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Effective Date: September 1, 2024  
Expiration Date: August 31, 2029

# **WATER TREATMENT PLANT GENERAL PERMIT**

A NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM  
AND STATE WASTE DISCHARGE GENERAL PERMIT  
for  
Water Treatment Plants

State of Washington  
Department of Ecology  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600

In compliance with the provisions of  
The State of Washington Water Pollution Control Law  
Chapter 90.48 Revised Code of Washington

and

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act  
(The Clean Water Act)  
Title 33 United States Code, Section 1251 et seq.

Until this permit expires, is modified, or is revoked, Permittees that have properly obtained coverage under this permit are hereby authorized to discharge in accordance with the Special and General Conditions contained herein.



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Vincent McGowan, P.E.  
Water Quality Program  
Washington State Department of Ecology

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## ADA STATEMENT

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To request ADA Accommodation, contact Water Quality Reception at 360-407-6600. For Washington Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341. Visit [Ecology's ADA Accessibility web page](#)<sup>1</sup> for more information.

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Para publicaciones en español, por favor llame a la Recepción de Calidad del Agua al 360-407-6600.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Accessibility-equity/Accessibility>

## SUMMARY OF REQUIRED SUBMITTALS

Refer to the Special and General Conditions of this permit for additional submittal requirements.

**Table 1: Summary of Required Submittals**

Permit Section	Submittal	Frequency	Submittal Date
<a href="#">S-1.2.2</a>	Non-Routine and Unanticipated Wastewater Discharge Request	As necessary	As necessary
<a href="#">S-3.2</a>	Solid Waste Control Plan	Once per permit term	October 1, 2025
<a href="#">S-3.3</a>	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan	Once per permit term	October 1, 2025
<a href="#">S-4.2.1</a> <a href="#">S-6.2.2</a>	Notification of Planned Bypass	As necessary	As necessary
<a href="#">S-5.4</a> <a href="#">S-6.3.4</a>	Notice of Turbidity Greater than 250 NTUs	As necessary	Within 24 hours by phone
<a href="#">S-5.2.5</a>	Consistent Attainment Request	As necessary	As necessary
<a href="#">S-6.2.1</a>	Notification of Non-Compliance	As necessary	Within 24 hours by phone Within 5 days by written report
<a href="#">S-6.2.3</a> <a href="#">G-4.6</a>	Permit Application Supplement or Notification of Significant Change in Process or Discharge	As necessary	As necessary
<a href="#">S-6.3.1</a>	Additional Monitoring Results <sup>(a)</sup>	As necessary	Fifteenth day of the month following the sample collection period
<a href="#">S-6.3.3</a>	Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) <sup>(a)</sup>	As necessary <sup>(b)</sup>	First DMR: October 15, 2024 Then: Fifteenth day of the month following the sample collection period
<a href="#">G-2.6</a>	Application for Renewal of Permit Coverage <sup>(a)</sup>	Once per permit term	March 4, 2029
<a href="#">G-2.7</a>	Notification of Spills or Other Discharges	As necessary	Immediately by phone Within 5 days by written report
<a href="#">G-2.10</a>	Other Information	As necessary	As necessary

<b>Permit Section</b>	<b>Submittal</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Submittal Date</b>
<a href="#">G-4.2</a>	Notice of Change in Signatory Authorization	As necessary	Prior to or upon document submittal
<a href="#">G-4.6</a>	Request for Modification of Permit Coverage	As necessary	Sixty days prior to the planned change
<a href="#">G-4.11</a>	Notice of Permit Transfer	As necessary	As necessary

<sup>(a)</sup> Electronic submittal is required via the Permittee's SecureAccess Washington account at SecureAccess Washington. More information is available at WQWebPortal guidance - Washington State Department of Ecology.

<sup>(b)</sup> See S-5.2.1 for more information on permittee groups and sampling frequency

# SPECIAL CONDITIONS

## S-1 PERMIT COVERAGE

### S-1.1 Activities, Discharges, and Facilities that Require this Permit

This **general permit** covers all water treatment plants (WTPs) that **discharge** backwash **effluent** to **Surface Waters of the State** and that meet all of the following criteria:

1. Produce potable water or non-potable industrial water (primary treatment/settled water) where the **treatment** and distribution of water is the primary function of the **facility**.
2. Have an **actual production rate** equal to or greater than 35,000 gallons per day of treated product water (finished water) as determined on an average monthly basis.
3. The wastewater discharge is from water treatment filtration processes (filter backwash, **sedimentation**/pre-sedimentation basin washdown, sedimentation/clarification, or filter-to-waste).
4. The water treatment works are not part of a larger, permitted facility, such as a pulp and paper mill.

#### S-1.1.1 Covered Geographic Area

The geographic area covered by this general permit is the entire State of Washington.

#### S-1.1.2 Significant Contributors of Pollutants

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) reserves the right to determine that permit coverage is needed for facilities with actual production rates less than 35,000 gallons per day in order to protect water quality. Ecology may require a facility to obtain coverage under this permit if Ecology determines the facility:

1. Is a significant contributor of pollutants to waters of the State, including groundwater;  
or
2. May reasonably be expected to cause a violation of any water quality standard.

### S-1.2 Discharges Authorized under this Permit

#### S-1.2.1 Process Wastewater and Stormwater

Beginning on the effective date of this permit, all WTP facilities covered under this permit are authorized to discharge filter backwash water associated with finished water production to **waters of the State** subject to the limits identified in this permit. For WTP facilities with coverage under this permit, with a discharge point to groundwater, the terms and conditions of



this permit shall apply. However, permittees are not required to sample on-site discharges to ground (e.g., infiltration), unless specifically required by Ecology (G-2.1, Additional Monitoring Requirements). Facilities with a discharge point to groundwater through an Underground Injection Control well shall comply with any applicable requirements of the Underground Injection Control (UIC) regulations, Chapter 173-218 WAC.

The permit also authorizes all WTP facilities covered under this permit to discharge stormwater associated with the operation WTPs to waters of the State subject to the conditions identified in this permit (Condition S-3.3, Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan).

#### **S-1.2.2 Non-Routine and Unanticipated Wastewater**

Non-routine and unanticipated wastewater consists of process wastewater not identified in Special Condition S-1.2.1 (Process Wastewater and Stormwater), not routinely discharged, and not anticipated at the time of permit application, such as waters used to pressure-test storage tanks or fire water systems, or leaks from drinking water systems.

This permit authorizes non-routine and unanticipated discharges under the following conditions. The **Permittee** must characterize the non-routine wastewater for **pollutants** and examine the opportunities for reuse. Prior to discharging the non-routine wastewater, the Permittee must obtain approval from Ecology on a case-by-case basis.

Any discharges not specified in Special Condition S-1.2.1 (Process Wastewater) must be addressed in accordance with the terms and conditions of this section.

1. Beginning on the effective date of this permit, prior to any discharge of non-routine and unanticipated wastewater, the Permittee must contact Ecology and provide the following information at a minimum:
  - (a) The proposed discharge location.
  - (b) The nature of the activity that will generate the discharge.
  - (c) Any alternatives to the discharge, such as reuse, storage, or recycling of the water.
  - (d) The total volume of water it expects to discharge.
  - (e) The results of the chemical analyses of the water.
  - (f) The date of the proposed discharge.
  - (g) The expected rate of discharge, in gallons per minute.
2. The Permittee must analyze the wastewater for all parameters with an **effluent limit** or **benchmark** in this permit as required by Special Condition S-5 (Monitoring Requirements) and must report the results as required by Special Condition S-6 (Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements), along with any other parameter deemed necessary by Ecology, using the methods and **quantitation levels** specified by Ecology.
3. Depending on the nature and extent of pollutants in the wastewater and any opportunities for reuse, Ecology may:

- (a) Authorize the facility to discharge the wastewater.
- (b) Require the facility to **treat** the wastewater.
- (c) Require the facility to reuse the wastewater.

All discharges must comply with the effluent limits established in Special Condition S-2 (Limits and Standards).

- 4. The discharge may not proceed until Ecology has approved the Permittee's request by administrative order. Once approved and if the proposed discharge is to a **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System**, the Permittee must obtain prior approval from the **municipality** and notify it when it plans to discharge.

### **S-1.3 Activities, Discharges, and Facilities that Do Not Require Permit Coverage**

Discharges of wastewater from water treatment filtration processes to **publicly-owned treatment works** do not require coverage under this permit.

Discharges of wastewater from water treatment filtration processes to the land/groundwater do not require coverage under this permit only if that discharged wastewater has no potential, during all weather conditions, to **runoff** or overflow into Surface Waters of the State.

Ecology may require facilities that meet the requirements of Special Condition S-1.1 (Activities, Discharges, and Facilities that Require this Permit) but cannot meet the water quality requirements of Special Condition S-2.2 (Discharge Limits) to apply for an individual permit. Such facilities with coverage under this general permit will retain permit coverage until the effective date of the individual permit.

#### **S-1.3.1 Facilities Excluded from Coverage**

Ecology will not cover the following facilities or activities under this permit:

- 1. Discharges to surface water of wastewaters produced from ion exchange, reverse osmosis, or slow sand filtration water treatment processes are not covered under this permit and may require application for an **individual permit**.
- 2. Industrial activities operated by any department, agency, or instrumentality of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the Federal Government of the United States, or another entity, such as a private contractor, performing industrial activity for any such department, agency, or instrumentality.
- 3. Facilities located on "Indian Country" as defined in 18 USC §1151, except portions of the Puyallup Reservation as noted below. Indian Country includes:
  - (a) All land within any Indian Reservation notwithstanding the issuance of any patent and including rights-of-way running through the reservation. This includes all federal, tribal, and Indian and non-Indian privately owned land within the reservation.

- (b) All off-reservation Indian allotments, the Indian titles to which have not been extinguished, including rights-of-way running through the same.
- (c) All off-reservation federal trust lands held for Native American Tribes. Puyallup Exception: Following the “Puyallup Tribes of Indians Land Settlement Act of 1989,” 25 USC §1773; the permit does apply to land within the Puyallup Reservation except for discharges to surface water on land held in trust by the federal government.

## S-2 BENCHMARKS AND DISCHARGE LIMITS

### S-2.1 Benchmarks

Special Condition S-5.4 (Turbidity) identifies the **benchmark** for the **turbidity** of wastewater discharges and explains the Permittee’s associated responsibilities.

### S-2.2 Discharge Limits

The Permittee must comply with effluent limits for **settleable solids**, **pH**, and **total residual chlorine** shown in the table below.

**Table 2: Effluent Limits**

Parameter	Average Monthly Discharge Limit <sup>(a)</sup>	Maximum Daily Discharge Limit <sup>(b)</sup>
Settleable Solids	0.1 mL/L	0.2 mL/L
Total Residual Chlorine	Not applicable	0.07 mg/L
Parameter	Daily Minimum	Daily Maximum
pH <sup>(c)</sup>	6.0 S.U. <sup>(c)</sup>	9.0 S.U. <sup>(c)</sup>

(a) The **average monthly discharge limit** is defined as the greatest average of **daily discharges** allowed for a calendar month, calculated as the sum of all the **daily discharges** measured during a calendar month divided by the number of daily discharges measured during that month. Where only one sample is measured in a month, its value may not exceed the **monthly average**.

(b) The **maximum daily discharge limit** is defined as the greatest daily discharge allowed during a calendar day. Except for pH, if a parameter is measured more than once within a single calendar day, the daily discharge is the arithmetic average of the values from that single day.

(c) The averaging of pH values is not allowed.

### S-2.3 Impaired Waterbodies and TMDL Requirements

The Permittee must comply with any applicable effluents limits which are consistent with the assumptions and requirements of Wasteload Allocation for any ***total maximum daily load*** (TMDL) approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as of the effective date of this permit or the effective date of facility coverage under this permit, whichever is later.

Permittees discharging to a ***303(d)-listed*** waterbody (Category 5) impaired for pH must comply with the applicable sampling requirements and numeric effluent limits in Table 3. All pH effluent limits are applied end-of-pipe. The applicable listing of impairment is the listing that is approved by EPA as of the effective date of this permit, or the effective date of facility coverage under this permit, whichever is later.

**Table 3: Effluent Limits applicable to Discharges to 303(d)-listed Waters**

Parameter	Receiving Water Category	Daily Minimum Discharge Limit	Daily Maximum Discharge Limit
pH <sup>(a)</sup>	Marine waters	7.0 S.U.	8.5 S.U.
pH <sup>(a)</sup>	Fresh water – low pH impaired	6.5 S.U.	9.0 S.U.
pH <sup>(a)</sup>	Fresh water – high pH impaired	6.0 S.U.	8.5 S.U.
pH <sup>(a)</sup>	Fresh water – low and high pH impaired	6.5 S.U.	8.5 S.U.

(a) The averaging of pH values is not allowed.

### S-2.4 Discharges into Wellhead Protection Areas

Permittees must not discharge backwash wastewater that would cause or contribute to an exceedance of groundwater quality standards (Chapter 173-200 WAC) in designated ***Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPA)***. The applicable list of WHPAs is the listing that is approved by the Washington State Department of Health as of the effective date of this permit, or the effective date of facility coverage under this permit, whichever is later. Ecology may establish specific monitoring requirements or restrictions by administrative order to facilities that discharge into a designated WHPA.

