

Cosmo Specialty Fibers

Comment opportunity

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) invites you to comment on the proposed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) wastewater permit for the Cosmo Specialty Fibers (Cosmo) pulp mill in Cosmopolis.

We will accept comments by mail, fax or e-mail April 7 – May 8, 2015.

Permit

Cosmo operates a pulp mill that discharges wastewater to Grays Harbor and the Chehalis River. A NPDES permit is required for this discharge.

Ecology issued Cosmo's current permit on June 25, 2007.

Changes to the permit include:

- Changes to Biochemical Oxygen Demand and Total Suspended Solids limits.
- Requirements to update the mixing zone and sediments studies.

You can find more information on the proposed modifications in the associated supplemental 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."
- 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.

DATES AND LOCATIONS

Comment period

April 7 – May 8, 2015

Read the proposed permit at these locations:

Aberdeen Timberland Library
121 E Market St
Aberdeen, WA 98520

Dept of Ecology
300 Desmond Dr SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Online:

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

Send written comments to:

Ha Tran
Dept of Ecology
Industrial Section
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
ha.tran@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.

- 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 on the modifications and make appropriate changes before issuing the modified permit.

Facility information

The mill is located at 1701 First Street in Cosmopolis. Employing about 200 people, it can produce up to 550 tons of dissolving pulp (acetate, viscose and ether grades) each day.