

Intalco Aluminum Corporation

Comment opportunity

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

We will accept comments by mail, e-mail or fax August 27 – October 27, 2014.

Permit

Intalco, owned by Alcoa Primary Metals, operates an aluminum smelter in Ferndale. The facility discharges treated process wastewater and stormwater to the Strait of Georgia.

A NPDES permit is required to discharge this wastewater.

Intalco's permit was last issued March 2007. Major changes to the permit include:

- Addition of a new sampling point to monitor process wastewater effluent. This eliminates the need for stormwater allocations for discharges from Outfall 001.
- Removal of Outfalls 003, 004 and 005.
- Requirements to:
 - Create a fugitive alumina pollution prevention plan.
 - Evaluate effectiveness of best management practices for stormwater discharges at Outfalls 011 and 012.

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

DATES AND LOCATIONS

Comment period

August 27 – October 27, 2014

Read the proposed permit at these locations:

Ferndale Public Library
222 Main Street
Ferndale, WA 98248

Bellingham Public Library
210 Central Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dept of Ecology
300 Desmond Way SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Online:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/industrial/alum_intalco.html

Send written comments to:

Stephanie Ogle, P.E.
Dept of Ecology
Industrial Section
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
stephanie.ogle@ecy.wa.gov

Accommodation Requests

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 speech disability may call TTY at 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.”
- 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 that are of concern.
- Relate to the subject of the document. Where possible, describe the state or federal rules and regulations you think have not been implemented 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:

- 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

Intalco is located at 4050 Mountain View Rd in Ferndale. At full production, the facility is capable of producing approximately 307,000 tons of aluminum metal each year. It's currently operating at about two-thirds capacity and employs around 640 people.