



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Rule Implementation Plan

Wastewater Discharge Permit Fees

Chapter 173-224 WAC

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Publication and Contact Information

This publication is available on the Department of Ecology's website at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/1110070.html>

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Ecology publishes this document to meet the requirements of the Washington State Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05.325)

To ask about the availability of this document in a version for the visually impaired, call Bev Poston at 360-407-6425.

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

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Purpose

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) provides the information in this implementation plan to meet agency and Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05.328) requirements related to rule adoptions.

Introduction

The purpose of this rule implementation plan is to inform those who must comply with Chapter 173-224 WAC – Wastewater Discharge Permit Fees about how Ecology intends to:

- Implement and enforce the rule.
- Inform and educate persons affected by the rule.
- Promote and assist voluntary compliance for the rule.
- Evaluate the rule.
- Train and inform Ecology staff about the new or amended rule.

Also included in this plan is information about:

- Supporting documents that may need to be written or revised because of the new rule or amended rule.
- Other resources where more information about the rule is available.
- Contact information for Ecology employees who can answer questions about the rule implementation.

Implementation and Enforcement

The Water Quality Program will be the lead in implementing and enforcing this rule. The Permit Fee Unit Staff, consisting of two full-time employees, is responsible for mailing out invoices and identifying delinquent accounts. The delinquent accounts are turned over for collection action if payment is not submitted by the requested due date. For those permit holders who fail to pay the collection agency, the Fee Administrator coordinates with the Regional Office Water Quality Section Manager in preparing and mailing out a permit revocation letter for nonpayment of fees. If a permit holder continues to discharge once the permit has been revoked, they can be subject to fines as well as criminal action.

Informing and Educating Persons Affected by the Rule

Ecology is mailing out a notice informing all permit holders and other interested parties of the adoption of the rule amendment.

Promoting and Assisting Voluntary Compliance

It is the priority of the Permit Fee Unit Staff to respond quickly to permit holders who have concerns and questions regarding their permits and/or permit fees. This quick response time promotes voluntary compliance.

Evaluating the Rule

The Water Quality Program continually monitors the Permit Fee Account. Assigned staff continuously works on assessing fees, invoicing, making adjustments for small business or extreme hardship reductions, and responding to issues of concern from permit holders. This promotes the submittal of payments.

Training and Informing Ecology Staff

Ecology staff are sent a notice announcing the fee rule amendment. If requested, the Permit Fee Unit is available to meet with Ecology staff to discuss the rule changes.

List of Supporting Documents that May Need to be Written or Revised

The Permit Fee Webpage is kept up-to-date. Copies of the adopted fee schedule will be made and can either be emailed, scanned, or sent by mail upon request.

More Information

Detailed information about permit fees or the fee program itself can be obtained directly from the Wastewater Discharge Permit Fee Webpage found at the following:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/permits/permit_fees/index.html

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