

# Rule Adoption Notice

Water Quality Program

May 2011

## Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington, WAC 173-201A

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) amended its rule that regulates surface water quality. The rule is Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-201A, titled Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington.

### What is the purpose of the rule?

WAC 173-201A establishes water quality standards for state surface waters. Under this chapter, residents and industries are required to comply with these standards when performing activities that impact surface waters. Requirements may be met through permitting and other implementation programs.

### Why is the rule important?

The adopted rule ensures consistency with state law to protect public health and enjoyment of our waters while also safeguarding our natural resources such as fish, shellfish and wildlife.

### Whom does the rule affect?

The surface water quality standards affect all residents residing and industries operating in Washington.

### Summary of adopted changes

The revised rule was adopted on April 20, 2011, and includes:

- Making corrections such as adding missing references and making typographic errors since the last time the rule was amended in 2006.
- Adding or removing rule language for better clarity. Generally, this is the result of the transition from the 1997 water quality standards format to the 2006 format.
- Formatting or adjusting several tables to make them more clear and accurate.

#### MORE INFORMATION

Ecology has adopted an amendment to the Surface Water Quality Standards, Chapter 173-201A WAC.

The proposed rule amendment was filed January 18, 2011. Public hearings were held in Lacey and via video conferencing in, Bellevue, Yakima, and Spokane.

WAC 173-201A-010 – 600, and  
WAC 173-201A-610 - 612

**Adoption date: April 20, 2011.**  
**Effective date: May 21, 2011.**

WAC 173-201A-602

**Adoption date: May 9, 2011.**  
**Effective date: June 9, 2011.**

Please visit the Surface Water Quality Standards Rule Revisions Web Page

[www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/swqs/RuleRev2011.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/swqs/RuleRev2011.html)

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Ecology filed a second order of adoption on May 9, 2011. This order makes a correction to WAC 173-201A-602. This order includes the strikethrough and underline language for all portions of section 602 to conform to RCW 34.05.395. The previous rule language did not include one page of the section 602 table that should have been deleted, however the rule did include the language Ecology was proposing for that page. The second order removes duplicated text and leaves the newly amended text.

### **Response to comments**

Ecology's response to comments received during the public comment period is now available. Download a copy at [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/swqs/RuleRev2011.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/swqs/RuleRev2011.html).

### **More information**

Visit Ecology's surface water quality standards rule revisions website at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/swqs/RuleRev2011.html>.

To get updates on Ecology's rule-making activities, sign-up for the WACTrack email list at [www.ecy.wa.gov/maillist.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/maillist.html).

### **Appeal procedures**

This rule adoption can be appealed under procedures described in the Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05.330). For more information about appealing this rule adoption, please contact Bari Schreiner, Agency Rules Coordinator, at 360-407-6998 or [bari.schreiner@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:bari.schreiner@ecy.wa.gov).

