



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600 • 360-407-6000

September 1, 2023

Port of Bellingham
Attn: Brian Gouran
1801 Roeder Avenue, Suite 146
Bellingham, WA 98225

Re: Water Quality Certification Order No. **22174** (Corps No. **NWS-2023-0086**) Port of Bellingham Harris Shipyard Outer Pier Fender Pile Replacement project, Whatcom County, Washington.

Dear Brian Gouran:

On June 23, 2023, the Port of Bellingham submitted a request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) under the federal Clean Water Act for the Port of Bellingham Harris Shipyard Outer Pier Fender Pile Replacement located within Bellingham Bay, Whatcom County, Washington.

On behalf of the state of Washington, the Department of Ecology certifies that the work described in the Water Quality Certification Request and supplemental documents complies with applicable provisions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act, as amended, and applicable state laws. **This certification is subject to the enclosed Water Quality Certification Order (WQC Order).**

Please ensure that anyone doing work under this WQC Order has read, is familiar with, and is able to follow all of the provisions within the attached WQC Order.

If you have any questions about this decision, please contact Laura Inouye at (360) 515-8213. The enclosed WQC Order may be appealed by following the procedures described within.

WQC Order No. 22174, Corps No. NWS-2023-0086
Aquatics No. 142354
September 1, 2023
Page 2 of 2

Sincerely,



Loree' Randall, Section Manager
Federal Permitting Section
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

Enclosure (2)

By certified mail: 9489 0090 0027 6383 6852 50

Sent via e-mail: briang@portofbellingham.com

E-cc: Jaime Liljegren, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Nick Stefani, Edgewater Resources
Laura Inouye, Ecology
ECYREFEDPERMITS@ecy.wa.gov



In The Matter of Granting a Water Quality
Certification to the Port of Bellingham
pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 (FWPCA § 401), RCW 90.48.120,
RCW 90.48.260 and Chapter 173-201A WAC

Port of Bellingham
ATTN: Brian Gouran
1801 Roeder Avenue, Suite 146
Bellingham, WA 98225

WQC Order No.	22174
Corps Reference No.	NWS-2023-0086
Site Location	Port of Bellingham Harris Shipyard Outer Pier Fender Pile Replacement located within Bellingham Bay, Whatcom County, Washington.

The Port of Bellingham submitted a request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) under the federal Clean Water Act to the Department of Ecology (Ecology) for the Port of Bellingham Harris Shipyard Outer Pier Fender Pile Replacement located within Bellingham Bay, Whatcom County, Washington. The following required processing dates are listed below:

- On January 25, 2023, the Port of Bellingham submitted a pre-filing meeting request.
- On May 8, 2023, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) sent a permit notification to Ecology that indicated that they are processing the project under Nationwide Permit (NWP) No. 3 and Ecology determined an individual Section 401 is required.
- On June 23, 2023, Ecology received a request for Clean Water Section 401 Water Quality Certification.
- On July 5, 2023, Ecology issued a public notice for the project.

The project proposes to replace 59 fender piles and associated parts of the fender pile system of the pier. Seven of the piles are missing and the rest of replacement piles will remove the existing timber piles and put the pier's fender system to the original design capacity. The replacement piles are a similar size to the existing timber piles. Clean sand cover will be placed after removal of piles for the approximately 11 piles are within the Harris Avenue Shipyard Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) cleanup site.

The project site is located at the Harris Avenue Shipyard, Bellingham Bay, Whatcom County, Washington, ¼ Section SE, Section 02, Township 37 N., Range 2 E., within Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 1 (Nooksack).

Authorities

In exercising authority under 33 U.S.C. §1341, RCW 90.48.120, and RCW 90.48.260, Ecology has reviewed this WQC request pursuant to the following:

1. Conformance with applicable water quality-based, technology-based, and toxic or pretreatment effluent limitations as provided under 33 U.S.C. §§1311, 1312, 1313, 1316, and 1317.
2. Conformance with the state water quality standards contained in Chapter 173-201A WAC and authorized by 33 U.S.C. §1313 and by Chapter 90.48 RCW, and with other applicable state laws; and
3. Conformance with the provision of using all known, available and reasonable methods to prevent and control pollution of state waters as required by RCW 90.48.010.
4. Conformance with Washington's prohibition on discharges that cause or tend to cause pollution of waters of the state of Washington. RCW 90.48.080.
5. The Project Proponent of the project authorized is responsible for obtaining all other permits, licenses, and certifications that may be required by federal, state, local or tribal authorities.

