

# BP Cherry Point Refinery

## Opportunity to comment

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to comment on the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the BP Cherry Point oil refinery.

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

Date: June 2, 2011

Time: Starting at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Ferndale Senior Center, 1998 Cherry Street

## Permit

The refinery's current NPDES permit expired November 2004. It has remained in effect while we wrote the reissued permit. Renewing most of the conditions of the current permit, the proposed permit adds:

- Priority pollutant testing
- Facility loading criteria
- Herring toxicity testing
- Construction stormwater pollution prevention requirements
- Groundwater monitoring

Under the Clean Water Act, point sources (including industrial facilities) must have an NPDES permit if they discharge wastewater directly to surface water. Ecology writes and enforces NPDES permits to control industrial discharges to waters within Washington State.

## DATES AND LOCATIONS

### Comment period

April 13 – June 13, 2011

### Read the proposed permit at these locations:

Ferndale Public Library  
2222 Main Street  
Ferndale, WA 98248

Bellingham Public Library  
210 Central Ave  
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dept of Ecology  
300 Desmond Drive SE  
Lacey, WA 98504

Online:

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

### Submit written comments to:

Liem Nguyen  
Industrial Section  
P.O. Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600  
[IScommentsBP@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:IScommentsBP@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.

An NPDES permit is normally issued every 5 years. 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**

The refinery is located at 4519 Grandview Road in Blaine. The refinery encompasses about 740 acres, bordered by Grandview Road to the north, Aldergrove Road to the south, and Jackson Road to the west. Prior to construction in 1971, the site was used as agricultural land. The refinery employs approximately 800 people.

The main source of crude oil has historically been from tankers delivering oil from Alaska’s North Slope, however crude oils from other sources are also processed. The refinery separates crude oil into various components for further processing and blending to make a variety of petroleum products. These products include gasoline, jet fuel, diesel fuel, liquid petroleum gas, and residual fuel oil. The refinery processed an average of 209,000 barrels of crude oil a day over a 24-month period from October 2008 to October 2010.

The refinery has one process water outfall (001) and six industrial stormwater outfalls (002, 003, 004, 005, 006, and 007). Outfall 001 discharges an average of 4.3 million gallons a day of treated process water to the Strait of Georgia. All stormwater outfalls, except Outfall 006, discharge treated stormwater to Terrell Creek which ultimately flows into Lummi Bay. Outfall 006 discharges stormwater to the Strait of Georgia during periods of heavy rainfall when there is a risk of overflowing the dock’s on-shore sump.