

# Fact Sheet for State Waste Discharge Permit No. ST0501301

## Boundary Fish Company

Public Notice of Draft date: November 1, 2019

### Purpose of this fact sheet

This fact sheet explains and documents the decisions the Department of Ecology (Ecology) made in drafting the proposed state waste discharge permit for Boundary Fish Company (Boundary Fish) that will allow discharge of wastewater to Blaine's Lighthouse Point Water Reclamation Facility.

State law requires any commercial or industrial facility to obtain a permit before discharging waste or chemicals to municipal sanitary sewer collection and treatment systems.

Ecology makes the draft permit and fact sheet available for public review and comment at least thirty (30) days before it issues the final permit to the facility operator. Copies of the fact sheet and draft permit for Boundary Fish, state waste discharge permit no. ST0501301, are available for public review and comment from November 1, 2019, until the close of business December 2, 2019. For more details on preparing and filing comments about these documents, please see **Appendix A - Public Involvement Information**.

Boundary Fish Company reviewed the draft permit and fact sheet for factual accuracy. Ecology corrected any errors or omissions about the facility's location, history, product type, production rate, or discharges prior to publishing this draft fact sheet for public notice.

After the public comment period closes, Ecology will summarize substantive comments and our responses to them. Ecology will include our summary and responses to comments to this fact sheet as **Appendix D - Response to Comments**, and publish it when we issue the final state waste discharge permit. Ecology generally will not revise the rest of the fact sheet. The full document will become part of the legal history contained in the facility's permit file.

### Summary

Boundary Fish Company discharges pretreated process wastewater to the City of Blaine's Lighthouse Point Water Reclamation Facility. Boundary Fish used to be part of a consortium of seafood processors that utilized the same outfall under one National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) discharge permit. That permit was allowed to lapse and was not renewed.

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## I. Introduction

The Legislature defined Ecology's authority and obligations for the wastewater discharge permit program in the Water Pollution Control law, chapter 90.48 RCW (Revised Code of Washington).

Ecology adopted rules describing how it exercises its authority:

- State waste discharge program (chapter 173-216 WAC).
- Submission of plans and reports for construction of wastewater facilities (chapter 173-240 WAC).

These rules require any industrial facility owner/operator to obtain a state waste discharge permit before discharging wastewater to state waters. This rule includes commercial or industrial discharges to sewerage systems operated by municipalities or public entities which discharge into public waters of the state. They also help define the basis for limits on each discharge and for other performance requirements imposed by the permit.

Under the state waste discharge permit program and in response to a completed and accepted permit application, Ecology generally prepares a draft permit and accompanying fact sheet, and makes it available for public review before final issuance. If the volume of the discharge has not changed or if the characteristics of the discharge have not changed, Ecology may choose not to issue a public notice. When Ecology publishes an announcement (public notice), it tells people where they can read the draft permit, and where to send their comments, during a period of thirty days. (See **Appendix A – Public Involvement Information** for more detail about the public notice and comment procedures). After the public comment period ends, Ecology may make changes to the draft state waste discharge permit in response to comment(s). Ecology will summarize the responses to comments and any changes to the permit in **Appendix D**.

