

Mint Farm Generating Station

Comment opportunity

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to comment on the proposed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) wastewater permit for the Mint Farm electricity generating station in Longview.

We will accept comments by mail, fax or e-mail March 27 – April 27, 2015.

Permit

Puget Sound Energy owns this 311 megawatt (MW) electricity generating station. It discharges:

- Process wastewater directly to the Columbia River, or to Weyerhaeuser Longview for treatment if needed.
- Stormwater to Longview's Consolidated Diking Improvement District Ditch No. 5.

A NPDES permit is required for this discharge.

Mint Farm's last permit was issued September 15, 2005 and became effective December 15, 2007 when the facility started operating. Major changes to the proposed permit include:

- Decreasing monitoring frequencies for Total Suspended Solids and Oil and Grease from weekly to monthly.
- Making clear that chemicals used for cooling tower maintenance can't include certain priority pollutants at certain amounts.
- Increasing monitoring frequency for stormwater inspections
- Setting benchmarks for stormwater going to the private ditch connecting with Longview's Consolidated Diking Improvement District Ditch No. 5.

You can find more information on changes to the permit in the associated fact sheet.

DATES AND LOCATIONS

Comment period

March 27 – April 27, 2015

Read the proposed permit at these locations:

Longview Public Library
1600 Louisiana St
Longview, WA 98632

Dept of Ecology
300 Desmond Dr SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Online:

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

Send written comments to:

Shingo Yamazaki
Dept of Ecology
Industrial Section
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
shingo.yamazaki@ecy.wa.gov
Fax: (360) 407-6102

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.

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:

- Tell us if Ecology’s proposed action correctly applies current federal and state laws, rules and regulations.
- Are specific. Tell us what your concern is and how you think the permit should change to address the concern.
- Are focused. Refer to limits, conditions and requirements.

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’s 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.

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

Mint Farm Generating Station is a 311 megawatt natural gas-fired turbine, combined cycle steam electric power generation facility. It’s located at the Mint Farm Industrial Park, 1200 Prudential Blvd, in Longview. Water used in the process of making electricity is taken from onsite wells.