

Alcoa Wenatchee Works

Comment opportunity

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to comment on the proposed renewal of Alcoa Wenatchee Work's (Alcoa's) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) wastewater permit.

We will accept comments by mail, e-mail or fax October 9 – November 10, 2014.

Permit

Alcoa owns and operates an aluminum smelter in Malaga. The facility discharges treated process wastewater to the Columbia River. A NPDES permit is required for this discharge.

Alcoa's permit was last issued May 17, 2006. Major changes to the permit include:

- Correcting an error in the minimum pH limit.
- Requiring a:
 - Wastewater characterization/treatment technology study.
 - A sediment study.
 - Submittal of a cooling water intake structure information and compliance report.
- Adding diversion pond monitoring and several Best Management Practices.
- Updating dilution factors.
- Electronic reporting of monitoring data and submittals.

More information on changes to the permit is found in the associated fact sheet.

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.”

DATES AND LOCATIONS

Comment period

October 9, 2014 –
November 10, 2014

Read the proposed permit at these locations:

North Central Regional Library
Wenatchee Branch
310 Douglas Street
Wenatchee, WA 98810

Dept of Ecology
300 Desmond Dr
Lacey, WA 98503

Online:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/industrial/UIPermit/DraftPermits.aspx>

Send written comments to:

Liem Nguyen
Dept of Ecology
Industrial Section
P.O. Box 74600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
liem.nguyen@ecy.wa.gov

Special accommodations

To request ADA accommodation for disabilities, or printed materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at (360) 407-6900. Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with a speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

- Sets other legal conditions necessary to discharge wastewater.

Effective comments:

- Are specific. Tell us specifically what your concern is and how you think the permit should change.
- Are focused. Refer to the limits, conditions and requirements of concern.
- Relate to the subject of the document. Where possible, describe the state or federal rules and regulations you think have not been applied correctly.

You may request a public hearing to ask questions and submit verbal comments. To request a hearing, contact:

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

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

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

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

Facility information

Alcoa Wenatchee Works is located at 6200 Malaga Alcoa Highway in Malaga. At full production, the facility is capable of producing approximately 220,000 tons of aluminum metal each year, and employs around 380 people.