

Rule Proposal Notice

Water Resources Program

September 2014

Water Resources Management Program for the Spokane River and Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie (SVRP) Aquifer

The Department of Ecology is proposing to adopt a new rule: Chapter 173-557 WAC, Water Resources Management Program for the Spokane River and Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie (SVRP) Aquifer. Ecology is also proposing amending WAC 173-555-010, the applicability provision of Chapter 173-555 WAC, Water Resources Program in the Little Spokane River Basin, WRIA 55.

The rule proposal notice will be published in the Washington State Register on October 1, 2014. Ecology will be taking public comment on the proposed rule and amendment until 5:00 pm, **November 7, 2014**.

This proposed rule will establish ecology's policies to guide the protection, use, and management of Spokane River basin surface water and the SVRP Aquifer within the boundary of the rule area. It will establish instream flows, protect existing water rights, and set forth a program for the management and administration of future water allocation and use.

The purpose of the amendment to WAC 173-555-010 is to clarify the application of Chapter 173-555 WAC in the area where the new rule (WAC 173-557) will overlap with the existing rule (WAC 173-555).

Public hearing schedule

A public hearing is scheduled Wednesday, October 22, 2014. There will be an open house at 6:00 pm followed by the public hearing at 7:00 pm.

The public hearing will be held at CenterPlace Regional Event Center, Great Room.
2426 N. Discovery Place
Spokane Valley, WA 99216

MORE INFORMATION

The following documents are now available for review and comment:

- Proposed rule and rule amendment language.
- Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) under the State Environmental Policy Act.
- Small Business Economic Impact Statement (SBEIS).
- Preliminary Cost-Benefit and Least Burdensome Alternative Analyses.

To download these documents visit

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/rules/557-ov.html>

Contact information:

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Special accommodations:

If you need this document in a format for the visually impaired, call the water resources program at (360) 407-6872.

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

Submit your comments

Comment period ends 5:00 pm, November 7, 2014.

You can give us your official comments in the following ways:

1. Testify or submit written comments at the public hearing.
2. Visit our website and submit comments electronically at:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/rules/557-pi.html>
3. Email your comments to: awes461@ecy.wa.gov
4. Mail comments to:
Department of Ecology
Ann Wessel
1440 10th St., Ste 102
Bellingham, WA 98225-7028
5. FAX: (360) 715-5225

Assistance for persons with disabilities:

Contact Tony Rossiter by Wednesday, October 15, 2014
TTY (800) 833-6388 or (360) 407-6878

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.

Expected adoption date

Ecology expects to adopt this rule no earlier than December 15, 2014.

