

Columbia Gorge Aluminum

Opportunity to comment

The Department of Ecology invites you to comment on a proposed modification to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for Columbia Gorge Aluminum. We will accept comment only on the proposed changes.

We intend to modify this permit. We will accept comments by mail, fax or e-mail February 1 – March 5, 2012. You may request a public hearing to ask questions or submit verbal comments. To request a hearing, contact:

Angie Fritz
Industrial Section
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
angela.fritz@ecy.wa.gov
(360) 407-7393

If we determine there is significant public interest during this comment period to hold a hearing, we will:

- Extend the comment period to allow at least 30 days notice of the hearing.
- Publish the time, date and location.

Permit

Proposed changes to the permit include modifying Condition S1.B.1, reducing the frequency of monitoring the final effluent for aluminum, Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and fluoride from weekly to once a month. The permit was written for a fully operational smelter. The smelter has been shutdown and is going through demolition. Columbia Gorge Aluminum has requested reduction in frequency of monitoring since the facility is no longer in active operation.

DATES AND LOCATIONS

Comment period

February 1 – March 5, 2012

Read the proposed permit at these locations:

Goldendale Community Library
131 W Bergen Street
Goldendale, WA 98620

Department of Ecology
Industrial Section
300 Desmond Way SE
Lacey, WA 98504

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

Send comments to:

Bob King
Industrial Section
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
bob.king@ecy.wa.gov
Fax: (360) 407-6102

Special accommodations

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

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

A NPDES permit is normally issued every five 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 changes to limits, conditions and requirements.
- Identify errors that you believe have been made in preparing the proposed permit.

When the comment period ends, we review all comments received and make appropriate changes to the permit before issuing it.

Facility information

Columbia Gorge Aluminum is a former aluminum smelter located at 85 Dam Road in Goldendale. Production stopped in 2003 and the facility has been dismantled.

There is no process wastewater discharged from the former smelter. Current discharge consists of stormwater and a small amount of sanitary wastewater. Demolition contractors use best management practices to minimize pollutants in the stormwater. Sanitary wastewater is treated using a small activated sludge system prior to combining with stormwater. The combined stormwater and treated sanitary wastewater are then discharged to the Columbia River through Outfall 001.