

SIP Revision: Revised General Air Quality Rule

A State Implementation Plan (SIP) describes how the state implements, maintains, and enforces federal air quality standards.

Washington State has adopted revisions to portions of its general air pollution regulation, Chapter 173-400 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). Ecology is proposing to submit the adopted changes to the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for inclusion in the SIP.

EPA will review the state's submittal and decide whether to approve the changes to the SIP.

Proposed SIP Revision

This SIP update will:

- Replace the old rule language with current language
- Include new sections
- Remove outdated requirements
- Update references to federal requirements
- Renumber sections of the rule

What are the main differences between the revised rule and the one currently in the SIP?

The main differences are in the New Source Review permitting programs:

- The rule currently in the SIP lists the facilities and industries required to apply for a minor new source review permit. If a facility or industry is not on the list, or if an air quality agency Director or control officer determines it does not need a permit, the facility or industry is exempt from permitting. The revised rule no longer lists facilities that need a permit. It now lists emission units and activities that are exempt from permitting requirements. Emission units and activities not on this list require a permit.
- The revised rule contains several streamlining options, including a process for issuing a General Order of Approval and a revised process for permitting portable sources.
- The revised rule also includes Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) and nonattainment area permitting

DATES AND LOCATIONS

Formal comment period:

August 9 – September 20, 2013

Public hearing date:

Wednesday, September 11, 2013
6 p.m.

Location:

Department of Ecology
Headquarters, Auditorium
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Web site:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/sips/plans/400_rule.htm

Contact information

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Special accommodations

If you require special accommodations or need this document in a version for the visually impaired, call the Air Quality Program at 360-407-6800.

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

regulations that are intended to meet federal requirements. If EPA approves the PSD regulations, Washington will have its own SIP-approved state PSD program, instead of being delegated authority to issue PSD permits under the federal program. The nonattainment area permitting regulations are needed for permitting in current and potential nonattainment areas.

Local rules and other rules in the SIP

Since the SIP is a statewide plan, other agencies in Washington with air quality jurisdiction participate in the process. Washington's seven local air quality agencies and the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) are now in the process of evaluating their rules to determine what may need to be revised. As each agency revises its rules and determines what is required to be included in the SIP, Ecology will provide opportunities for public comment.

Where can you get more information?

The proposed SIP revision and related documents are available for review on Ecology's web site at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/sips/plans/400_rule.htm

How can you submit comments?

You can give us your official comments until 5:00 p.m. September 20, 2013 in the following ways:

1. Testify or submit written comments at the public hearing.
2. **Email your comments to: AQComments@ecy.wa.gov**
3. **Mail** comments to:

Department of Ecology
ATTN: Anya Caudill
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

How will Ecology respond to comments?

All of the comments we receive will become part of the official record and SIP submittal package. Ecology will compile a summary of oral and written comments received during the comment period and Ecology's response to those comments. For other agencies' regulations, each agency will respond to comments about its own regulation.

For more information

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