

Uses and Limitations of the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) proposes to adopt amendments to Chapter 173-98 Washington Administrative Code (WAC), *Uses and Limitations of the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund* (Revolving Fund). The rule proposal will be published in the Washington State Register on September 18, 2013.

The Revolving Fund is a long-standing, successful program that provides low-interest loans to local governments, tribes, and special purpose districts for water quality improvement projects across the state. Funded projects range from large wastewater treatment plant construction projects to small nonpoint source pollution control projects such as planting vegetation along streams.

Ecology proposes to amend the rule to implement an administration charge authorized by state law and incorporate the definition of “debt service” from chapter 90.50A RCW (see <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=90.50A&full=true>). The proposed amendments will allow Ecology to assess an administration charge on each Revolving Fund loan at the point the loan enters repayment. The proposal is strictly limited to implementing the administration charge and will not affect borrowers.

Currently Ecology funds the administration of the Revolving Fund using four percent of an annual capitalization grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. The capitalization grants fluctuate from year to year, and they are likely to be eliminated in the next few years. Ecology’s administration of the Revolving Fund is underfunded now, and the underfunding will only increase as the capitalization grants decrease and are eventually eliminated. The administration charge will predictably and adequately fund Ecology’s administration of the Revolving Fund.

Expected adoption date

Ecology expects to adopt this rule no earlier than November 20, 2013.

WHY IT MATTERS

Managing and maintaining a financially sound Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund protects clean water in our growing state for current and future generations.

MORE INFORMATION

Rule-making documents:

www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/wac17398/1305.html

State Revolving Fund Loan Program:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/funding/FundingPrograms/CWSRF/cwsrf.html



The Revolving Fund helps local governments pay for key infrastructure such as wastewater treatment plants. (Ecology photo)

Contact information:

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Special accommodations:

If you need this document in a format for the visually impaired, call the Water Quality Program at 360-407-6600.

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

Rule Proposal Notice

Water Quality Program

September 2013

The following documents are available for review and comment:

- Proposed rule language.
- Determination of Nonsignificance (issued August 15, 2013).

To obtain these documents visit: www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/wac17398/1305.html or send an email to: daniel.thompson@ecy.wa.gov.

Public hearing schedule

One public hearing is scheduled for this rule proposal. The hearing will be held on October 10, 2013, at 1:00 p.m. at the

Pierce County Library
PAC (Processing and Administrative Center) Room A
3005 112th Street East
Tacoma, WA 98446

Submit your comments

The comment period on the rule proposal ends October 17, 2013. The comment period on the Determination of Nonsignificance ends October 2, 2013. You can comment in the following ways:

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

Daniel Thompson
Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia WA 98504-7600

4. FAX your comments to 360-407-7151.

Ecology's response to your comments

All of the comments we receive will become part of the official record. We will publish responses to comments in a document called a Concise Explanatory Statement (CES). The CES is required by the Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05) and is available after the rule is adopted. You will find your name listed in the document with a reference to where, in the document, Ecology responded your comments.

Receive email updates

To receive updates, please sign up for the Ecology's Water Quality Program's Grants and Loans ListServ at: <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?A0=ECY-WQ-GRANTS-LOAN>.