## S-3 PLANNING REQUIREMENTS

### S-3.1 Operations and Maintenance Manual

The Permittee must prepare an **operations** and **maintenance** (O&M) manual in accordance with Chapter 246-290 WAC Parts 2 and 5. The O&M manual must identify the main water treatment processes employed by the facility and document the procedures for operating and maintaining the wastewater treatment and discharge systems (e.g., the filter backwash systems). At a minimum the O&M manual must include:

1. Maintenance schedule and procedures for treatment and discharge systems.
2. Monitoring necessary to assure proper functioning of treatment and discharge systems.
3. Emergency shut down and containment procedures in the event of uncontrolled discharge due to plant maintenance activities, severe **stormwater** events, start-ups or shutdowns, or other causes.
4. Procedures to properly operate and maintain all facilities, including back-up or auxiliary facilities, and systems of treatment and control that are installed to achieve compliance with this permit.
5. Procedures for any maintenance activities that will produce a wastewater discharge to or through the filter backwash wastewater treatment area (e.g., settling basin).
6. Adequate sampling procedures, quality assurance procedures, and laboratory controls.

The Permittee must update the O&M manual as necessary to reflect changes in the water treatment processes and procedures and must keep the manual on **site** (as an electronic or hard-copy document) and available for inspection by Ecology.

### S-3.2 Solid Waste Control Plan

The Permittee must maintain a solid waste control plan. The plan must include, at a minimum, a description of the **solid waste**, identification of the source of the solid waste, the generation rate of the solid waste, and identification of the disposal methods of the solid waste. The plan must comply with any applicable state laws or regulations, including but not limited to Chapter 173-350 WAC, any applicable requirements of the jurisdictional health department, and any local requirements for a solid waste permit, and federal requirements. The Permittee must update the plan as necessary to reflect changes in solid waste handling and disposal and keep the plan on site (as an electronic or hard-copy document) and available for inspection by Ecology.

The Permittee must submit all proposed revisions or modifications to the solid waste control plan to Ecology for review and approval at least 30 days prior to implementation. The Permittee must comply with the approved solid waste control plan and any modifications once approved. The Permittee must submit an update of the solid waste control plan by October 1, 2025.

### S-3.3 Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan

Permittees that discharge “**stormwater associated with industrial activity**” (See definitions in Appendix B.) from their sites to waters of the state or to a municipal separate stormwater sewer system must prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Existing facilities must have a completed and updated SWPPP by October 1, 2025, and new facilities must have a complete SWPPP prior to producing the authorized discharge. New facilities must complete or implement all **best management practices** (BMPs) prior to producing the authorized discharge. Existing facilities must implement operational or **source control BMPs** within the first 6 months following the effective date of this permit and complete **treatment BMPs**, if required, within the first year following the effective date of this permit.

#### 1. Public Access and Signature

- (a) The Permittee must retain the SWPPP and permit on site or within reasonable access to the site and, upon request, make it immediately available to Ecology or the local jurisdiction.
- (b) A copy of the SWPPP must be provided to Ecology within 14 days of receipt of a written request for the SWPPP from Ecology.
- (c) A copy of the SWPPP or access to the SWPPP must be provided to the public when requested in writing. Upon receiving a written request from the public for the Permittee’s SWPPP, the Permittee must either:
  - i. Provide a copy of the SWPPP to the requestor within 14 days of receipt of the written request; or
  - ii. Provide access to the SWPPP within 14 days of receipt of the written request at a mutually agreed upon location for viewing and/or copying of the SWPPP. The Permittee will provide reasonable access to copying services for which they may charge a reasonable fee; or
  - iii. Provide a URL in your NOI where the public can find your SWPPP. Maintain your current SWPPP at this URL. To remain current, you must post any SWPPP modifications, records, and other reporting elements required for the permit term at the same URL as the main body of the SWPPP. If these conditions are met, you will have complied with the public availability requirements for the SWPPP.
- (d) The responsible party as identified in General Condition G17 (Signatory Requirements) must sign the SWPPP and all of its modifications.

#### 2. Proper Selection and Use of Stormwater Management Manuals

Permittees who select BMPs from an Ecology-approved stormwater management ([Stormwater manuals - Washington State Department of Ecology](https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Stormwater-permittee-guidance-resources/Stormwater-manuals)<sup>2</sup>) manual must clearly specify the stormwater management manual in their SWPPP. Permittees who select BMPs from manuals not approved by Ecology must document in the SWPPP that the BMPs selected are demonstrably equivalent to practices contained in stormwater technical manuals approved by Ecology, including the proper selection, implementation, and maintenance of all applicable and appropriate best management practices for on-site pollution control.

### 3. Other Pollution Control Plans

The Permittee may incorporate by reference applicable portions of plans prepared for other purposes at their facility. Plans or portions of plans incorporated into a SWPPP become enforceable requirements of this permit and must meet the availability requirements of the SWPPP, described in Special Condition S3.3.1 (Public Access and Signature). A Pollution Prevention Plan prepared under the Hazardous Waste Reduction Act, Chapter 70A.214 RCW, is an example of such a plan.

## SWPPP Contents and Requirements

1. The SWPPP must contain a detailed assessment of the facility and a detailed description of the BMPs. The Permittee must clearly identify in the plan any parts of the SWPPP which it wants to claim as Confidential Business Information. At a minimum, the SWPPP must include the following:
  - (a) Facility Assessment: The facility assessment must include a description of the entire facility, a detailed site map, and an inventory of facility activities, equipment, and materials that contribute to or have the potential to contribute pollutants to stormwater. The assessment must be as complete as possible (including incidental sources such as tire wear or equipment leaks). Permittees must update SWPPPs to reflect substantive changes at the facility. The SWPPP must address each potentially significant pollutant source with BMPs that will eliminate or reduce the potential to contaminate stormwater through source control or treatment.
  - (b) Facility Description: The facility description must describe the activities conducted at the site, the general layout of the facility, including buildings and storage of raw materials, and the flow of goods and materials through the facility. It must include seasonal variations, including peaks in production and any changes in work based on season or weather.
  - (c) Site Map: The site map must be drawn to an identified scale that indicates the relative distances between significant structures and drainage systems. It must be of sufficient size and identify the following significant features:

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<sup>2</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Stormwater-permittee-guidance-resources/Stormwater-manuals>

- i. The scale or include relative distances between significant structures and drainage systems.
  - ii. The size of the property in acres.
  - iii. The location and extent of all buildings, structures and all impervious surfaces.
  - iv. Direction of stormwater flow (using arrows).
  - v. Locations of all structural source control BMPs.
  - vi. Locations of all receiving water (including wetlands and drainage ditches) in the immediate vicinity of the facility.
  - vii. Locations of all stormwater conveyances including ditches, pipes, catch basins, vaults, ponds, swales, etc.
  - viii. Locations of actual and potential pollutant sources.
  - ix. Locations of all stormwater monitoring points.
  - x. The stormwater drainage areas for each stormwater discharge point off site (including discharges to groundwater).
  - xi. Locations of stormwater inlets and outfalls with a unique identification number for each sampling point and discharge point, indicating any that are identified as substantially identical, and identify, by name, any other party other than the Permittee that owns any stormwater drainage or discharge structures.
- (d) Industrial Activities: The inventory of industrial activities must identify all areas associated with industrial activities which have been or may potentially be sources of significant amounts of pollutants, including the following:
- i. Loading and unloading of dry bulk materials or liquids.
  - ii. Outdoor storage or staging of materials or products.
  - iii. Outdoor work and repair areas, including any do-it-yourself areas.
  - iv. Dust- or particulate-generating processes.
  - v. Roofs or other surfaces exposed to air emissions from an enclosed vessel repair or a process area.
  - vi. On-site waste treatment, storage, or disposal.
  - vii. Vehicle and vessel fueling, maintenance, and/or cleaning (includes washing).
  - viii. Roofs or other surfaces composed of materials that stormwater may mobilize (e.g., galvanized or copper roofs).
- (e) Inventory of Materials: The inventory of materials must include the following:



- i. A list of all the types of materials handled at the site potentially exposed to precipitation or runoff that could result in stormwater pollution of a significant amount.
    - ii. A short narrative for each material describing the potential of the pollutant to be present in stormwater discharges.
    - iii. A narrative description of any potential sources of pollutants of a significant amount from past activities; significant materials that were previously handled, treated, stored, or disposed of in a manner to allow ongoing exposure to stormwater. The Permittee must update this narrative when data become available to verify the presence or absence of these pollutants.
    - iv. The method and location of any on-site storage or disposal; and a list of significant spills and significant leaks of toxic or hazardous pollutants.
  - (e) Assessment and description of existing and potential pollutant sources.
  - (f) Description of the operational BMPs.
  - (g) Description of selected source-control BMPs.
  - (h) When necessary, a description of the erosion and sediment control BMPs.
  - (i) When necessary, a description of the treatment BMPs.
  - (j) Implementation schedule.
2. The descriptions of BMPs must include the following:
- (a) Operational Source Control BMPs: Operational BMPs are common to all facilities and include at the minimum:
    - i. Responsible Party: Identification by name or position the person responsible for stormwater management.
    - ii. Good Housekeeping: Listing of ongoing maintenance and cleanup activities, as appropriate, of areas that may contribute pollutants to stormwater discharges.
    - iii. Preventive Maintenance: Schedule for inspection and maintenance of the stormwater drainage and treatment systems (if any) and plant equipment and systems that could fail and result in contamination of stormwater.
  - (b) Structural Source Control BMPs: Source control BMPs eliminate or minimize the exposure of stormwater to pollutants.
  - (c) Treatment BMPs: Treatment BMPs reduce the amount of pollutants in stormwater and maintain compliance with water quality standards.

- (d) Erosion and Sediment Control BMPs: Erosion and sediment control BMPs prevent soil erosion. The SWPPP must identify the locations on site with the potential for soil erosion that could contaminate stormwater.

The Permittee must update the SWPPP as necessary to reflect changes in potential pollutant sources and BMPs and must keep the plan on site (as an electronic or hard-copy document) and made available for inspection by Ecology.

### **S-3.4 Other Spill Contingency Plan**

The Permittee must have, maintain, and implement a spill plan for preventing the accidental release of pollutants to State waters and for minimizing damages if such a spill occurs. At a minimum, the plan must include the following:

1. Documentation of the procedures the Permittee will employ for the prevention, containment, and control of spills or unplanned discharges of the following:
  - (a) Oil and petroleum products.
  - (b) Materials which, when spilled or otherwise released into the environment, are designated **dangerous waste** or extremely **hazardous waste** by the procedures set forth in WAC 173-303-070.
  - (c) Other materials that may become pollutants or cause **pollution** upon reaching waters of the State, such as untreated hyper-chlorinated water.
2. A description of the reporting system that will alert responsible managers and legal authorities in the event of a spill.
3. A description of the preventive measures and facilities that prevent, contain, or treat spills (including an overall facility plot showing drainage patterns).
4. A list of all oil and chemicals used, processed, or stored at the facility that may spill into State waters.

For the purpose of meeting this requirement, plans and manuals, or portions thereof, required by 33 CFR 154; 40 CFR 109; 40 CFR 110; 40 CFR Part 112; the Federal Oil Pollution Act of 1990, Chapter 173-181 WAC; and contingency plans required by Chapter 173-303 WAC may be included by reference as long as they are available on site.

The Permittee must review the plan at least annually and update it as necessary. The reviewer must initial and date the plan and note any updates to the plan to keep it current. This plan must be kept on site (as an electronic or hard-copy document) and made available for inspection by Ecology.

## S-4 OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

### S-4.1 Operational Restrictions

#### S-4.1.1 Bypass Prohibition and Procedures

Fully effective operation of treatment systems is required at all times. Although this generally requires the use of all portions of an existing treatment system, in some cases maintenance necessary to ensure effective operation may require bypassing portions of a system. Where such a **bypass** will not cause an exceedance of effluent limits or water quality standards, the bypass may occur without notification to Ecology. However, where the Permittee undertakes a bypass for reasons other than **essential maintenance**, or where a bypass would cause exceedance of an effluent limit or water quality standard, the Permittee may undertake a bypass only in accordance with the provisions of this section.

This permit prohibits all bypasses, except (a) When the bypass is for essential maintenance, as authorized in Item 1 below, or (b) When Ecology has approved an anticipated bypass following the procedures in Item 2 below.

1. Bypass for Essential Maintenance without the Potential to Cause Violation of Permit Limits or Conditions

This permit allows bypasses for essential maintenance of the treatment system when necessary to ensure effective operation of the system. The Permittee may bypass the treatment system for essential maintenance only if doing so does not cause a violation of an effluent limit. The Permittee is not required to notify Ecology when bypassing for essential maintenance. However, the Permittee must comply with the monitoring requirements specified in Special Condition S-5 (Monitoring Requirements).

2. Anticipated Bypasses for Non-Essential Maintenance

This permit prohibits any anticipated bypass that is not approved through the following process. Ecology may approve an anticipated bypass under the conditions listed below.

- (a) If a bypass is for non-essential maintenance, the Permittee must notify Ecology, if possible, at least ten days before the planned date of bypass. The notice must contain:
  - i. A description of the bypass and the reason the bypass is necessary.
  - ii. An analysis of all known alternatives which would eliminate, reduce, or mitigate the potential impacts from the proposed bypass.
  - iii. A cost-effectiveness analysis of alternatives.
  - iv. The minimum and maximum duration of bypass under each alternative.
  - v. A recommendation as to the preferred alternative for conducting the bypass.
  - vi. The projected date of bypass initiation.

