

Oil Spill Contingency Plan Chapter 173-182 WAC

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) is adopting updates to the Oil Spill Contingency Plan rule, Chapter 173-182 WAC.

What is Chapter 173-182 WAC?

The Oil Spill Contingency Plan rule establishes oil spill contingency plan requirements, drill and equipment verification requirements, primary response contractor standards and recordkeeping and compliance information. This rule maximizes the effectiveness of oil spill response by plan holders, ensures continual readiness of equipment and personnel, and provides protection of environmental, historical, and cultural resources in and around Washington waters.

Summary of the rule changes adopted on July 16, 2014

The rule changes adopted on July 16, 2014 include:

- Updating the definition of plan holder to include all persons listed in RCW 88.46.060.
- Updating the definition of “umbrella plan” and ensure the term is used only when referring to non-profit corporations.
- Ensuring that owner/operators, if operating under a plan that covers multiple parties, are not required to comply with provisions of the rule that apply specifically to “plan holders.”

Response to Comments

Ecology’s response to comments received during the public comment period is now available. Download a copy at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/wac173182/1310.html>

WHY IT MATTERS

A contingency plan assures that, in the event of a spill, the vessel or facility will have adequate response equipment, local spill response teams, spill notifications, and response coordination with state and federal partners. A vessel operating without the important services and regulatory safeguards that a plan provides creates a threat to public health, safety and general welfare.

Effective August 16, 2014

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Special accommodations:

If you need this document in format for the visually impaired, call the Spills Program at 360-407-7455.

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

Whom does this rule affect?

This rule affects:

- Companies that provide contingency plan services to vessels and facilities in and around Washington waters.
- Industry associations, individual vessel and facility owner/operators, and ports that rely on contingency plans while operating in the state.
- Tribes, environmental advocacy organizations, and the general public with an interest in ensuring clean, healthy Washington waters.

More information

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/wac173182/1310.html>

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To get updates on Ecology's rule-making activities, sign-up for the WACTrack e-mail list at www.ecy.wa.gov/maillist.html.

Appeal procedures

This adoption can be appealed under procedures described in the Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05.330). For more information about appealing this rule adoption, please contact Bari Schreiner, Agency Rules Coordinator, at (360) 407-6998 or bari.schreiner@ecy.wa.gov.

