

Northwest Alloys, Inc

Opportunity to comment

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to comment on Northwest Alloy's (NWA's) proposed:

- State Waste Discharge Permit (SWDP)
- Permit fact sheet
- State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance (MDNS)
- SEPA checklist

We will accept comments by mail, fax or e-mail April 13, 2011 – May 25, 2011. A public meeting to share information and answer questions, followed by a hearing to accept formal comments, will take place:

Date: May 18, 2011

Time: Starting at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Addy Grange, 1376 Main Street, Addy, WA

Proposed permit

This permit allows NWA to use commingled wastewater to irrigate alfalfa fields on their property. It requires the facility to:

- Apply the wastewater following best management practices and setbacks to protect surface waters and public exposure.
- Conduct and report monthly monitoring of the wastewater and quarterly monitoring of the groundwater wells.

Commingled wastewater includes:

- Stormwater.
- Groundwater from an onsite well.
- Treated sanitary wastewater.
- Neutralized water from a former slag pond.
- Groundwater under Pond 3.

Potable water is sometimes added to meet crop water demands. The wastewater is very dilute and low in nutrients, salts and organics.

DATES AND LOCATIONS

Comment period

April 13, 2011 – May 25, 2011

Read the proposed permit at these locations:

Colville Public Library
195 South Oak Street
Colville, WA 99114

Dept of Ecology
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98504

Online:

<http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/industry/proposed.asp>

Submit written comments to:

Kim Wigfield, P.E.
Industrial Section
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
kim.wigfield@ecy.wa.gov
Fax: (360) 407-6102

Special accommodations

If you need this document in a version for the visually impaired, call the Waste 2 Resources at (360) 407-6900.

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

We determined using this water for irrigation purposes will not have a negative effect on surface water, soils or shallow groundwater if best management practices and setbacks are followed.

For information on the history of this permit, please visit http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/industrial/alum_addy.html.

Pond 3

We have decided not to renew the SWDP allowing NWA to land apply Pond 3 process wastewater. NWA is evaluating other options to treat the Pond 3 water, including evaporation.

Permit purpose

An SWDP permit is normally issued every 5 years to facilities that discharge wastewater to the ground and those that discharge to a municipality's wastewater treatment plant. It:

- Sets limits on the kinds, amounts, and concentrations of pollutants a facility may release.
- Requires a facility to measure, test, and report its pollutants.
- Prescribes "best management practices".
- Defines the pollution control standards applied.

Public comment allows you to:

- Tell us how well the proposed permit protects receiving water.
- Suggest fairer limits, conditions, and requirements.
- Comment on Ecology's determination of compliance with antidegradation rules.

When the comment period ends, Ecology reviews all comments received and makes appropriate changes to the permit before issuing it.

Facility description

NWA operated a magnesium mining and refining facility in Addy, Washington between 1976 and 2001. The smelter was temporarily closed and the company completed mine closure and reclamation requirements. NWA plans to sell the facility as an industrial site. Current staff consists of security and environmental personnel.