- vii. A statement of compliance with SEPA.
  - viii. A request for modification of water quality standards as provided for in WAC 173-201A-410, if an exceedance of any water quality standard is anticipated.
  - ix. Details of the steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the bypass.
- (b) For probable construction bypasses, the Permittee must notify Ecology of the need to bypass as early in the planning process as possible. The Permittee must consider the analysis required above during the project planning and design process. The project-specific engineering report as well as the plans and specifications must include details of probable construction bypasses to the extent practical. In cases where the Permittee determines the probable need to bypass early, the Permittee must continue to analyze conditions up to and including the construction period in an effort to minimize or eliminate the bypass.
- (c) Ecology will determine if the Permittee has met the conditions of Items (a) and (b) above and consider the following prior to issuing a determination letter, an administrative order, or a permit modification as appropriate for an anticipated bypass:
- i. If the Permittee planned and scheduled the bypass to minimize adverse effects on the public and the environment.
  - ii. If the bypass is unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or **severe property damage**.
  - iii. If feasible alternatives to the bypass exist, such as:
    - The use of auxiliary treatment facilities.
    - Retention of untreated wastes.
    - Stopping production.
    - Conducting Maintenance during normal periods of equipment downtime. The Permittee should have installed adequate backup equipment, in the exercise of reasonable engineering judgment, to prevent a bypass during normal periods of equipment downtime or preventive maintenance.
    - Transport of untreated wastes to another treatment facility.

#### **S-4.1.2 Application of Chemicals**

The addition of excessive quantities of treatment chemicals to the wastewater is prohibited. The use of treatment chemicals that will result in a water quality violation in the **receiving water** is prohibited.

### Non-Pesticidal Use

Any addition of chemicals to treat the wastewater (discharge) must comply with manufacturers' recommendations and administration must only occur at a rate appropriate for treatment.

### Pesticidal Use

Any addition of chemicals to treat the wastewater (discharge) must comply with the relevant **product label**. Product label means the label for pesticides, herbicides, algacides, adjuvants and other products authorized for use under this permit. All pesticides must be registered by WSDA prior to use in Washington state.

#### S-4.1.3 Solid Waste Management

The Permittee must handle and dispose of all solid waste in such a manner as to prevent its entry into Waters of the State, either **groundwater** or surface water. The Permittee must follow its Solid Waste Control Plan, as described in Special Condition S-3.2 (Solid Waste Control Plan).

#### S-4.1.4 Spill Prevention and Control

The Permittee must prevent or control pollutant discharges from site runoff, spillage and leaks, sludge and waste disposal, and materials handling and storage. The Permittee must follow its SWPPP, as described in Special Condition S-3.3 (Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan), and its Spill Prevention and Control Plan, as described in Special Condition S-3.4 (Other Spill Contingency Plan).

## S-5 MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

### S-5.1 Monitoring Objectives

Samples and measurements taken to meet the requirements of this permit must be **representative** of the volume and nature of the monitored discharge or pollutant, including representative sampling of any unusual discharge or discharge condition, including bypasses, **upsets**, and maintenance-related conditions affecting effluent quality. Monitoring must occur at intervals sufficiently frequent to yield data that reasonably characterize the nature of the monitored discharge or pollutant.

Ecology may require by administrative order monitoring of intake water, influent to treatment facilities, internal waste streams, and/or receiving waters to verify compliance with net **discharge limits** or removal requirements, to verify the maintenance of proper waste treatment or control practices, or to determine the effects of the discharge on the waters and sediments of the State.

## S-5.2 Sampling Procedures

### S-5.2.1 Monitoring Schedules

Permittees must monitor the wastewater (discharge) in accordance with the monitoring schedule appropriate for their facilities, based on the ***design maximum production capacity*** of product water (drinking and industrial water) and the source of the raw source water (surface water or groundwater). To determine whether the source of raw water is surface water or groundwater, Ecology will use the same classification method as the Washington State Department of Health (DoH), which additionally specifies a third source of raw water: ***“groundwater under the direct influence of surface water”*** (GWI). Ecology will consider GWI the same as surface water unless the DoH designates a specific source at a particular WTP as groundwater.

The first monitoring period begins on the effective date of this permit.

WTP facilities are divided into two monitoring groups as follows:

1. **Group 1:** Facilities designed to produce less than 4 million gallons per day (gpd) ***or*** use only groundwater for their source water. Group 1 facilities must follow Testing Schedule A below.
2. **Group 2:** Facilities designed to produce 4 million gallons per day or more ***and*** treat surface water or GWI. Group 2 facilities must follow Testing Schedule B below.

**Table 4: WTP Monitoring Groups**

Facility Source Water	Less than 4 million gpd	Greater than or equal to 4 million gpd
Surface Water / GWI	Group 1	Group 2
Groundwater	Group 1	Group 1

**Table 5: Testing Schedule A: Monitoring Methods and Frequency for Group 1 WTP Facilities**

Parameter	Analytical Method (Accuracy)	Detection Level <sup>(a)</sup>	Quantitation Level <sup>(b)</sup>	Sampling Frequency	Sample Type
Settleable Solids	SM 2540 F – Imhoff Cone ( $\pm 0.1$ mL/L or $\pm 1.0\%$ )	0.1 mL/L	0.1 mL/L	Monthly <sup>(c)</sup>	Grab
pH	SM 4500-H <sup>+</sup> B – Meter ( $\pm 0.02$ standard units)	NA	NA	Monthly <sup>(c)</sup>	Grab
Total Residual Chlorine	SM 4500 Cl G – Photometer ( $\pm 0.01$ mg/L)	0.01 mg/L	0.05 mg/L	Monthly <sup>(c)</sup>	Grab
Turbidity	EPA 180.1 – Nephelometric ( $\pm 0.5$ NTU $\pm 1.0\%$ )	0.1 NTU	0.5 NTU	Monthly <sup>(c)</sup>	Grab
Total Daily Volume of Discharge	Meter or Estimate ( $\pm 30$ gallons)	10 gallons per event	10 gallons per event	Daily	NA
Total Daily Number of Discharge Events	Count	Count	Count	Daily	NA

(a) Detection Level (also known as *method detection limit* or MDL): The minimum concentration of an analyte that can be measured and reported with a 99% confidence that the measured concentration is distinguishable from method blank results as determined by the procedure given in 40 CFR part 136, Appendix B.

(b) Quantitation Level also known as Minimum Level (ML): The term “minimum level” refers to either the sample concentration equivalent to the lowest calibration point in a method or a multiple of the method detection limit (DL), whichever is higher. Minimum levels may be obtained in several ways: They may be published in a method; they may be based on the lowest acceptable calibration point used by a laboratory; or they may be calculated by multiplying the DL in a method, or the DL determined by a laboratory, by a factor of 3. For the purposes of NPDES compliance monitoring, EPA considers the following terms to be synonymous: “quantitation limit,” “reporting limit,” and “minimum level”.

(c) Quarterly for permittees with consistent attainment (S-5.2.5 Consistent Attainment)

**Table 6: Testing Schedule B: Monitoring Methods and Frequency for Group 2 WTP Facilities**

Parameter	Analytical Method (Accuracy)	Detection Limit <sup>(a)</sup>	Quantitation Level <sup>(b)</sup>	Sampling Frequency	Sample Type
Settleable Solids	SM 2540 F – Imhoff Cone ( $\pm 0.1$ mL/L or $\pm 1.0\%$ )	0.1 mL/L	0.1 mL/L	Weekly <sup>(c)</sup>	Grab
pH	SM 4500-H <sup>+</sup> B – Meter ( $\pm 0.02$ standard units)	NA	NA	Weekly <sup>(c)</sup>	Grab
Total Residual Chlorine	SM 4500 Cl G – Photometer ( $\pm 0.01$ mg/L)	0.01 mg/L	0.05 mg/L	Weekly <sup>(c)</sup>	Grab
Turbidity	EPA 180.1 – Nephelometric ( $\pm 0.5$ NTU $\pm 1.0\%$ )	0.1 NTU	0.5 NTU	Weekly <sup>(c)</sup>	Grab
Total Daily Volume of Discharge	Meter or Estimate ( $\pm 30$ gallons)	10 gallons per event	10 gallons per event	Daily	NA
Total Daily Number of Discharge Events	Count	Count	Count	Daily	NA

(a) Detection Level (also known as *method detection limit* or MDL): The minimum concentration of an analyte that can be measured and reported with a 99% confidence that the measured concentration is distinguishable from method blank results as determined by the procedure given in 40 CFR part 136, Appendix B.

(b) Quantitation Level also known as Minimum Level (ML): The term “minimum level” refers to either the sample concentration equivalent to the lowest calibration point in a method or a multiple of the method detection limit (DL), whichever is higher. Minimum levels may be obtained in several ways: They may be published in a method; they may be based on the lowest acceptable calibration point used by a laboratory; or they may be calculated by multiplying the DL in a method, or the DL determined by a laboratory, by a factor of 3. For the purposes of NPDES compliance monitoring, EPA considers the following terms to be synonymous: “quantitation limit,” “reporting limit,” and “minimum level”.

(c) Monthly for permittees with consistent attainment (S-5.2.5 Consistent Attainment)

### **S-5.2.2 Sample Documentation**

For each measurement or sample taken, the Permittee must record the following information:

1. The date, exact place, method, and time of sampling or measurement.
2. The individual who performed the sampling or measurement.
3. The dates the analyses were performed.
4. The individual who performed the analyses.
5. The analytical techniques or methods used.
6. The results of all measurements and analyses.



### **S-5.2.3 Monitoring Location**

The Permittee must conduct all monitoring of treated filter backwash wastewater as close to the point of discharge to surface water (end of pipe) as is reasonably possible.

### **S-5.2.4 Sampling Methods**

Sampling methods used to meet the monitoring requirements specified in this permit must conform to the latest revision of the “Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants” contained in 40 CFR Part 136, (or as applicable in 40 CFR subchapters N [Parts 400-471] or O [Parts 501-503]) unless otherwise specified in this permit. Ecology may specify alternative methods only for parameters without limits or without a U.S. EPA-approved test method in 40 CFR Part 136. Sampling must yield samples representative of the wastewater discharged by the Permittee.

### **S-5.2.5 Consistent Attainment**

The Permittee may request a reduction in sampling frequency until August 31, 2029 based on consistent attainment of permit limits. The Permittee must submit a written request to Ecology including the following documentation:

1. Two years of consecutive samples demonstrating reported values less than the permit limit; or for pH, within the range of 6.0 – 9.0.
2. For purposes of tallying consecutive samples:
  - (a) Do not include any sampling periods in which the Permittee did not collect a sample but should have. If this occurs, the tally of consecutive samples is reset to zero.
  - (b) Do not include any sampling periods in which the Permittee did not collect a sample because there was no discharge during the sampling period. These sampling periods are not included in the calculation of two years of consecutive samples, but do not cause the tally to be reset; i.e., they are skipped over.

For permittees in Monitoring Group 1 who obtain consistent attainment, the new sampling frequency is quarterly as described in Table 5 above. For permittees in Monitoring Group 2 who obtain consistent attainment, the new sampling frequency is monthly as described in Table 6 above.

A Permittee whose samples exceed the permit limits during consistent attainment is no longer allowed to claim consistent attainment. The Permittee must resume sampling in accordance with the original schedule described in S-5.2.1 (monthly for Group 1 and weekly for Group 2).

A Permittee who has a significant process change must not use sampling results prior to the process change to demonstrate consistent attainment.

Reduction of sampling based on consistent attainment does not apply to pollutant parameters subject to “report only” requirements (Total Daily Volume of Discharge or Total Daily Number of Discharge Event) or to impaired water bodies subject to Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act or a TMDL (Condition S-2.3).

### **S-5.3 Analytical Procedures**

#### **S-5.3.1 Laboratory Accreditation**

All monitoring data required by Ecology must be prepared by a laboratory registered or accredited under the provisions of Chapter 173-50 WAC, “Accreditation of Environmental Laboratories.” Flow, temperature, settleable solids, specific conductance, pH, turbidity, and internal process control parameters are exempt from this requirement, except that specific conductance, pH, and turbidity must be accredited if the laboratory must otherwise be registered or accredited. An accredited laboratory must provide all chlorine and secondary pollutant data.

#### **S-5.3.2 Laboratory Documentation**

All laboratory reports providing monitoring data must include the following information: sampling date, sample location, date of analysis, parameter name, CAS number, analytical method/number, detection level (DL) (also known as **method detection limit** (MDL)), quantitation level (QL) (also known as laboratory reporting limit or practical quantitation level (PQL)), reporting units, and concentration detected. Analytical results from samples sent to a contract laboratory must also include information on the chain of custody, QA/QC results, and documentation of accreditation for each parameter.

#### **S-5.3.3 Laboratory Methods**

The Permittee must analyze all wastewater samples for the parameters and using the methods, DLs, and QLs specified in Special Conditions S-5.2.1 (Monitoring Schedules) and S-5.2.4 (Sampling Methods) unless:

1. Another permit condition specifies other methods, DLs, or QLs; or
2. The method used produces measurable results in the sample, and the U.S. EPA has listed it as an EPA-approved method in 40 CFR Part 136.