With this Water Quality Certification Order (WQC Order), Ecology is granting with conditions Port of Bellingham's request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the Port of Bellingham Harris Shipyard Outer Pier Fender Pile Replacement, Bellingham Bay located in Whatcom County. Ecology has determined that the proposed discharges will comply with all applicable state water quality and other appropriate requirements of State law, provided the project is conducted in accordance with the WQC request that Ecology received on June 23, 2023, the supporting documents referenced in Table 1 below, **and the conditions of this WQC Order.**

Table 1 Supporting Documents

Date Received	Document Type	Title and Date	Author
5/15/2023	Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA)	Hydraulic Project Approval for Port of Bellingham, Harris Shipyard Outer Pier Fender Pile Replacement, dated March 18, 2023	Joel Ingram, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
6/23/2023	Joint Aquatic Resources Permit	JARPA, January 24, 2023	Brian Gouran, Port of Bellingham

	Application(JARPA) Form		
6/23/2023	State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)	SEPA Exemption Letter: Port of Bellingham Programmatic Concurrence, dated February 23, 2023	City of Bellingham
8/10/2023	Letter	Letter to John Rapp, Ecology Toxic Cleanup Program, RE: Harris Avenue Shipyard-Fender Pile Maintenance and Replacement, dated June 2, 2023	Brian Gouran, Port of Bellingham
8/14/2023	Water Quality Monitoring Plan	Harris Shipyard Outer Pier (MCI Pier) Fender Pile Replacement, dated August 10, 2023	Edgewater Resources

Issuance of this Section 401 Water Quality Certification for this proposal does not authorize the Port of Bellingham to exceed applicable state water quality standards (Chapter 173-201A WAC), ground water quality standards (Chapter 173-200 WAC) or sediment quality standards (Chapter 173-204 WAC) or other appropriate requirements of State law. Furthermore, nothing in this Section 401 Water Quality Certification absolves the Port of Bellingham from liability for contamination and any subsequent cleanup of surface waters, ground waters, or sediments resulting from project construction or operations.

Water Quality Certification Conditions

The following conditions will be incorporated into the Corps permit and strictly adhered to by the Port of Bellingham. Specific condition justifications and citations are provided below.

A. General Conditions

1. In this WQC Order, the term "Project Proponent" shall mean the Port of Bellingham and its agents, assignees, and contractors.

- Justification - Ecology needs to identify that conditions of this WQC Order apply to anyone conducting work on behalf of the Project Proponent to ensure compliance with the water quality standards and other applicable state laws.
 - Citation - 40 CFR 121.1(j), Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.080, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260, Chapter 173-200 WAC, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
2. All submittals required by this WQC Order shall be sent to Ecology's Headquarters Office, Attn: Federal Permit Manager, via e-mail to fednotification@ecy.wa.gov and cc to Laura.Inouye@ecy.wa.gov. The submittals shall be identified with WQC Order No. 22174 and include the Project Proponent's name, Corps permit number, project name, project contact, and the contact phone number.
- Justification - Ecology needs to identify where information and submittals are to be submitted to be in compliance with the requirements of this WQC Order.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
3. Work authorized by this WQC Order is limited to the work described in the WQC request package received by Ecology on June 23, 2023, and the supporting documentation identified in Table 1.
- Justification - Ecology has the authority to prevent and control pollution of state waters. By authorizing a discharge into a water of the state, through a WQC, Ecology is certifying the project as proposed will not negatively impact water quality. Therefore, it is imperative the project is conducted as it was presented during the review process. Any deviations from information within the WQC Request package and this WQC Order must be disclosed prior to the initiation of the planned work, and may require a new WQC request.
 - Citation - 40 CFR 121.5, 40 CFR 121.10, 40 CFR 121.11, Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260, Chapter 173-200 WAC, Chapter 173-201A WAC, Chapter 173-204 WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
4. The Project Proponent shall keep copies of this WQC Order on the job site and readily available for reference by Ecology personnel, the construction superintendent, construction managers and lead workers, and state and local government inspectors.
- Justification - All parties (including on-site contractors) must be aware of and comply with the WQC Order for the protection of water quality.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.

