

# ConocoPhillips Ferndale Refinery

### Opportunity to comment

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

We will accept comments by mail, fax or e-mail April 25, 2012 – June 25, 2012. You may request a public hearing to ask questions and submit verbal comments. To request a hearing, contact:

Angie Fritz  
Industrial Section  
P.O. Box 47706  
Olympia, WA 98504-7706  
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

Changes to the permit include:

- Increases in effluent limits for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), chemical oxygen demand (COD), total suspended solids (TSS), oil and grease, phenols, ammonia, sulfide and hexavalent chromium. Increases are due to increases in refinery productions since the previous (2002) permit was issued.
- New limits for the primary and biological treatment systems, to make sure flow and COD loading don't exceed approved facility design criteria.
- Adding annual monitoring for priority pollutants and herring toxicity testing.

### DATES AND LOCATIONS

#### Comment period

April 25 – June 25, 2012

#### 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 98504-7706  
liem.nguyen@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.

More information on these changes is found in the permit fact sheet available for public comment.

We intend to issue this permit.

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.
- Let us know if you think we made errors interpreting state and federal permitting requirements.

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

### **Facility information**

The refinery is located at 3901 Unick Road in Ferndale, along the Strait of Georgia between Cherry Point and Sandy Point, approximately 5 miles west southwest of Ferndale. From January 2010 through December 2011, it processed an average of 98,100 barrels per day of crude oil. The main source of crude oil historically comes from Alaska’s Prudhoe Bay oil field delivered by tankers and Canadian Crude oil by pipeline.

The refinery separates crude oil for further processing and blending into a variety of petroleum products. These include gasoline, jet fuel, diesel oil, liquid petroleum gas, residual fuel oil and marine bunker fuel oil.

Wastewater from these activities is discharged from the refinery’s wastewater treatment plant. Existing process water Outfall 001 discharges to the Strait of Georgia. Existing stormwater Outfall 002 discharges to an unnamed tributary and ultimately Lummi Bay. Existing stormwater Outfalls 003, 004, and 005 discharge to an unnamed tributary and ultimately the Strait of Georgia.