The analyses must also include any other parameter deemed necessary by Ecology. If the Permittee uses an alternative method, not specified in the permit, and allowed as above, it must report the test method, DL, and QL on the **discharge monitoring report** or other required report. If the Permittee is unable to obtain the required DL or QL in its effluent due to matrix effects, the Permittee must submit a matrix-specific DL and QL to Ecology along with appropriate laboratory documentation when the detection levels are too high to provide results near or below criteria (or applicable permit limits).

#### **S-5.4 Turbidity**

The benchmark for turbidity in discharges of treated wastewater from backwashing of water treatment filtration systems is 25 Nephelometric turbidity units (NTUs).

1. If the measured turbidity was in the range of 26 to 250 NTUs, the Permittee must review facility operations, determine the likely cause of the benchmark exceedance, modify operations to prevent a reoccurrence of the exceedance, update the relevant planning document(s) as needed, and preserve documentation of the exceedance and corrective action within 10 calendar days of the date the discharge exceeded the benchmark.
2. If the measured turbidity exceeded 250 NTUs, the Permittee must:
  - (a) Immediately take action to stop, contain, and clean up the discharge, and minimize any adverse impacts to waters of the State.
  - (b) Within 24 hours telephone a report of the incident to the appropriate Ecology Environmental Report Tracking System (ERTS) and the regional permit administrator. Their contact information is provided in Special Condition S-6.2.1.
  - (c) Review facility operations, determine the likely cause of the benchmark exceedance, modify operations to prevent a reoccurrence of the exceedance, update the relevant planning document(s) as needed, and preserve documentation of the exceedance and corrective action within 10 calendar days of the date the discharge exceeded the benchmark.
  - (d) Sample discharges daily until:
    - i. Turbidity is 25 NTUs (or lower), or;
    - ii. the discharge stops or is eliminated.

#### **S-5.5 Supporting Documentation**

The Permittee must maintain supporting documentation for all field and laboratory measurements and any calculations used to determine the total daily volume of discharges and total daily number of discharge events.

## S-6 REPORTING AND RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS

### S-6.1 Permit-Required Submittals

Unless otherwise specified in this permit, electronic submittal is required via the “Water Quality Permitting Portal” at [SecureAccess Washington](https://secureaccess.wa.gov/ecy/wqwebportal)<sup>3</sup> to submit all permit-required reports by the specified due dates. More information is available at [WQWebPortal guidance - Washington State Department of Ecology](https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Water-quality-permits-guidance/WQWebPortal-guidance)<sup>4</sup>. Where another condition of this permit requires submission of hardcopy paper documentation, the Permittee must ensure that the submission is postmarked or received by Ecology no later than the specified due date. The Permittee must submit hardcopy paper documentation to the water quality permit coordinator at the appropriate address provided in Special Condition S-6.2.1 (Notification of Non-Compliance).

### S-6.2 Notification Requirements

#### S-6.2.1 Notification of Spills and Other Discharges

If the Permittee has knowledge of a discharge or spill that could constitute a threat to human health, welfare, or the environment, the Permittee must:

1. Take appropriate action to correct or minimize the threat to human health, welfare, and the environment.
2. Notify the Ecology regional office and other appropriate spill response authorities immediately, and not later than 24 hours of becoming aware of the spill or discharge.
3. Immediately report spills or other discharges which might cause bacterial contamination of marine waters to the Ecology regional office and to the Department of Health, Shellfish Program.
4. Immediately report spills or discharges of oils or hazardous substances to the Ecology regional office and to the Washington Emergency Management Division.

The relevant 24-hour phone numbers are:

Department of Ecology Northwest Regional Office	(206) 594-0000
Department of Ecology Southwest Regional Office	(360) 407-6300
Department of Ecology Central Regional Office	(509) 575-2490
Department of Ecology Eastern Regional Office	(509) 329-3400
Washington Emergency Management Division	(800) 258-5990
Department of Health Shellfish Program	(360) 236-3330

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<sup>3</sup> <https://secureaccess.wa.gov/ecy/wqwebportal>

<sup>4</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Water-quality-permits-guidance/WQWebPortal-guidance>

### **S-6.2.2 Notification of Non-Compliance**

The permittee must give advance notice to Ecology of any planned changes in the permitted facility or activity which may result in noncompliance with permit requirements.

In the event that the Permittee fails to comply with any of the terms and conditions of this permit, or in the event of a spill or other discharge not authorized by this permit, such that the resulting non-compliance may threaten human health or the environment, the Permittee must:

1. Immediately take action to stop, contain, and cleanup unauthorized discharges and otherwise stop the non-compliance, correct the problem, and minimize any adverse impacts to Waters of the State.
2. Immediately notify Ecology of a spill by calling the appropriate regional Emergency Response Tracking System (ERTS) phone number and the regional permit administrator. The phone numbers are provided below:

<b>Ecology Central Regional Office</b> Water Quality Program 1250 West Alder Street Union Gap, WA 98903-0009 509-575-2490 TDY: 711 or 1-800-833-6341	<b>Counties:</b> Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, and Yakima
<b>Ecology Eastern Regional Office</b> Water Quality Program 4601 North Monroe Spokane, WA 99205-1295 509-329-3400 TDY: 711 or 1-800-833-6341	<b>Counties:</b> Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, and Whitman
<b>Ecology Northwest Regional Office</b> Water Quality Program 15700 Dayton Ave. N. Shoreline, WA 98133 206-594-0000 TDY: 711 or 1-800-833-6341	<b>Counties:</b> Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom
<b>Ecology Southwest Regional Office</b> Water Quality Program 300 Desmond Drive SE Lacey, WA 98503 360-407-6300 TDY: 711 or 1-800-833-6341	<b>Counties:</b> Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, and Wahkiakum

3. Notify the Ecology regional permit administrator of any other non-compliance, including any unanticipated bypass and/or upset that exceeds any effluent limit in the permit, orally within 24 hours from the time the Permittee becomes aware of the non-compliance.
4. If applicable, repeat the sampling and analysis that identified the non-compliance, and submit the results to Ecology within 5 days of becoming aware of the non-compliance.

5. Submit a detailed written report to Ecology at the appropriate address provided in Step 2 above within 5 days of the time the Permittee becomes aware of the non-compliance. The report must include all of the following information, at a minimum:
  - (a) A description of the nature and cause of the non-compliance, including the quantity and quality of any unauthorized discharges.
  - (b) The period of non-compliance, including the beginning and ending dates and times of the non-compliance, or if the Permittee has not yet corrected the non-compliance, the anticipated date and time when the Permittee will return to compliance.
  - (c) The results of any additional sampling and analyses.
  - (d) A description of the corrective action taken or planned by the Permittee.
  - (e) Steps the Permittee has taken or plans to take to reduce, eliminate, and prevent a recurrence of the non-compliance.
  - (f) Any other pertinent information.
6. Ecology may temporarily extend the time period for the written report required in Step 5, above, on a case-by-case basis upon written request if Ecology has received a timely oral report, but in no case for more than 30 days after the Permittee becomes aware of the non-compliance. Reportable failures of compliance include, but are not limited to:
  - (g) Any bypass that exceeds any effluent limit in this permit.
  - (h) Any upset that exceeds any effluent limit in this permit.
  - (i) Any exceedance of a maximum **daily discharge limit** for any of the pollutants listed in Special Condition S-2 (Benchmarks and discharge limits).

Compliance with these requirements does not relieve the Permittee from responsibility to maintain continuous compliance with any of the terms and conditions of this permit or from any resulting liability for failure to comply.

#### **S-6.2.3 Notification of an Anticipated Bypass**

The requirements for notifying Ecology of an intended bypass are identified in Special Condition S-4.2.1 (Bypass Prohibition and Procedures).

#### **S-6.2.4 Notification of a Change in Covered Activities**

The Permittee must report to Ecology any facility expansion, production increase, or significant process modification that may cause a new or increased discharge of pollutants that may cause either an exceedance of an effluent limit or a discharge beyond that reported in the original **application for coverage**. This report must be in the form of a new application or a supplement to the original application.

Significant process changes include a ***substantially*** increased discharge of pollutants or a change in the nature of the discharge of pollutants, including:

1. A volumetric wastewater discharge increase of 25% more than the previous permit covered;
2. A new source of raw water that requires different treatment processes, consequently altering the characteristics of the discharged wastewater; **or**
3. A change or addition of treatment to remove a substance not previously removed, consequently altering the characteristics of the discharged wastewater; **or**
4. A change in the facility made to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the source water, finished water, or wastewater.

### **S-6.3 Required Reports**

#### **S-6.3.1 Additional Monitoring by Permittee**

If the Permittee monitors any pollutant using an approved testing method more frequently than required by Special Condition S-5 (Monitoring Requirements) of this permit, then the Permittee must include the results of such monitoring in the calculation and reporting of the data submitted in the Permittee's discharge monitoring report.

#### **S-6.3.2 Bypasses**

The Permittee must report bypasses to Ecology as described in Special Condition S-4.2.1 (Bypass Prohibition and Procedures).

#### **S-6.3.3 Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR)**

The Permittee must submit a DMR for every required sampling period as described in Tables 5 and 6, whether or not a discharge occurred. If the facility did not discharge during a given monitoring period, the Permittee must submit a completed DMR with “No Discharge” entered as the DMR Reporting Code. Submission of DMRs must occur by no later than the 15th day of the month following the completed monitoring period.

Permittees must sign up for and submit monitoring data through the Ecology WebDMR program via the WQWebPortal at [SecureAccess Washington](https://secureaccess.wa.gov/ecy/wqwebportal/)<sup>5</sup>. More information is available at the “Water Quality Permitting Portal” at [WQWebPortal guidance - Washington State Department of Ecology](https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Water-quality-permits-guidance/WQWebPortal-guidance)<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://secureaccess.wa.gov/ecy/wqwebportal/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Water-quality-permits-guidance/WQWebPortal-guidance>



Permittees unable to submit electronically (e.g., those who do not have an internet connection) must contact the Ecology water treatment plant permit administrator at the locations provided in Special Condition S-6.2.1 (Notification of Non-Compliance) to request a waiver and obtain instructions on how to obtain a hardcopy paper DMR. Permittees with waivers must submit hardcopy paper DMRs to Ecology no later than the 15th day of the month following the completed monitoring period.

All DMRs must contain the following information:

1. Include data for each of the parameters for which monitoring is required by Special Condition S-5 (Monitoring Requirements) and as required by the DMR entry screen or hardcopy paper form. Report a value for each day sampling occurred and for the monthly values.
2. If the Permittee did not discharge wastewater during a given monitoring period, enter the “No Discharge” reporting code.
3. Record onto the DMR those analytical values reported as “less than the detection level” by entering “<” followed by the numeric value of the **detection level** (e.g., < 2.0). If the method used did not achieve the detection level or quantitation level identified in Special Condition S-5.2.1 (Monitoring schedules), report the actual detection level and quantitation level in the DMR comments section or other location provided.
4. Report the analytical test method used in the DMR comments section or other location provided if the laboratory used an alternate method not specified in the permit and as allowed in Special Condition S-5.2.1 (Monitoring schedules).
5. Calculate and report average and total values (unless otherwise specified in the permit):
  - (a) For all quantitative results measured at levels equal to or greater than the agency-required detection level value: The reported numeric value.
  - (b) For results reported at less than the detection level numerically (e.g., <0.01 mg/L or not detected **with** a specified detection level value): One-half the reported detection limit value.
  - (c) For results reported as less than the detection level non-numerically (e.g., ND or not detected) and **without** a specified detection level value,
    - i. If the same parameter was detected in another sample from the same monitoring point for the reporting period: One-half the detection level value reported for the other sample.
    - ii. If the same parameter was not detected in another sample from the same monitoring point for the reporting period: Zero.
6. Submit an electronic copy of the laboratory report as an attachment using the link for “About WQWebDMR” or as a paper copy along with the hardcopy paper DMR form. Laboratory reports must include a record of the chain of custody, QA/QC results, and documentation of accreditation for each parameter.

#### **S-6.3.4 Exceedance of Turbidity Benchmark**

Whenever monitoring that has been performed in accordance with Special Condition S-5 finds that the effluent turbidity exceeded 250 NTUs, the Permittee must telephone a report of the incident to the appropriate Ecology Region Emergency Response Tracking System (ERTS) and the regional permit administrator. Their contact information is provided in Special Condition S-6.2.1. Special Condition S-5.4 identifies additional requirements for documentation.

#### **S-6.4 Records Retention**

1. The Permittee must retain records of all monitoring information resulting from any monitoring activity required as a condition of the application for or as a condition of coverage under this permit for a minimum of five years following the specified expiration date of this permit. Such information must include all calibration and maintenance records and all original recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation, copies of all reports required by this permit, and records of all data used to complete the application for this permit. The Permittee must extend this period of retention during any unresolved litigation regarding the discharge of pollutants by the Permittee or when requested by Ecology.
2. The Permittee must keep a copy of this permit (electronic or paper) at the facility and make it available upon request to Ecology inspectors.

### **S-7 PERMIT ADMINISTRATION**

#### **S-7.1 Application for Coverage**

##### **S-7.1.1 Who May Apply for Coverage**

New facilities, or facilities currently operating without permit coverage, that qualify under Special Condition S-1 (Permit Coverage) must apply for coverage under this general permit.