5. The Project Proponent shall provide access to the project site and all mitigation sites upon request by Ecology personnel for site inspections, monitoring, and/or necessary data collection, to ensure that conditions of this WQC Order are being met.
 - Justification - Ecology must be able to investigate and inspect construction sites and facilities for compliance with all state rules and laws.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.090, RCW 90.48.120, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
6. The Project Proponent shall ensure that all project engineers, contractors, and other workers at the project site with authority to direct work have read and understand relevant conditions of this WQC Order and all permits, approvals, and documents referenced in this WQC Order. The Project Proponent shall provide Ecology a signed statement (see Attachment A for an example) before construction begins.
 - Justification - Ecology needs to ensure that anyone conducting work at the project, on behalf of the Project Proponent, are aware of and understand the required conditions of this WQC Order to ensure compliance with the water quality standards and other applicable state laws.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
7. This WQC Order does not authorize direct, indirect, permanent, or temporary impacts to waters of the state or related aquatic resources, except as specifically provided for in conditions of this WQC Order.
 - Justification - Ecology has the authority to prevent and control pollution of state waters, and to protect designated uses. By authorizing a discharge into a water of the state, through a water quality certification, Ecology is certifying the project as proposed will not negatively impact state water quality and will comply with the state's water quality requirements. Therefore, it is imperative the project is conducted as it was presented during the review process, and as conditioned herein.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.120, Chapter 173-200 WAC, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300(2)(e)(i), WAC 173-201A-310, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
8. Failure of any person or entity to comply with the WQC Order may result in the issuance of civil penalties or other actions, whether administrative or judicial, to enforce the state's water quality standards and the conditions of this WQC Order.

- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses. Ecology has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. Civil penalties and other enforcement actions are the primary means of securing compliance with water quality requirements.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.037, RCW 90.48.080, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.140, RCW 90.48.142, RCW 90.48.144, and WAC 173-225-010.
9. The Project Proponent shall provide Ecology documentation for review before undertaking any major changes to the proposed project that could significantly and adversely affect water quality, other than those project changes required by this WQC Order.
- Justification - Ecology has independent authority to enforce our 401 certification conditions issued through this WQC Order pursuant to RCW 90.48, and has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. In order to ensure the project will comply with water quality standards in the event of any major changes, Ecology must be able to review the scope of work involved in the construction and operation of the project, otherwise all work must stop and a new 401 certification pre-filing meeting, followed by a new WQC request (after requisite 30-days) is required.
 - Citation - 40 CFR 121.1(k) and (n), 40 CFR 121.3, 40 CFR 121.5, 40 CFR 121.11, Chapter 90.48 RCW, and Chapter 173-201 WAC.
10. The Project Proponent shall send (per A.2.) a copy of the final Federal permit to Ecology's Federal Permit Manager within two weeks of receiving it.
- Justification - This condition is needed to ensure that all the conditions of the WQC Order have been incorporated into the federal permit.
 - Citation - 40 CFR 121.10, 40 CFR 121.11, and Chapter 90.48 RCW.
11. This WQC Order will automatically transfer to a new owner or operator if:
- a. A Request for Transfer of Order form is completed between the Project Proponent and new owner or operator with the specific transfer date of the WQC Order's obligations, coverage, and liability and submitted to Ecology per condition A.2. Link to form: <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/ECY070695.html>;
 - b. A copy of this WQC Order is provided to the new owner or operator; and
 - c. Ecology does not notify the new Project Proponent that a new WQC Order is required to complete the transfer.

- Justification – Ecology has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. Ecology needs to ensure that anyone conducting work at the project, including any new owners or operators, are aware of and understand the required conditions of this WQC Order to ensure compliance with the water quality standards and other applicable state laws.
- Citation – 40 CFR 121.5, Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.

