



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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

711 for Washington Relay Service • Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Announcing Draft Multi-Sector General Permit Request for Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification**

**Proposed Permit**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency requested Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 certification on May 27, 2020 for the following draft permit:

- Multi-Sector General Permit

The Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) for stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity is operated under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination system (NPDES) statewide.

**Purpose of the Permit**

The Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) would replace the existing MSGP once finalized. The existing MSGP was issued for a five-year term in 2015 and expires this year. This permit would authorize stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity under the direction of federal agencies into the waters of Washington State.

**Purpose of the 401 Certifications**

Section 401 of the CWA provides that the federal government may not issue a permit relating to any activity which may result in any discharge into the navigable waters until a certification is granted or waived by the state in which the discharge originates, or will originate.

The state certification evaluates whether the discharge will comply with the applicable provisions of sections 301, 302, 306, and 307 of the CWA and appropriate requirements of state law. Ecology will review the draft permits pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA, and with applicable provisions of State water pollution control laws.

## **Copies of the Draft Permits**

Draft NPDES permit documents for the Multi-Sector General Permit are available [online](#). EPA's public comment period was between March 2<sup>nd</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup> 2020.

Contact EPA staff, Margaret McCauley at [mccauley.margaret@epa.gov](mailto:mccauley.margaret@epa.gov) or (206) 553-1772 with questions related to EPA's draft permit documents. Ecology is not accepting comments on the contents of the draft permit documents.

## **Ecology Contact**

Angela Zeigenfuse  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600  
Email: [angela.zeigenfuse@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:angela.zeigenfuse@ecy.wa.gov)

## **Submitting Written Comments**

Ecology is requesting comments from the public, state and local agencies, tribes, and other interested parties on EPA's request, in relation to water pollution control considerations. Ecology will accept written comments until midnight, June 29, 2020. Ecology prefers comments be submitted electronically via the online portal. Alternatively, comments may be supplied by email or in a letter format mailed directly to Ecology.

**Submit comments online** (preferred method): <http://wq.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=9Ux2m>

**Submit comments by mail to:** Angela Zeigenfuse  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

You must provide comments before midnight, June 29, 2020. Written comments must be postmarked no later than midnight, June 29, 2020.