##### **S-7.1.2 How to Obtain Coverage**

An applicant must submit to Ecology a completed and signed application for coverage (an electronic notice of intent, or eNOI) specifically prescribed by Ecology for this general permit, available for example via the [Water treatment plants - Washington State Department of Ecology webpage](https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Permits-certifications/Water-treatment-plants)<sup>7</sup>. Applicants must submit an application for coverage at least 180 days prior to commencement of the activity which may result in the discharge of any pollutant to Waters of the State.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Permits-certifications/Water-treatment-plants>

All applications for coverage under this permit must:

1. Contain sufficient information necessary for adequate program implementation;
2. Contain the legal name and address of the owner or operator, the facility name and address, type of facility and discharges, and the receiving waterbodies;
3. Bear a certification of correctness;
4. Include a signature of a responsible person, as identified in General Condition G-4.2 (Certification and Signature Requirements); **and**
5. Include any other information that Ecology deems relevant.

#### **S-7.1.3 Public Notice**

All new applicants for this permit and any existing Permittee that plans a significant process change, as described in Special Condition S-6.2.3 (Notification of a Change in Covered Activities), must circulate notice within the geographical area of the proposed discharge and certify this fact to Ecology. Such notice must:

1. Publish twice, with at least a 1-week interval between, in the newspaper of greatest general circulation within the county in which the discharge is proposed to occur;
2. Be circulated by any other method as Ecology may direct; **and**
3. Contain, at a minimum, the following:
  - (a) The name, address, and location of the facility requesting coverage under this permit;
  - (b) The applicant's activities or operations that result in a discharge;
  - (c) The name of the general permit under which coverage is requested; **and**
  - (d) The following statement: "Any person desiring to present their views to the department of ecology regarding this application may do so in writing within thirty days of the last date of publication of this notice. Comments shall be submitted to the department of ecology. Any person interested in the department's action on this application may notify the department of their interest within thirty days of the last date of publication of this notice."

#### **S-7.1.4 Proof of Compliance with SEPA**

All new applicants must submit to Ecology, along with an application for coverage, proof and certification that their facility has met all applicable requirements of the **State Environmental Policy Act** (SEPA) in WAC 173-226-200(3)(f).

# GENERAL CONDITIONS

## G-1 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

### G-1.1 Activities and Discharges Authorized by this Permit

All activities and discharges authorized by this permit must be consistent with the terms and conditions of this permit. The Permittee is at all times responsible for continuous compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit. The discharge of any pollutant more frequently than or at a concentration or amount in excess of that authorized by this permit constitutes a violation of the terms and conditions of this permit.

### G-1.2 Discharges from Activities Not Covered by this Permit

The discharge of pollutants resulting from activities not covered under this permit for which the **discharger** has requested coverage is a violation of this permit.

### G-1.3 Maintaining Compliance if Treatment System Fails

The Permittee, in order to maintain compliance with this permit, must control production and all discharges such that, in the event of reduction, loss, failure, or bypass of any portion of the treatment system, the Permittee maintains compliance with this permit until the treatment system is fully restored or an alternate method of treatment is provided. This requirement applies in the situation where, among other things, the primary source of power of the treatment system is reduced, lost, or fails.

### G-1.4 Removed Substances

The Permittee must not resuspend or reintroduce to the storm sewer system or to Waters of the State collected screenings, grit, solids, sludges, or other pollutants removed in the course of treatment or control of the wastewater and/or stormwater covered by this permit.

### G-1.5 Upset

An upset is an exceptional incident in which an unintentional and temporary non-compliance with **technology-based effluent limits** occurs due to factors beyond the reasonable control of the Permittee. An upset does not include non-compliance to the extent caused by operational error, improperly designed treatment facilities, inadequate storage or treatment facilities, lack of preventive maintenance, or careless or improper operation.

An upset constitutes an affirmative defense to an action brought for non-compliance with such technology-based permit effluent limits if the requirements of this paragraph are met. A determination made during an administrative review of claims that non-compliance was caused by an upset, is not a final action and is subject to judicial review. A Permittee who wishes to establish the affirmative defense of upset must demonstrate, through properly signed contemporaneous operating logs or other relevant evidence, that:

1. An upset occurred, and that the Permittee can identify the cause(s) of the upset;
2. The permitted facility was being properly operated at the time of the upset;
3. The Permittee submitted notice of the upset as required in Special Condition S-6 (Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements) of this permit; **and**
4. The Permittee complied with any remedial measures required under this permit.

In any enforcement proceeding, the Permittee seeking to establish the occurrence of an upset has the burden of proof.

## **G-2 OTHER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **G-2.1 Additional Monitoring Requirements**

Ecology may establish specific monitoring requirements in addition to those contained in this permit by administrative order or permit modification.

### **G-2.2 Compliance with Other Laws and Regulations**

Nothing in this permit excuses the Permittee from any requirement for compliance with any applicable federal, state, or local statutes, ordinances, or regulations.

The Permittee must comply with effluent standards and prohibitions for **toxic** pollutants established under Section 307(a) of the **Clean Water Act**, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (Public Law 95.190), the Hazardous Waste Management Act (Chapter 70.105 RCW), the Solid Waste Management–Reduction and Recycling Act (Chapter 70.95 RCW), and all other applicable requirements of 40 CFR 122.41 and 122.42 within the time provided in the regulations that establish those standards or prohibitions, even if this permit has not yet incorporated the requirement.

### **G-2.3 Duty to Comply with this Permit**

The Permittee must comply with all Conditions of this permit. Any permit non-compliance constitutes a violation of the Clean Water Act and is grounds for enforcement action; permit termination, revocation and reissuance, or modification; or denial of an application for renewal of coverage.

1. The Clean Water Act provides that any person who violates section 301, 302, 306, 307, 308, 318, or 405 of the Act, or any permit condition or limitation implementing any such sections in a permit issued under section 402, or any requirement imposed in a pretreatment program approved under sections 402(a)(3) or 402(b)(8) of the Act, is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$25,000 per day for each violation.
2. The Clean Water Act provides that any person who negligently violates sections 301, 302, 306, 307, 308, 318, or 405 of the Act, or any condition or limitation implementing any of such sections in a permit issued under section 402 of the Act, or any requirement imposed in a pretreatment program approved under section 402(a)(3) or 402(b)(8) of the Act, is subject to criminal penalties of \$2,500 to \$25,000 per day of violation, or imprisonment of not more than 1 year, or both. In the case of a second or subsequent conviction for a negligent violation, a person shall be subject to criminal penalties of not more than \$50,000 per day of violation, or by imprisonment of not more than 2 years, or both.
3. Any person who knowingly violates such sections, or such conditions or limitations is subject to criminal penalties of \$5,000 to \$50,000 per day of violation, or imprisonment for not more than 3 years, or both. In the case of a second or subsequent conviction for a knowing violation, a person shall be subject to criminal penalties of not more than \$100,000 per day of violation, or imprisonment of not more than 6 years, or both.
4. Any person who knowingly violates section 301, 302, 303, 306, 307, 308, 318 or 405 of the Act, or any permit condition or limitation implementing any of such sections in a permit issued under section 402 of the Act, and who knows at that time that he thereby places another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury, shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not more than \$250,000 or imprisonment of not more than 15 years, or both. In the case of a second or subsequent conviction for a knowing endangerment violation, a person shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$500,000 or by imprisonment of not more than 30 years, or both. An organization, as defined in section 309(c)(3)(B)(iii) of the CWA, shall, upon conviction of violating the imminent danger provision, be subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000,000 and can be fined up to \$2,000,000 for second or subsequent convictions.
5. Any person may be assessed an administrative penalty by the Administrator for violating section 301, 302, 306, 307, 308, 318 or 405 of this Act, or any permit condition or limitation implementing any of such sections in a permit issued under section 402 of this Act. Administrative penalties for Class I violations are not to exceed \$10,000 per violation, with the maximum amount of any Class I penalty assessed not to exceed \$25,000. Penalties for Class II violations are not to exceed \$10,000 per day for each day during which the violation continues, with the maximum amount of any Class II penalty not to exceed \$125,000.
6. Need to halt or reduce activity not a defense. It shall not be a defense for a permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this permit.

#### **G-2.4 Duty to Mitigate**

The Permittee must take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge, use, or disposal in violation of this permit that has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment.

#### **G-2.5 Duty to Provide Information**

The Permittee must provide to Ecology, within a reasonable time, all information that Ecology may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, or terminating this permit or to determine compliance with this permit. The Permittee must also provide to Ecology, upon request, copies of records required to be kept by this permit.

#### **G-2.6 Duty to Reapply**

The Permittee must reapply for coverage under this permit (or under an individual permit) at least 180 days prior to the specified expiration date of this permit. An expired general permit and coverage under the general permit continue in force and effect until Ecology issues a new general permit (or a new individual permit) or until Ecology cancels the general permit. Coverage under an expired permit continues for only those Permittees who reapply for coverage in a timely manner.

#### **G-2.7 Plan Review Required**

Prior to constructing or modifying any wastewater control facilities, the Permittee must provide all engineering reports and detailed plans and specifications to Ecology for approval in accordance with Chapter 173-240 WAC. Submission of engineering reports, plans, and specifications must occur in accordance with a **compliance schedule** issued by Ecology or at least 30 days before the time approval is desired. Construction and operation of the facilities must occur in accordance with the approved plans.

#### **G-2.8 Prohibited Discharges**

Discharge of pollutants by the Permittee to Waters of the State are prohibited except as authorized through coverage under this permit.

This permit does not authorize any person to discharge any of the following:

1. Any radiological, chemical, or biological warfare agent or high-level radioactive waste into Waters of the State.
2. Any pollutants that the Secretary of the Army acting through the Chief, Corps of Engineers, finds would substantially impair anchorage and navigation.
3. Any pollutant that the U.S. EPA, not having waived its right to object pursuant to Section 402(e) of the Clean Water Act, has objected to in writing pursuant to Section 402(d) of the Clean Water Act.

4. Any pollutant in conflict with plans or amendment thereto approved pursuant to Section 208(b) of the Clean Water Act.
5. Any pollutant subject to a toxic pollutant discharge prohibition under Section 307 of the Clean Water Act.
6. Any dangerous waste, as defined in the dangerous waste regulations, Chapter 173-303 WAC, into a subsurface disposal system, such as a **well** or drain field.

### **G-2.9 Reporting Other Information**

Where the Permittee becomes aware that it failed to submit any relevant facts in a permit application or submitted incorrect information in a permit application or in any report to Ecology, the Permittee must promptly submit such facts or information.

## **G-3 ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES**

### **G-3.1 Enforcement**

Ecology, with the assistance of the attorney general, may sue in courts of competent **jurisdiction** to enjoin any threatened or continuing violation of this permit or the Conditions thereof without the necessity of a prior revocation of coverage under this permit. Any violation of the terms and conditions of this permit, the state Water Pollution Control Act, or the federal Clean Water Act are subject to the enforcement sanctions, direct and indirect, as provided for in WAC 173-226-250.

### **G-3.2 Penalties for Tampering**

Any person who falsifies, tampers with, or knowingly renders inaccurate any monitoring device or method required to be maintained under this permit shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 per violation, by imprisonment for not more than 2 years per violation, or by both fine and imprisonment. If a conviction of a person is for a violation committed after a first conviction of such person under this Condition, punishment shall be a fine of not more than \$20,000 per day of violation, by imprisonment of not more than 4 years, or by both fine and imprisonment.

Any person who knowingly makes any false statement, representation, or certification in any record or other document submitted or required to be maintained under this permit, including monitoring reports or reports of compliance or non-compliance, shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 per violation, by imprisonment for not more than 6 months per violation, or by both fine and imprisonment.



### **G-3.3 Penalties for Violating Permit Conditions**

Any person who is found guilty of willfully violating the terms and conditions of this permit is guilty of a crime and, upon conviction thereof, may be punished by a fine of up to \$10,000 and costs of prosecution, by imprisonment, or by both fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court. Each day upon which a willful violation occurs may be deemed a separate and additional violation.

Any person who violates the terms and conditions of this permit may incur, in addition to any other penalty as provided by law, a civil penalty in the amount of up to \$10,000 for every such violation. Each and every such violation is a separate and distinct offense, and in the case of a continuing violation, every day's continuance may be deemed a separate and distinct violation.

### **G-3.4 Property Rights**

This permit does not convey any property rights of any sort, or any exclusive privilege.

### **G-3.5 Right of Inspection and Entry**

The Permittee must allow Ecology or its authorized representative, upon the presentation of credentials and such other documents as may be required by law, at reasonable times, for the purpose of inspecting and investigating (a) Conditions relating to the pollution or the possible pollution of any Waters of the State, or (b) Actual or suspected violations of water quality standards, effluent standards or limits, or the terms and conditions of this permit:

1. To enter upon the premises, public or private, in which an effluent source or discharge is located or where any records must be kept under the terms and conditions of this permit.
2. To have access to and to copy at reasonable cost any records that must be kept under the terms and conditions of this permit.
3. To investigate, inspect, or monitor any facility, operation, or practice regulated by or required under this permit, including:
  - (a) Postings.
  - (b) Collection, control, treatment, pollution management, and discharge facilities.
  - (c) Monitoring equipment or methods.
4. To sample or monitor any discharge, internal waste stream, substances, or parameters at any location, for the purposes of assuring permit compliance or as otherwise authorized by the Clean Water Act.

“Reasonable times” includes regular business hours and any other times when Ecology suspects the occurrence or evidence of a violation requiring immediate inspection.