B. Notification Requirements

1. The following notifications shall be made via phone or e-mail (e-mail is preferred) to Ecology's Federal Permit Manager via e-mail to fednotification@ecy.wa.gov and cc to Laura.Inouye@ecy.wa.gov. Notifications shall be identified with WQC Order No. 22174 Corps Reference No. NWS-2023-0086, and include the Project Proponent name, project name, project location, project contact and the phone number.
 - a. Immediately following a violation of state water quality standards or when the project is out of compliance with any conditions of this WQC Order;
 - b. At least ten (10) days prior to all pre-construction meetings;
 - c. At least ten (10) days prior to conducting initial in-water work activities; and
 - d. Within seven (7) days of completion of each in-water work activities.
 - Justification - Ecology has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. Ecology must be aware of when a project starts and ends and whether there are any issues. This allows Ecology to evaluate compliance with the state water quality requirements.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.120, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, Chapter 173-204 WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
2. In addition to the phone or e-mail notification required under B.1.a. above, the Project Proponent shall submit a detailed written report to Ecology within five (5) days that describes the nature of the event, corrective action taken and/or planned, steps to be taken to prevent a recurrence, results of any samples taken, and any other pertinent information.
 - Justification - Ecology has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. This condition is intended to assure the Project Proponent remains in full compliance with state water quality requirements for the duration of the project.

- Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.120, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
3. If the project construction is not completed within 13 months of issuance of this WQC Order, the Project Proponent shall submit per Condition A2 a written construction status report and submit status reports every 12 months until construction and mitigation are completed.
- Justification - Ecology has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. Ecology must be aware of when a project starts and ends and whether there are any issues. This allows Ecology to evaluate compliance with the state water quality requirements.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.120, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, Chapter 173-204 WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.

C. Timing

1. This WQC Order is effective upon issuance of the U.S. Corps of Engineers (Corps) permit for this project and will remain valid for the duration of the associated permit for the project.
- Justification – Certifications are required for any license or permit that authorizes an activity that may result in a discharge or fill material into waters. This WQC Order is not valid until the Federal agency issues a permit. Additionally, Ecology needs to be able to specify how long the WQC Order will be in effect.
 - Citation – Chapter 90.48 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
2. The following in-water work windows apply to the project:
- a. All activities within the wetted perimeter of the Bellingham Bay may be conducted between August 1 through February 15 of any year.
- Justification - This condition is reaffirming the project will take place during a time period that will not harm fish or other aquatic species.
 - Citation - Chapter 77.55 RCW, Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300, WAC 173-201A-330, WAC 173-225-010, and Chapter 220-660 WAC.
3. Any project change that requires a new or revised Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) from the Department of Fish and Wildlife should be sent to Ecology for review before the change is implemented.

- Justification - This condition is reaffirming the project will take place during a time period that will not harm fish or other aquatic species.
- Citation - Chapter 77.55 RCW, Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300, WAC 173-201A-330, WAC 173-225-010, and Chapter 220-660 WAC.

D. Water Quality Monitoring and Criteria

1. This WQC Order does not authorize the Project Proponent to exceed applicable water quality standards beyond the limits established in Chapter 173-201A WAC, except as authorized by this WQC Order.
 - Justification - This condition ensures compliance with water quality standards to protect surface waters of the state. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
2. For in-water activities within marine waters turbidity shall not exceed 5 NTU over background when the background is 50 NTU or less; or a 10 percent increase in turbidity when the background turbidity is more than 50 NTU.
 - Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution and prevent exceedances of the water quality standards that protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
3. This WQC Order does not authorize the Project Proponent to exceed applicable turbidity standards beyond the limits established in Chapter 173-201A WAC as set forth below, unless otherwise authorized in this WQC Order
 - a. Temporary area of mixing for turbidity established within the state water quality standards for marine waters (WAC 173-201A-210) is as follows:
 01. For estuaries or marine waters, the point of compliance for a temporary area of mixing shall be at a radius of one hundred fifty feet from the activity causing the turbidity exceedance.

- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution and prevent exceedances of the water quality standards that protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
4. The Project Proponent shall implement the Water Quality Monitoring Plan (WQMP), identified in Table 1.
- Justification - This condition is necessary to ensure that the monitoring and BMPs that are proposed by the Project Proponent and authorized by Ecology are conducted to protect water quality. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
5. If water quality exceedances for turbidity are observed outside the point of compliance, work shall cease immediately and the Project Proponent or the contractor shall assess the cause of the water quality problem and take immediate action to stop, contain, and correct the problem and prevent further water quality turbidity exceedances.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution and prevent exceedances of the water quality standards that protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
6. Visible turbidity anywhere beyond the temporary area of mixing (point of compliance) from the activity, shall be considered an exceedance of the standard.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution and prevent exceedances of the water quality standards that protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
7. Monitoring results shall be submitted weekly to Ecology's Federal Permit Manager, per condition A.2.

- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution and prevent exceedances of the water quality standards that protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
8. Ecology may ask or could use its discretionary authority to require the Project Proponent to provide mitigation and/or additional monitoring if the monitoring results indicate that the water quality standards have not been met.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution and ensure that aquatic life and beneficial uses are protected.
 - Citation - RCW 90.48, RCW 90.48.010, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, RCW 90.48.120, Chapter 173-201A WAC, 173-201A-300-330 WAC, and Chapter 173-204 WAC.

E. Construction

General Conditions

1. All work in and near waters of the state shall be conducted to minimize turbidity, erosion, and other water quality impacts. Construction stormwater, sediment, and erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) suitable to prevent exceedances of state water quality standards shall be in place before starting maintenance and shall be maintained throughout the duration of the activity.
 - Justification - Disturbed areas without appropriate BMPs and construction methods can discharge excess sediment to waters of the state and degrade water quality. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, Chapter 90.48.030 RCW, Chapter 90.48.080 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, Chapter 173-201A-300-330 WAC, Chapter 173-204-120 WAC, and Chapter 173-225-010 WAC.
2. No stockpiling or staging of materials shall occur at or below the OHWM of any waterbody.
 - Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.

- Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
3. No petroleum products, fresh concrete, lime or concrete, chemicals, or other toxic or deleterious materials shall be allowed to enter waters of the state.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
4. All construction debris, excess sediment, and other solid waste material shall be properly managed and disposed of in an upland disposal site approved by the appropriate regulatory authority.
- Justification - Ecology must be assured that the Project Proponent is managing and disposing of material to protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
5. Applicant shall ensure that fill (soil, gravel, or other material) placed for the proposed project does not contain toxic materials in toxic amounts.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300-330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.

Equipment and Maintenance

6. Fuel hoses, oil drums, oil or fuel transfer valves and fittings, etc., shall be checked regularly for drips or leaks, and shall be maintained and stored properly to prevent spills into state waters.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.

- Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, Chapter 173-200, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
7. Wash water containing oils, grease, or other hazardous materials resulting from washing of equipment or working areas shall not be discharged into state waters. The Project Proponent shall set up a designated area for washing down equipment.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
8. A separate area shall be set aside, which does not have any possibility of draining to surface waters, for the wash-out of concrete delivery trucks, pumping equipment, and tools.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
9. Barges shall not be allowed to ground-out during in-water construction.
- Justification - This condition is necessary to protect shallow water habitat and prevent suspension of sediment. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, Chapter 173-201A WAC, 173-201A-300-330 WAC, and Chapter 173-204 WAC.
10. Barges shall be kept free of material that could be blown into water.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.

11. No return water is allowed to discharge from the barge(s) into waters of the state.

- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
- Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.

Removal of Creosote Piles

12. Pile removal, handling, and disposal shall follow the EPA Region 10 Best Management Practices for Piling Removal and Placement in Washington State, dated February 18, 2016.

- Justification- Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
- Citations- Chapter 77.55 RCW, Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300, WAC 173-201A-330, WAC 173-225-010, and Chapter 220-660 WAC.

13. Piles removed from the substrate shall be moved immediately from the water onto a barge or onto upland.

- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
- Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.

14. The pile shall not be shaken, hosed off, left hanging to drip or any other action intended to clean or remove adhering material from the pile over waters of the state.

- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
- Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.

