Workshop)

June 26, 2009
9 a.m.
PUD No. 1 of Skagit County
1415 Freeway Drive
Mount Vernon
360-424-7104

Tacoma (Workshop and Hearing)

July 13, 2009
1 p.m.
Pierce County Library System,
Room C
3005 112th St E, Tacoma
253-536-6500

Contact:

Jeff Killelea
Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Special accommodations:

To ask about the availability of this document in a version for the visually impaired call the Water Quality Program at 360-407-6401.

Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

Comments may address the following:

- Technical issues.
- Accuracy and completeness of information.
- The facilities proposed for coverage.
- Adequacy of environmental protection and permit conditions.
- Any other concern that would result from issuance of the revised permit.

Ecology prefers comments be submitted to: industrialstormwatercomments@ecy.wa.gov.

Written comments must be postmarked or received via e-mail no later than 5 p.m., July 15, 2009.

Submit written, hard copy comments to:

Jeff Killelea
Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

You may also provide verbal comments by testifying at the public hearing in Tacoma on July 13, 2009.

Why does the Industrial Stormwater Permit matter?

Polluted stormwater is the state's largest source of urban water pollution. Uncontrolled industrial stormwater runoff sends oil, grease, silt, and toxic substances into our waterways. Even small concentrations of polluted runoff are bad for fish and other aquatic life.

Copper and zinc are harmful to threatened and endangered salmon and other aquatic life—even at relatively low concentrations. Copper can cause salmon to lose their ability to sense the presence of predators and their spawning grounds. Zinc and silt bind fish gills and cause suffocation.

Humans are also exposed to the pollution when swimming or eating contaminated fish and shellfish. Stormwater runoff often creates a huge problem for the fish and shellfish industry, whose economic value in Washington State is more than \$1 billion annually.

The Industrial Stormwater General Permit is one of the state's key tools to protect water quality in Puget Sound and in Washington's lakes, streams, and rivers. Washington's waters are ours to protect. This permit helps us all to do this better.

Whom do I contact if I still have questions or would like more information?

Jeff Killelea
Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504

360-407-6127

jkil461@ecy.wa.gov

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