## **G-4 PERMIT MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION**

### **G-4.1 Certification and Signature Requirements**

The Permittee must sign and certify as correct all information that it provides to Ecology. The person who provides such signature and certification on application documents must be any of the following:

1. In the case of corporations, a responsible corporate officer who may be:
  - (a) A president, secretary, treasurer, or vice-president of the corporation in charge of a principal business function or any other person who performs similar policy- or decision-making functions for the corporation; **or**
  - (b) The manager of one or more manufacturing, production, or operating facilities, provided:
    - i. The manager is authorized to make management decisions which govern the operation of the permitted facility or activity, including having the explicit or implicit duties of making major capital investment recommendations and initiating and directing other comprehensive measures to assure long-term environmental compliance with environmental laws and regulations;
    - ii. The manager can ensure that the necessary systems are established, or actions taken to gather complete and accurate information for permit application requirements; **and**
    - iii. Authority to sign documents has been assigned or delegated to the manager in accordance with corporate procedures.
2. In the case of a partnership, a general partner.
3. In the case of a sole proprietorship, the proprietor.
4. In the case of a municipal, state, or other public facility or activity, either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official.

The person who signs reports or other informational material may be duly authorized representative of a person identified among items 1 through 4 of this Condition. A person is a duly authorized representative only if:

1. A person identified among items 1 through 4 of this Condition makes the authorization in writing and submits it to Ecology; and
2. The authorization specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated facility or activity or a position having overall responsibility for environmental matters for the Permittee. A duly authorized representative may thus be either a named individual or any individual occupying a named position.

If an authorized representative as described in this condition is no longer accurate because a different individual or position has responsibility for the overall operation of the facility or activity, the Permittee must provide to Ecology a new authorization satisfying the requirements of this Condition prior to or together with any applications, reports, or information to be signed by an authorized representative.

Any person signing a document under this Condition must make the following certification:

*"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."*

#### **G-4.2 Dates of Coverage under this Permit**

Starting on the date that Ecology receives a Notice of Intent (NOI) application for permit coverage, Ecology has 30 days to inform the applicant whether or not the application is complete. If the applicant has submitted a complete NOI, and Ecology does not respond to the applicant within those 30 days, permit coverage automatically commences on the later of the following, as applicable:

1. For permittees already covered under the expiring general permit who met all renewal requirements (WAC 173-226-220 (2) and (3)), the effective date of this general permit. Ecology sends all such permittees a new coverage letter after the reissuance of the general permit.
2. For new applicants without current coverage under the general permit:
  - (a) The date specified on the coverage letter that Ecology sends to the applicant.
  - (b) The 31st day following Ecology's receipt of the applicant's completed Notice of Intent application for coverage (61st day following the publication date of the second public notice per WAC 173-226-130 (5)).

When a Permittee has made a timely and sufficient application for the renewal of coverage under this permit prior to its expiration, this permit remains in effect and enforceable until Ecology:

1. Denies the application;
2. Issues a replacement permit; **or**
3. Cancels the expired permit.

Coverage under an expired general permit for Permittees who fail to submit a timely and sufficient application expires on the expiration date of the general permit.

### **G-4.3 Severability**

The provisions of this permit are severable, and if any provision of this permit, or application of any provision of this permit to any circumstance, is held invalid, the application of such provision to other circumstances and the remainder of this permit are not affected thereby.

### **G-4.4 Payment of Fees**

The Permittee must provide payment of fees associated with this permit as assessed by Ecology pursuant to Chapter 173-224 WAC until the permit is either transferred, terminated, or revoked.

### **G-4.5 Termination of Coverage upon Issuance of an Individual Permit**

When an NPDES waste discharge individual permit is issued to a discharger otherwise subject to this general permit, the applicability of this general permit to that Permittee is automatically terminated on the effective date of the individual permit.

### **G-4.6 Reporting a Cause for Modification or Revocation**

The Permittee must provide a new application or information supplemental to the previous application whenever:

1. The Permittee anticipates a significant change to the permitted activity or in the quantity or type of discharge authorized by this permit; *or*
2. The Permittee knows, or has reason to believe, that any activity has occurred or will occur which would constitute cause for modification or revocation pursuant to 40 CFR 122.62.

A significant change includes, but is not limited to, any facility expansion, production increase, or process modification that would change the nature or increase the quantity of pollutants discharged such as to cause either non-compliance with effluent limits or discharges beyond those reported in the previous application for coverage. A significant change also includes any change in the facility made to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the source water, finished water, or wastewater. The Permittee must provide its plans, supplemental information, or new application for coverage to Ecology at least 60 days prior to any proposed changes. This reporting to Ecology does not relieve the Permittee of the duty to comply with the existing permit until it is modified or reissued.

#### **G-4.7 Request to be Excluded from Coverage under this Permit**

Any discharger authorized by this general permit may request to be excluded from coverage under this general permit by applying for an individual permit. Such discharger must provide to Ecology an application as described in WAC 173-216-070 or WAC 173-220-040, whichever is applicable, with reasons supporting the request for exclusion from coverage under this permit. These reasons must fully document how an individual permit will apply to the applicant in a way that this general permit cannot.

Ecology may require the applicant to provide information to support the request for exclusion from coverage under this general permit. Ecology will either issue an individual permit or deny the request with a statement explaining the reason for the denial.

#### **G-4.8 Modification, Revocation, and Termination of this General Permit**

Ecology may modify, revoke and reissue, or terminate this permit during its term for cause in accordance with the provisions of WAC 173-226-230. Grounds for modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination include, but are not limited to, any of the following:

1. A change in the technology or practices for control or abatement of pollutants applicable to the category of dischargers covered under this permit.
2. Promulgation of effluent limit standards or guidelines pursuant to the Clean Water Act or Chapter 90.48 RCW for the category of dischargers covered under this permit.
3. Approval by Ecology of a water quality management plan containing requirements applicable to the category of dischargers covered under this permit.
4. Receipt of information that indicates that cumulative effects on the environment from dischargers covered under this permit are unacceptable.
5. Establishment by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency of a toxic effluent standard or prohibition (including any schedule of compliance specified in such effluent standard or prohibition) under Section 307(a) of the Clean Water Act for a toxic pollutant which is more stringent than any limit upon such pollutant in this permit.

In the event that a material change occurs in the condition of the Waters of the State, Ecology may, by appropriate order, modify permit Conditions or specify additional Conditions in permits previously issued.

The filing of a request by the Permittee for a permit modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination, or of a notification of planned changes or anticipated non-compliance does not stay any permit Condition.

#### **G-4.9 Termination of Coverage under this Permit**

Ecology may terminate coverage under a general permit for cause under WAC 173-226-240. Permittees whose coverage has been revoked for cause according to WAC 173-226-240 may request temporary coverage under this permit during the time an individual permit is being developed, provided that the request is made within 90 days from the time of revocation and is submitted along with a complete individual permit application. The discharger has 30 days during which to respond to any notification from Ecology of termination of coverage under this permit before coverage under this permit is automatically revoked. Cases where coverage under a general permit may be terminated include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) Violation of any term or condition of the permit.
- (b) Obtaining coverage under this permit by misrepresentation or failure to disclose fully all relevant facts.
- (c) A change in any condition that requires either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the permitted discharge.
- (d) A determination that the permitted activity endangers human health or the environment or contributes to water quality standards violations.
- (e) Incorporation of an approved local **pretreatment** program into a municipality's permit.
- (f) Failure of the permittee to satisfy the public notice requirements of WAC 173-226-130(5).
- (g) Failure or refusal of the Permittee to allow entry as required in RCW 90.48.090.
- (h) Nonpayment of permit fees or penalties assessed pursuant to RCW 90.48.465 and Chapter 173-224 WAC.

#### **G-4.10 Notice of Termination Request**

Ecology may approve a Notice of Termination (NOT) request when the Permittee meets one or more of the following conditions and Ecology determines that the discharges from the facility no longer require coverage under this permit:

1. All permitted wastewater discharges associated with the permitted facility that are authorized by this permit cease because the activity has ceased, and no significant materials or pollutants will be exposed to water.
2. All wastewater discharges associated with the facility are prevented because the wastewater is redirected to a sanitary sewer, or discharged to land/groundwater (e.g., infiltration).

#### Procedure for Obtaining Termination:

1. The Permittee shall apply for a coverage termination on a [NOT form](#)<sup>8</sup> specified by Ecology (NOT Form).
2. The Permittee seeking permit coverage termination shall sign the NOT form in accordance with Condition G-4.2 of this permit.
3. The Permittee shall submit the completed NOT form to Ecology through the WQWebPortal. Electronic submittal is required via [SecureAccess Washington](#)<sup>9</sup>. More information is available at [WQWebPortal guidance - Washington State Department of Ecology](#)<sup>10</sup>.

#### G-4.11 Transfer of Permit Coverage

A Permittee may transfer coverage under this permit to a succeeding owner or operator of the facility or activity producing the discharge, by:

1. Preparing a written agreement, signed by both the current Permittee and the new discharger, that specifies the proposed date of the transfer of coverage, responsibility, and liability for this permit; **and**
2. Provided that:
  - (a) Ecology does not notify the current Permittee and the new discharger by the proposed transfer date of its intent to modify, to revoke and reissue, or to terminate permit coverage. If Ecology does not notify the current Permittee and the new discharger, the transfer of permit coverage is effective on the date specified in the written agreement between the current Permittee and the new discharger.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/ECY070716.html>

<sup>9</sup> <https://secureaccess.wa.gov/ecy/wqwebportal>

<sup>10</sup> <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Water-quality-permits-guidance/WQWebPortal-guidance>

## APPENDIX A. ACRONYMS AND UNITS OF MEASURE

Acronym	Meaning
AKART	All known, available, and reasonable methods of prevention, control, and treatment
BMP	Best management practice
CAS	Chemical Abstract Service
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DoH	Washington State Department of Health
DMR	Discharge monitoring report
Ecology	Washington State Department of Ecology
eNOI	Electronic notice of intent (application)
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERTS	Emergency Response Tracking System
GW	Groundwater under the direct influence of surface water
MDL	Method detection limit
ND	Not detected
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
O&M	Operations and maintenance
PQL	Practical quantitation level
QA/QC	Quality assurance and quality control
RCW	Revised Code of Washington State
SEPA	State Environmental Policy Act, RCW 43.21C
SOP	Standard operating procedures
SWPPP	Stormwater pollution prevention plan
TMDL	Total maximum daily load
U.S.	United States
USC	United States Code
WAC	Washington Administrative Code
WTP	Water treatment plant



Unit of Measure	Meaning
gpd	Gallons per day
ug/L	Micrograms per liter
mg/L	Milligrams per liter
mL/L	Milliliters per liter
NTU	Nephelometric turbidity units
S.U.	Standard units

## APPENDIX B. DEFINITIONS

**303(d)-List** - The list of waterbodies in Washington State that do not meet the water quality standards specified in Chapter 173-201A WAC. The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) prepares, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approves this list periodically (every 2 years). The list is posted on the Ecology web site at <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/approvedwqa/ApprovedSearch.aspx>.

**Actual production rate** - For the water treatment plant general permit, the amount of finished water that a treatment facility actually produces on any given day. To calculate the value of the actual production rate on an average monthly basis, add the value of each daily production rate during a calendar month, and divide the sum by the total number of days in the month.

**Adaptive Management** - A structured, iterative process of robust decision making in the face of uncertainty, with an aim to reducing uncertainty over time via system monitoring.

**All known, available, and reasonable methods of prevention, control, and treatment (AKART)** - A technology-based approach of decision making for limiting pollutants from discharges. AKART represents the most current methodology for preventing, controlling, and abating pollution that can be installed or used at a reasonable cost.

**Application for coverage** - A formal request for coverage under this general permit using the paper or electronic Notice of Intent form developed by the Washington State Department of Ecology for that purpose.

**Average monthly discharge limit** - The greatest average of daily discharges allowed for a calendar month. To calculate the value of the actual average monthly discharge for comparison with the limit, add the value of each daily discharge measured during a calendar month, and divide this sum by the total number of daily discharges measured.

**Background** - The biological, chemical, physical, and radiological conditions that exist in the absence of any influences from outside an area potentially influenced by a specific activity.

**Benchmark** - A pollutant concentration used as a threshold, below which a pollutant is unlikely to cause a water quality violation, and above which it may. Benchmark values are not water quality standards and not numeric effluent limits – they are indicator values. Often when a pollutant concentration exceeds a benchmark, some active response may be necessary, i.e., **adaptive management**.

**Best management practice (BMP)** - Activity, prohibition, maintenance procedure, or other physical, structural, and/or managerial practice to prevent or reduce pollution of and other adverse impacts to the waters of Washington State. BMPs include treatment systems, operating schedules and procedures, and practices used singularly or in combination to control plant site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, and drainage from raw material storage. BMPs may be further categorized as operational, source control, erosion and sediment control, and treatment BMPs.

**Bypass** - The diversion of stormwater or a waste stream from any portion of a treatment facility. A bypass may be intentional or unintentional.

**Carcinogen** - Any substance or agent that produces or tends to produce cancer in humans. The term carcinogen applies to substances on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency lists of A (known human) and B (probable human) carcinogens, and any substance which causes a significant increased incidence of benign or malignant tumors in a single, well conducted animal bioassay, consistent with the weight of evidence approach specified in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Guidelines for Carcinogenic Risk Assessment.