15. If pile removal fails, the pile stub must be cut at least 2 ft. below mudline, and the location (latitude and longitude) of all cut piling shall be reported to Ecology within 2 months of removal of all piles.
 - Justification- This condition is necessary because pile stubs can release associated creosote if exposed, and stubs at the surface can result in localized erosion that leads to further exposure of the stubs. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
 - Citations- Chapter 77.55 RCW, Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300, WAC 173-201A-330, WAC 173-225-010, and Chapter 220-660 WAC.
16. During pile removal, containment booms and absorbent sausage booms shall be placed around the perimeter of the in-water work area and upland storage area, if used, to capture wood debris, oil, and other materials from being released into waters of the state.
 - Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
17. All excavated piles and debris that is collected shall be disposed upland in an approved disposal site.
 - Justification - Ecology must be assured that the Project Proponent is managing and disposing of piles and debris to protect water quality and beneficial uses.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
18. If a barge is used to remove piles, the work surface on the barge deck shall include containment for piles and any liquid or sediment removed during pulling of the piling.
 - Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.

19. Sediments spilled on work surfaces shall be contained and disposed of with the pile debris at an approved upland disposal site.
 - Justification - Ecology must be assured that the Project Proponent is managing and disposing of sediment to protect water quality and beneficial uses.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
20. Water left in the containment on the barge shall not be discharged into waters of the state.
 - Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
21. A pre-construction meeting is required to be convened at least seven (7) days prior to the start of in water work.
 - Justification - Ecology needs to meet with the Project Proponent and contractor to go over the work plan prior start of work to ensure that the plan reflects the project that has been authorized by this WQC Order. This condition is intended to assure the Project Proponent remains in full compliance with state water quality requirements for the duration of the project.
 - Citation - Chapter 70A-200 RCW, Chapter 77.55 RCW, RCW 79.02.300, Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, RCW 90.52-040, RCW 90.54.020(2)(b), Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-240(5)(b), WAC 173-201A-300, WAC 173-201A-330, WAC 173-204-400(2), WAC 173-225-010, and Chapter 220-660 WAC.
22. Soil/sediment contamination is known to be present within the project site. In the area identified as being within the Harris Avenue Shipyard Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) cleanup site (Letter to John Rapp, Table 1), a minimum 1-foot clean sand cover will be placed after piles are removed.
 - Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses. Activities within the identified MTCA site must be consistent with the cleanup action plan. Sand cover will also ensure that state antidegradation requirements are met.

- Citation – Chapter 70.105D RCW, Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, Chapter 173-200 WAC, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, Chapter 173-204 WAC, WAC 173-204-120, and WAC 173-225-010.
23. If further contamination is discovered on site, it must be reported to Ecology (per Condition A.2.). Protective measures shall be implemented to isolate and remove the contaminated media and avoid escaping dust, soil erosion, and water pollution during construction activities.
- Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
 - Citation - Chapter 70.105D RCW, RCW 90.48, 90.48, RCW 90.48.030, Chapter 173-200 WAC, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300-330, Chapter 173-204 WAC, and WAC 173- 225-010.

F. Emergency/Contingency Measures

1. The Project Proponent shall develop and implement a spill prevention and containment plan for all aspects of this project.
 - Justification - Ecology must ensure that the Project Proponent has a plan to prevent pollution from entering waterways. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, Chapter 90.56.280 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, WAC 173-225-010, and WAC 173-303-145.
2. The Project Proponent shall have adequate and appropriate spill response and cleanup materials available on site to respond to any release of petroleum products or any other material into waters of the state.
 - Justification - Ecology must have assurance that the Project Proponent has the material readily available in WQC Order to address any spills that might occur to protect waters of the state. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, RCW 90.56.280, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, WAC 173-225-010, and WAC 173-303-145.

3. Fuel hoses, oil drums, oil or fuel transfer valves and fittings, etc., shall be checked regularly for drips or leaks, and shall be maintained and stored properly to prevent spills into state waters.
 - Justification - Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, RCW 90.56.280, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, WAC 173-225-010, and WAC 173-303-145.
4. Work causing distressed or dying fish and discharges of oil, fuel, or chemicals into state waters or onto land with a potential for entry into state waters is prohibited. If such work, conditions, or discharges occur, the Project Proponent shall notify Ecology's Federal Permit Manager, per condition A2, and immediately take the following actions:
 - a. Cease operations at the location of the non-compliance.
 - b. Assess the cause of the water quality problem and take appropriate measures to correct the problem and prevent further environmental damage.
 - c. In the event of a discharge of oil, fuel, or chemicals into state waters, or onto land with a potential for entry into state waters, containment and cleanup efforts shall begin immediately and be completed as soon as possible, taking precedence over normal work. Cleanup shall include proper disposal of any spilled material and used cleanup materials.
 - d. Immediately notify Ecology's Regional Spill Response Office and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife with the nature and details of the problem, any actions taken to correct the problem, and any proposed changes in operation to prevent further problems.
 - e. Immediately notify the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802, for actual spills to water only.
 - Justification - This condition is necessary to prevent oil and hazardous materials spills from causing environmental damage and to ensure compliance with water quality requirements. The sooner a spill is reported, the quicker it can be addressed, resulting in less harm. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.

- Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, RCW 90.56.280, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, WAC 173-225-010, and WAC 173-303-145.
5. Notify Ecology's Regional Spill Response Office immediately if chemical containers (e.g. drums) are discovered on-site or any conditions present indicating disposal or burial of chemicals on-site that may impact surface water or ground water.
- Justification - Oil and hazardous materials spills cause environmental damage. The sooner a spill is reported, the quicker it can be addressed, resulting in less harm. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.
 - Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, RCW 90.56.280, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, WAC 173-225-010, and WAC 173-303-145.

Your right to appeal

You have a right to appeal this Order to the Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) within 30 days of the date of receipt. The appeal process is governed by Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC. "Date of receipt" is defined in RCW 43.21B.001(2).

To appeal, you must do all of the following within 30 days of the date of receipt of this Order:

- File your notice of appeal and a copy of this Order with the PCHB (see filing information below). "Filing" means actual receipt by the PCHB during regular business hours as defined in WAC 371-08-305 and -335. "Notice of appeal" is defined in WAC 371-08-340.
- Serve a copy of your notice of appeal and this Order on the Department of Ecology mail, in person, or by email (see addresses below).

You must also comply with other applicable requirements in Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC

Filing an appeal

Filing with the PCHB

For the most current information regarding filing with the PCHB, visit: <https://elaho.wa.gov/> or call: 360-664-9160.

Service on Ecology

Street Addresses:

Department of Ecology
Attn: Appeals Processing Desk
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Mailing Addresses:

Department of Ecology
Attn: Appeals Processing Desk
PO Box 47608
Olympia, WA 98504-7608

E-Mail Address:

ecologyappeals@ecy.wa.gov

Americans with Disabilities Act Information

Accommodation Requests

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-7668 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

Contact Information

Please direct all questions about this WQC Order to:

Laura Inouye
Department of Ecology
(360) 515-8213
Laura.Inouye@ecy.wa.gov

More Information

- **Pollution Control Hearings Board Website**
<https://elaho.wa.gov>

- **Chapter 43.21B RCW - Environmental and Land Use Hearings Office – Pollution Control Hearings Board**
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=43.21B>
- **Chapter 371-08 WAC – Practice and Procedure**
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=371-08>
- **Chapter 34.05 RCW – Administrative Procedure Act**
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=34.05>
- **Chapter 90.48 RCW – Water Pollution Control**
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=90.48>
- **Chapter 173.204 WAC – Sediment Management Standards**
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-204>
- **Chapter 173-200 WAC – Water Quality Standards for Ground Waters of the State of Washington**
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-200>
- **Chapter 173-201A WAC – Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington**
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-201A>

Signature

Dated this 1st day of September 2023, at the Department of Ecology, Lacey, Washington.



Loree' Randall, Section Manager
Federal Permitting Section
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

Attachment A

Statement of Understanding Water Quality Certification Conditions

Port of Bellingham Harris Shipyard Outer Pier Fender Pile Replacement

Water Quality Certification WQC Order No. 22174

As the Project Proponent for Port of Bellingham Harris Shipyard Outer Pier Fender Pile Replacement project, I have read and understand the conditions of Washington State Department of Ecology WQC Order No. 22174, and any permits, plans, documents, and approvals referenced in the WQC Order. I have and will continue to ensure that all project engineers, contractors, and other workers at the project site with authority to direct work have read and understand the conditions of this WQC Order and any permits, plans, documents, and approvals referenced in the WQC Order.

Signature

Date

Title

Phone

Company