**Clean Water Act (CWA)** - The primary federal law in the United States governing water pollution and that includes goals for eliminating releases of large amounts of toxic substances into water, eliminating additional water pollution by 1985, and ensuring that surface waters will meet standards necessary for human sports and recreation by 1983. (Federal Water Pollution Control Act, Public Law 92-500, as amended by Public Laws 95-217, 95-576, 96-483, 97-117, and 100-4; USC 1251, et seq.)

**Completed Notice of Intent application for permit coverage (Completed application)** - A permit application form received by Ecology for which: (1) The applicant has filled out all applicable form fields with the correct information and had the application signed and certified by an individual who meets the requirements of WAC 173-226-200 (3); (2) The applicant has completed the publication of the required public notice for its application (WAC 173-226-130 (5)); and (3) The 30-day public comment period (which starts on the publication date of the second public notice) has ended (WAC 173-226-200 (2)).

**Compliance schedule** - A schedule of remedial measures that includes an enforceable sequence of actions or operations leading to compliance with an effluent or other limit, prohibition, or standard.

**Contaminant** - Any biological, chemical, physical, or radiological substance that does not occur naturally in a given environmental medium or that occurs at concentrations greater than those in the natural or **background** conditions.

**Conveyance** - A mechanism for transporting water, wastewater, or stormwater from one location to another location, including, but not limited to, gutters, ditches, pipes, and/or channels.

**Dangerous waste** - Any discarded, useless, unwanted, or abandoned nonradioactive substances, including but not limited to certain pesticides, or any residues or containers of such substances which are disposed of in such quantity or concentration as to pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health, wildlife, or the environment because such wastes or constituents or combinations of such wastes: (1) Have short-lived, toxic properties that may cause death, injury, or illness or have mutagenic, teratogenic, or **carcinogenic** properties; or (2) Are corrosive, explosive, flammable, or may generate pressure through decomposition or other means. The exact definition of dangerous waste is provided at WAC 173-303-040.

**Design maximum production capacity** - The amount of finished water that a water treatment facility is designed to produce at peak output and 24-hour production.

**Detection level** – or method detection limit means the minimum concentration of an analyte (substance) that can be reported with 99% confidence that the measured concentration is distinguishable from method blank results as determined by the procedure given in 40 CFR part 136, Appendix B.

**Detention** - The temporary collection of water into a storage device or pond, with the subsequent release of that water either at a rate slower than the collection rate or after a specified time period has passed since the time of collection. The purposes of detention include, but are not limited to, improving the quality of the water released and reducing or smoothing the mass flow rate of its discharge over time.

**Detention pond** - Man-made structure constructed specifically to collect and manage stormwater. Detention ponds are generally dry until a significant storm event and subsequently gradually release the accumulated stormwater through an outlet.

**Discharge (the noun form is the same as Effluent)** - To release or add material to waters of the State, including via surface runoff.

**Discharge limit (same as Effluent limit)** - Any restriction, including schedules of compliance, established by the local government, the Washington State Department of Ecology, or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on quantities, rates, and/or concentrations of biological, chemical, physical, radiological, and/or other characteristics of material discharged into any site including, but not limited to, waters of the State of Washington.

**Discharge monitoring report (DMR)** - A report submitted periodically (usually monthly or quarterly) by a Permittee to the Washington State Department of Ecology that provides the results of effluent monitoring tests conducted by or on the behalf of the Permittee.

**Discharger** - An owner or operator of any facility, operation, or activity subject to regulation under Chapter 90.48 of the Revised Code of Washington State or the federal Clean Water Act.

**Effluent (same as the noun form of Discharge)** - Material (usually an aqueous liquid) released to waters of the State, including via surface runoff.

**Effluent limit (same as Discharge limit)** - Any restriction, including schedules of compliance, established by the local government, the Washington State Department of Ecology, or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on quantities, rates, and/or concentrations of biological, chemical, physical, radiological, and/or other characteristics of material discharged into any site including, but not limited to, waters of the State of Washington.

**Entity** - Any person or organization, including, but not limited to, cities, counties, municipalities, Indian tribes, public utility districts, public health districts, port authorities, mosquito control districts, special purpose districts, irrigation districts, state and local agencies, companies, firms, corporations, partnerships, associations, consortia, joint ventures, estates, industries, commercial pesticide applicators, licensed pesticide applicators, and any other commercial, private, public, governmental, or non-governmental organizations, or their legal representatives, agents, or assignees.

**Erosion** - The detachment and movement of soil or rock fragments and the wearing away of the land surface by precipitation, running water, ice, wind, or other geological agents, including processes such as gravitational creep.

**Erosion and sediment control best management practice (ESC BMP)** - Best management practice (BMP) intended to prevent erosion, sedimentation, or the release of sediment-laden water from the site. Examples include preserving natural vegetation, seeding, mulching and matting, and installation of plastic covering, filter fences, sediment traps, or ponds. (synonymous with stabilization and structural BMP)

**Essential Maintenance** - Maintenance required to ensure the proper and successful operation of the subject structure, equipment, mechanism, or facility. Examples of essential maintenance are: (1) Frequent cleaning of oily materials from an in-line pH sensor that controls whether or not an episodic discharge occurs; (2) Removal of accumulated sediment and trash from a catch basin prior to the basin becoming so filled that it no longer functions as intended; and (3) Testing and replacing emergency batteries that would provide, in the event of a regional power outage, electrical power to critical operations central to the purpose of the facility.

**Facility (same as Operation)** - The physical premises (including the land and appurtenances thereto) owned or operated by a Permittee from which wastewater or stormwater is discharged subject to regulation under the **National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System** program.

**General permit** - A single permit that covers multiple characteristically similar dischargers of a **point source** category within a designated geographical area, in lieu of many individual permits that are specifically tailored and issued separately to each discharger.

**Groundwater (same as Underground water)** - The water located in a **saturated zone** or stratum beneath the surface of the land or below a surface waterbody. Groundwater is a Water of the State and includes **interflow**, which is a type of perched water, and water in all other saturated soil pore spaces and rock interstices, whether perched, seasonal, or artificial. Although **underground water** within the **vadose zone** (unsaturated zone) also is a type of groundwater, the Washington State groundwater quality standards do not specifically protect soil pore water or soil moisture located in the vadose zone.

**Groundwater under the direct influence of surface water (GWI)** - Any water beneath the surface of the ground with: (a) Significant occurrence of insects or other microorganisms, algae, or large-diameter pathogens such as *Giardia lamblia*; or (b) Significant and relatively rapid shifts in water characteristics such as turbidity, temperature, conductivity, or pH which closely correlate to climatological or surface water conditions. GWI is groundwater located close enough to nearby surface water to receive direct surface water recharge. Potential sources of GWI include all infiltration galleries, Ranney wells, springs, and wells less than 50 feet deep located within 200 feet of surface water. Identifying a potential GWI to be an actual GWI requires either: (a) Determination of a hydraulic connection between the groundwater and the surface water; or (b) Demonstration through water quality monitoring of a correlation between groundwater and surface water measurements.

**Hazardous waste** - That waste designated by 40 CFR Part 261 and regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**Individual permit** - A permit that covers only a single point source, discharger, or facility.

**Jurisdiction** - 1. The practical authority granted to a formally constituted legal body to deal with and make pronouncements on legal matters and, by implication, to administer justice within a defined area of responsibility.

2. The geographical area or subject-matter to which such practical authority applies.

**Maintenance** - Activities conducted on currently serviceable structures, facilities, and equipment that involves no expansion or use beyond that previously existing. Maintenance includes those usual activities taken to prevent a decline, lapse, or cessation in the use of structures and systems. Those usual activities may include replacement of dysfunctional facilities, including cases where environmental permits require replacing an existing structure with a different structure, as long as the functioning characteristics of the original structure are not changed. One example is the repair of a deteriorating paved walkway along the top of the berm enclosing a settling pond that otherwise is fully functional with no overtopping or leaks to the ground surface. Maintenance of WTP settling ponds includes periodic assessment to ensure ongoing proper operation, removal of built-up pollutants (e.g., sediments), replacement of spent or failing treatment media, and other actions taken to prevent or correct degraded performance.

**Monthly average** - The sum of all daily measurements obtained during a calendar month divided by the number of days measured during that month (arithmetic mean).

**Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System** - means a conveyance, or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, manmade channels, or storm drains):

- (i) Owned or operated by a state, city, town, borough, county, parish, district, association, or other public body (created by or pursuant to state law) having jurisdiction over disposal of wastes, stormwater, or other wastes, including special districts under State law such as a sewer district, flood control district or drainage district, or similar entity, or an Indian tribe or an authorized Indian tribal organization, or a designated and approved management agency under Section 208 of the CWA that discharges to waters of Washington State.
- (ii) (ii) Designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater.
- (iii) (iii) Which is not a combined sewer;
- (iv) (iv) Which is not part of a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) as defined at 40 CFR 122.2.; and
- (v) (v) Which is defined as “large” or “medium” or “small” or otherwise designated by Ecology pursuant to 40 CFR 122.26.

**Municipality** - A political unit incorporated for local self-government, such as a city, town, borough, county, parish, district, association, or other public body (including an intermunicipal agency of two or more of the foregoing entities) created by or pursuant to state law; an authorized Indian tribe or tribal organization; or a designated and approved management agency under Section 208 of the Clean Water Act. Municipalities include special districts created under state law, such as a water district, sewer district, sanitary district, utility district, drainage district, or similar **entity**.

**National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)** - The federal wastewater permitting system for discharges of pollutants from point sources to the navigable **waters of the United States** authorized under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has authorized the State of Washington to issue and administer NPDES permits for non-federal point sources within the State.

**Operation (same as Facility)** - The physical premises (including the land and appurtenances thereto) owned or operated by a Permittee from which wastewater or stormwater is discharged subject to regulation under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program.

**Operational source control best management practice (Operational source control BMP)** - The schedule of activities, prohibition of practices, maintenance procedures, employee training, good housekeeping, and other managerial best management practices to prevent or reduce the pollution of Waters of the State.

**Organism** - Any individual life form: an animal, plant, fungus, protistan, or moneran.

**Outfall** - The location of a point source where a discharge leaves a facility, site, or municipal separate storm sewer system and flows into waters of the State. Outfalls do not include open **conveyances** connecting two municipal separate storm sewers; or pipes, tunnels, or other conveyances which connect segments of the same stream or other waters of the State and are used to convey waters of the State (e.g., culverts).

**Pesticide** - "Pesticide" as defined in RCW 15.58.03016 (31) means, but is not limited to: (a) Any substance or mixture of substances intended to prevent, destroy, control, repel, or mitigate any insect, rodent, snail, slug, fungus, weed, and any other form of plant or animal life or virus, except virus on or in a living person or other animal which is normally considered to be a pest or which the director (of Agriculture) may declare to be a pest (RCW 17.21.020);(b) Any substance or mixture of substances intended to be used as a plant regulator, defoliant or desiccant; and(c) Any spray adjuvant.

**Permit** - An authorization, license, or equivalent control document issued by a formally constituted legal body, such as the Washington State Department of Ecology, to a facility, activity, or entity to treat, store, dispose, or discharge materials or wastes, specifying the waste treatment and control requirements and waste discharge conditions. Unless the context requires differently, "permit" refers to individual and general permits authorized under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program.

**Permittee** - The entity who receives notice of coverage under this general permit.

**Person** - Any individual or organization, including, but not limited to, cities, counties, municipalities, Indian tribes, public utility districts, public health districts, port authorities, mosquito control districts, special purpose districts, irrigation districts, state and local agencies, companies, firms, corporations, partnerships, associations, consortia, joint ventures, estates, industries, commercial pesticide applicators, licensed pesticide applicators, and any other commercial, private, public, governmental, or non-governmental organizations, or their legal representatives, agents, or assignees.

**pH** - A measure of the acidity or alkalinity of a liquid. A pH of 7.0 is defined as neutral. Large variations above or below 7.0 are harmful to most aquatic life. Mathematically, pH is the negative logarithm of the activity of the hydronium ion (often expressed as the negative logarithm of the molar concentration of the hydrogen ion).

**Point source** - Any discernible, confined, and discrete **conveyance** from which pollutants are or may be discharged to Surface Waters of the State, including, but not limited to, any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation, vessel, or other floating craft. Point source does not include agricultural stormwater discharges and return flows from irrigated agriculture. See 40 CFR 122.3 for exclusions.

**Pollutant (in water)** - Any discharged substance or pathogenic organism that would: (1) Alter the biological, chemical, physical, radiological, or thermal properties of any water of the State, or (2) Would be likely to create a nuisance or render such water harmful, detrimental, or injurious (a) to the public health, safety, or welfare, (b) to domestic, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational, or other legitimate beneficial uses, or (c) to any animal or plant life, either terrestrial or aquatic, either directly from the environment or indirectly by ingestion through the food chain.

Pollutants may include, but are not limited to, the following: solid waste, incinerator residue, garbage, sewage, sewage sludge, filter backwash, munitions, chemical wastes, biological materials, radioactive materials, heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, dredged spoil, rock, sand, cellar dirt, and other industrial, municipal, and agricultural wastes.

Pollutant does not mean: (1) Sewage from marine vessels or a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel of the Armed Forces, within the meaning of Section 312 of the Clean Water Act (CWA); (2) Dredged or fill material discharged in accordance with a permit issued under Section 404 of the CWA; or (3) Water, gas, or other material which is injected into a well to facilitate production of oil or gas, or water derived in association with oil or gas production and disposed of in a well, if that well is approved by authority of the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), and if Ecology determines that such injection or disposal will not result in the degradation of groundwater or surface water resources.



**Pollution (of water)** - The man-made or man-induced contamination or other alteration of the biological, chemical, physical, or radiological properties of any Water of the State, including change in temperature, taste, odor, **color**, or turbidity of the water; or such discharge of any solid, liquid, gaseous, or other substance into any Water of the State that will, or is likely to, create a nuisance or render such water harmful, detrimental, or injurious to: (1) The public health, safety, or welfare; (2) Domestic, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational, or other legitimate beneficial uses; or (3) Any animal or plant life, either terrestrial or aquatic, either directly from the environment or indirectly by ingestion through the food chain.

**Pretreatment** - The reduction of the amount or concentration of pollutants, elimination of pollutants, or alteration of the nature of pollutant properties to a less harmful state prior to or in lieu of discharging wastewater to a treatment plant. This reduction or alteration may be obtained by biological, chemical, or physical processes, by process changes, or by other means, except by diluting the pollutants.

**Publicly-owned treatment works (POTW)** - 1. A sewage treatment plant and its collection system that is owned by a municipality, the State of Washington, or the federal government. A POTW includes the sewers, pipes and other conveyances that convey wastewater to the treatment plant, and any devices and systems used in the storage, treatment, recycling, and reclamation of municipal sewage or industrial wastes of a liquid nature.

2. The municipality or other entity that has jurisdiction over the indirect discharges to and the discharges from the treatment works.

**Quantitation level (QL)** - also known as Minimum Level (ML) – The term “minimum level” refers to either the sample concentration equivalent to the lowest calibration point in a method or a multiple of the method detection limit (DL), whichever is higher. Minimum levels may be obtained in several ways: They may be published in a method; they may be based on the lowest acceptable calibration point used by a laboratory; or they may be calculated by multiplying the DL in a method, or the DL determined by a laboratory, by a factor of 3. For the purposes of NPDES compliance monitoring, EPA considers the following terms to be synonymous: “quantitation limit,” “reporting limit,” and “minimum level”.

**Receiving water** - The waterbody at the point of discharge, whether that discharge is through a point source or via sheet flow. If the discharge is to a stormwater conveyance system, either surface or subsurface, the receiving water is the waterbody to which the stormwater conveyance system discharges. Systems designed for groundwater drainage, redirecting stream natural flows, or conveyance of irrigation water/return flows that coincidentally convey stormwater, are considered the receiving water. Receiving waters may also be groundwater to which surface runoff is directed by infiltration.

**Representative (sample)** - A sample that yields data that accurately characterizes the nature of a discharge or other sampled matrix for the parameters of concern. A representative sample should account for the factors that contribute to the variability of the parameters, such as the quantity of the discharge, the date and time of the sampling event, and whether the sampling location or associated physical events may affect the material sampled. Combining grab samples collected from multiple outfalls from a designated area of the facility during a certain time range to create a flow-weighted composite sample may be required to obtain a representative sample.

**Runoff** - Water derived directly from rainfall or snowmelt that travels across the land surface and discharges: (1) To waterbodies either directly or through a constructed collection and conveyance system, or (2) To the subsurface through a constructed collection and conveyance system.

**Sanitary sewer** - A sewer designed to convey **domestic wastewater**.

**Saturated zone** - The subsurficial zone in which all soil pore spaces, and rock interstices are completely filled with groundwater. Saturated zones include aquifers, whether or not they produce a significant yield, areas of perched groundwater, and interflow.

**Sediment** - The fragmented material that originates from the weathering and erosion of rocks, unconsolidated deposits, or unpaved yards; and is suspended in, transported by, or deposited by water.

**Sedimentation** - The deposition or formation of sediment.

**Settleable solids** - The material that settles out of suspension within a certain timespan measured volumetrically.

**Severe property damage** - Substantial physical damage to property, damage to the treatment facilities which would cause them to become inoperable, or substantial and permanent loss of natural resources which can reasonably be expected to exist. Severe property damage does not include economic loss caused by delays in production.

**Significant Amount** - means an amount of a pollutant in a discharge that is amenable to available and reasonable methods of prevention, control, or treatment; or an amount of a pollutant that has a reasonable potential to cause a violation of surface or ground water quality standards or sediment management standards.

**Significant Contributor of Pollutant(s)** - means a facility determined by Ecology to be a contributor of a significant amount(s) of a pollutant(s) to waters of the State.

**Site** - 1. The land or water area where any facility, operation, or activity is physically located or conducted, including any adjacent land or buffer areas used in connection with such facility, operation, or activity.

2. The land or water area receiving any effluent discharged from any facility, operation, or activity.

**Solid waste** - All putrescible, non-putrescible, solid, and semisolid waste. Examples of solid waste are: garbage, rubbish, ashes, industrial wastes, swill, demolition and construction wastes, abandoned vehicles or parts thereof, discarded commodities, sludge from wastewater treatment plants and septic tanks, wood waste, contaminated soils, contaminated dredged material, dangerous waste, and problem wastes.

**Source control best management practice (Source control BMP)** - Best management practice intended to prevent or reduce the release of pollutants. Two types of source control BMPs exist: (1) Structural, which include physical, structural, or mechanical devices or facilities (e.g., roofs covering storage and working areas); and (2) Operational, which include management of activities that are sources of pollutants (e.g., directing wash water and similar discharges to the **sanitary sewer** or a dead-end sump).

**State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)** - The Washington State law intended to prevent or eliminate damage to the environment that requires State and local agencies to consider the likely environmental consequences of development proposals prior to their approval (Chapter 43.21C RCW, as implemented through Chapter 197-11 WAC).

**Stormwater** - Water derived directly from rainfall or snowmelt that either: (1) Travels across the land surface and discharges to waterbodies either directly or through a collection and conveyance system; or (2) Percolates into the shallow soil, travels laterally through the soil near the land surface, and subsequently seeps back onto the land surface where it mixes with runoff or discharges to a surface waterbody. (Same as Runoff plus Interflow)

**Stormwater associated with industrial activity** - Stormwater discharged from any conveyance that: (1) Is used for collecting and conveying stormwater; and (2) Drains stormwater from manufacturing, processing, or raw materials storage areas at an industrial facility. (See 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14).)

**Stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP)** - The written plan that describes the measures to be employed at a facility to identify, prevent, and control the contamination of point source discharges of stormwater.

**Structural source control best management practice (Structural source control BMP)** - Physical, structural, or mechanical devices or facilities that are intended to prevent pollutants from entering stormwater. Examples of structural source control BMPs typically include: (1) Enclosing and/or covering the pollutant source (building or other enclosure, a roof over storage and working areas, temporary tarp, etc.); and (2) Segregating the pollutant source to prevent run-on of stormwater, and to direct only contaminated or potentially contaminated stormwater to appropriate treatment BMPs.

**Substantial** - Of considerable size, quality, value, degree, amount, extent, or importance.

**Surface water** - Lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, inland waters, **wetlands**, marine waters, estuaries, and all other fresh or brackish waters and water courses, plus drainages to those waterbodies. Surface waters do not include hatchery ponds, raceways, pollution abatement ponds, and wetlands constructed solely for wastewater treatment.

**Surface Waters of the State of Washington** - All waters within the geographic boundaries of the State of Washington defined as “Waters of the United States” in 40 CFR 122.2, and all waters defined as “Waters of the State” in RCW 90.48.020 excluding underground waters. These include lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, inland waters, wetlands, marine waters, estuaries, and all other fresh or brackish waters and water courses, within the jurisdiction of the State of Washington, plus drainages to those waterbodies. Surface Waters of the State do not include hatchery ponds, raceways, pollution abatement ponds, and wetlands constructed solely for wastewater treatment.

**Technology-based effluent limit** - A permit limit that is based on the ability of a treatment method to reduce the amount (e.g., concentration) of a pollutant.

**Total maximum daily load (TMDL)** - 1. An estimate of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a specific impaired waterbody or waterbody segment can receive in a day and still be protective of its designated beneficial uses, i.e., meet water quality standards. The TMDL must incorporate seasonal variation, include a margin of safety, and account for all of the point and nonpoint sources that contributed to the impairment of the specific waterbody.

2. A water cleanup plan and a mechanism for establishing water quality-based controls on all point and nonpoint sources of pollutants within a watershed basin, sub-basin, or hydrographic segment associated with a specific impaired waterbody. Percentages of the TMDL of a single pollutant are allocated to the various pollutant sources as waste **load allocations** for point sources and load allocations for nonpoint sources and background. A TMDL becomes effective after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed and approved it.

**Total residual chlorine** - The amount of chlorine remaining in water or wastewater, which is equivalent to the sum of the combined residual chlorine (non-reactive) and the free residual chlorine (reactive).

**Toxic** - Causing death, disease, behavioral abnormalities, cancer, genetic mutations, physiological malfunctions (including malfunctions in reproduction), or physical deformations in any organism or its offspring upon exposure, ingestion, inhalation, or assimilation.

**Treat** - 1. To apply an algaecide, herbicide, or other control product to the water, vegetation, or soil to control or kill algae, vegetation, insects, or some other pest or target species, or to remove or inactivate bioavailable phosphorus.

2. To remove a pollutant from wastewater or to perform some other manipulation of wastewater to reduce or control the adverse effects of a pollutant therein.

**Treatment** - 1. The application of an algaecide, herbicide, or other control product to the water, vegetation, or soil to control or kill algae, vegetation, insects, or some other pest or target species, or to remove or inactivate bioavailable phosphorus.

2. The removal of a pollutant from wastewater or some other manipulation of wastewater to reduce or control the adverse effects of a pollutant therein.

Treatment best management practice (Treatment BMP)

Best management practice intended to remove pollutants from wastewater, such as **detention ponds**, oil/water separators, biofiltration, and constructed wetlands.

**Turbidity** - The optical property of water that causes light to be scattered and absorbed rather than transmitted in a straight line. Turbidity in water is caused by suspended matter, such as clay, silt, finely divided organic and inorganic matter, soluble colored organic compounds, and plankton and other microscopic organisms.

**Underground water (same as Groundwater)** - The water located in a saturated zone or stratum beneath the surface of the land or below a surface waterbody. Groundwater is a Water of the State and includes interflow, which is a type of perched water, and water in all other saturated soil pore spaces and rock interstices, whether perched, seasonal, or artificial. Although underground water within the vadose zone (unsaturated zone) also is a type of groundwater, the Washington State groundwater quality standards do not specifically protect soil pore water or soil moisture located in the vadose zone.

**Upset** - An exceptional incident in which an unintentional and temporary non-compliance with technology-based, permit effluent limits occurs due to factors beyond the reasonable control of the permittee. An upset does not include non-compliance to the extent caused by operational error, improperly designed treatment facilities, inadequate storage or treatment facilities, lack of preventive maintenance, or careless or improper operation.

**Vadose zone** - The subsurficial zone where soil pore spaces and rock interstices are typically occupied at least partially by air. The vadose zone may extend from the surface of the ground down to the top of the water table, i.e., the top of the saturated zone, whether perched or not.

**Waste** - Any discarded, abandoned, unwanted, or unrecovered material, except the following are not waste materials for the purposes of this permit: (1) Discharges into the ground or groundwater of return flow, unaltered except for temperature, from a groundwater heat pump used for space heating or cooling, provided that such discharges do not have significant potential, either individually, or collectively, to affect groundwater quality or uses; and (2) Discharges of stormwater that are not contaminated or potentially contaminated by industrial or commercial sources.

**Water quality (WQ)** - The biological, chemical, physical, and radiological characteristics of water, usually with respect to its suitability for a particular purpose.

**Water quality-based effluent limit** - A limit on the concentration of an effluent parameter that is intended to prevent the concentration of that parameter from exceeding its water quality criterion after it is discharged into a receiving water. The limit may include a **dilution factor** if **all known, available, and reasonable methods of prevention, control, and treatment** have been accomplished and other restrictions are met.

***Waters of the State of Washington*** - All waters within the geographic boundaries of the State of Washington defined as “Waters of the United States” in 40 CFR 122.2, and all waters defined as “Waters of the State” in RCW 90.48.020. These Waters of the State include lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, inland waters, wetlands, marine waters, estuaries, underground waters, and all other fresh or brackish waters and water courses within the jurisdiction of the State of Washington, plus drainages to those waters.

***Waters of the United States*** - All waters within the geographic boundaries of the State of Washington defined as “Waters of the United States” in 40 CFR 122.

***Well*** - A bored, drilled, or driven shaft, or dug hole whose depth is greater than the largest surface dimension.

***Wellhead protection area (WHPA)*** - means protective areas associated with public drinking water sources established by water systems and approved or assigned by the Washington State Department of Health.

***Wellhead sanitary control area*** - A sanitary control area (SCA) is 100’ radius for wells & 200’ radius for spring sources, unless DOH has approved a smaller area.

***Wetland*** - Any area that is inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances does support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. Jurisdictional wetlands are wetlands that have been identified as such by local, state, or federal agencies. Wetlands do not include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from non-wetland sites, including, but not limited to, irrigation and drainage ditches, grass-lined swales, canals, detention facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, farm ponds, and landscape amenities, or those wetlands created after July 1, 1990, that were unintentionally created as a result of the construction of a road, street, or highway. Wetlands may include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from non-wetland areas to mitigate the conversion of wetlands.