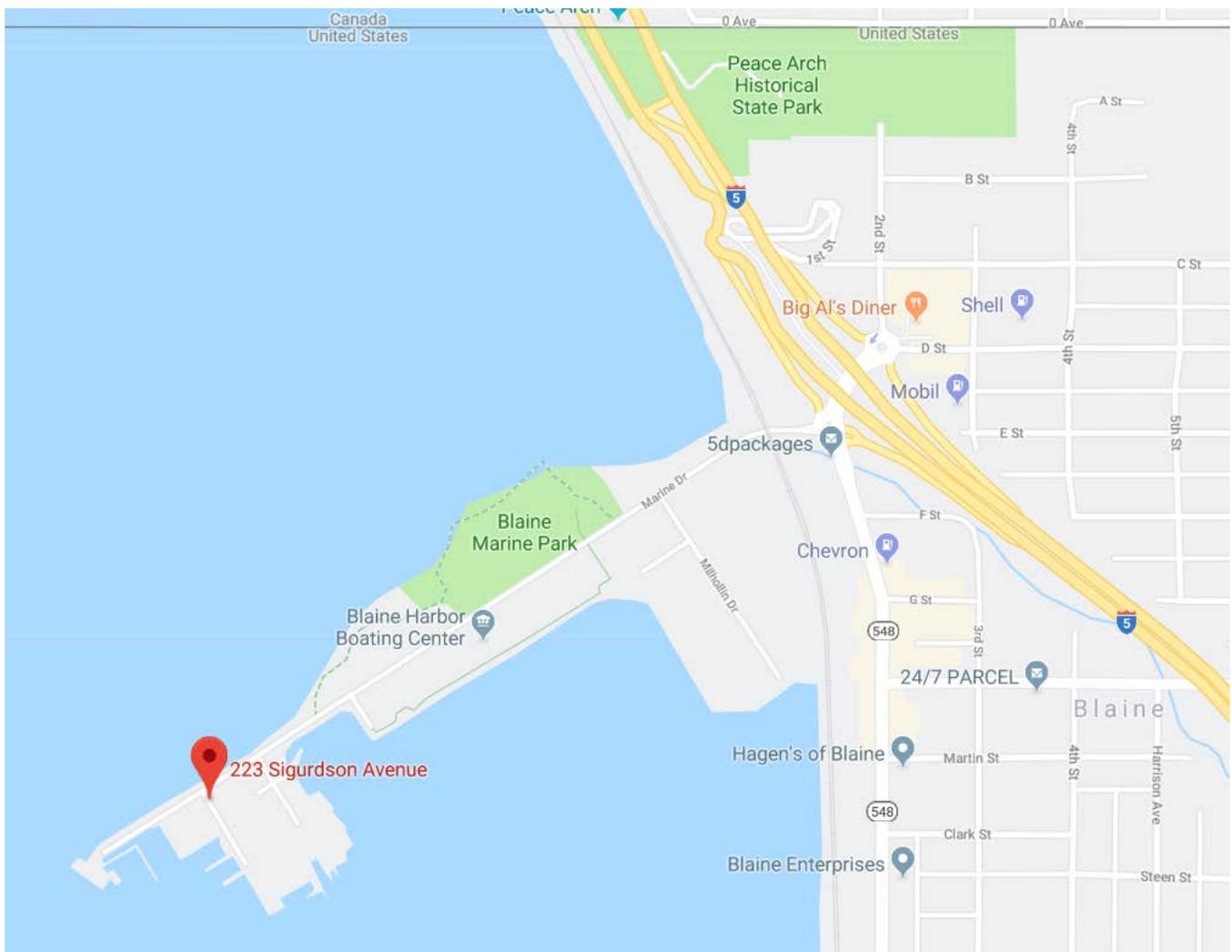
## II. Background Information

**Table 1. General Facility Information**

Facility Information	
Applicant	Boundary Fish Company
Facility Name and Address	223 Sigurdson Avenue Blaine, WA 98230
Contact at Facility	Name: Arnold Yuki Telephone #: 360-332-6715
Responsible Official	Name: Arnold Yuki Title: Director Address: 223 Sigurdson Avenue Telephone #: 360-332-6715 FAX #: 360-332-6205
Industrial User Type	Minor Industrial User
Industry Type	Seafood Processor
Type of Treatment by Industry	Screening
SIC Codes	2092
NAIC Codes	311710
Facility Location (NAD83/WGS84 reference datum)	Latitude: 48.991601 Longitude: -122.762969
Treatment Plant Receiving Discharge	Lighthouse Point Water Reclamation Facility

Facility Information	
Discharge Location (NAD83/WGS84 reference datum)	Latitude: 48.9917209 Longitude: -122.7534251
Permit Status	
Issuance Date of Permit	
Application for Permit Renewal Submittal Date	November 7, 2016
Date of Ecology Acceptance of Application	May 25, 2017
Inspection Status	
Date of Last Non-sampling Inspection Date	September 19, 2019

**Figure 1. Facility Location Map**



## **A. Facility description**

### *History*

Boundary Fish Company (Boundary Fish) began as a co-operative seafood company owned by fishermen in 1966. The current owner, Henry Yuki, took ownership in 1977. Boundary Fish was primarily buying and processing salmon in Blaine as well as other locations on the west coast. They diversified their products adding live or cooked Dungeness Crab, Pacific Spiny Dogfish, Black Cod, Halibut, Albacore Tuna, and salmon roe (eggs). Boundary Fish products are marked all over the world. The Blaine facility is approved and listed for global distribution through the United States Department of Commerce. A new building was built in 2012 to add covered space for live crab storage. Boundary Fish entered into an agreement on November 21, 2016, with the City of Blaine (City) for the City to accept Boundary Fish screened effluent. A formal contract was signed on January 19, 2017.

### *Industrial processes*

Boundary Fish processes fish during the months of June, July, August, September, October, and November. Approximately 350,000 pounds of fish are processed annually. Approximately 950 gallons of process wastewater is generated during cleanup and washdown during and after fish butchering. During months when the facility processes fish, it operates 8-hour shifts, typically 2 ½ days a week. The company also buys and sells live Dungeness crab. Crab are kept alive in tanks with sea water drawn from Drayton Harbor and allowed to overflow until they are shipped. During washdown, Bio Sol concentrate, Super Red Plus, and household-strength bleach are used to clean and sterilize processing tables and surfaces. Wash waters enter drains that flow to the facility's connection with Blaine's wastewater system.

### *Wastewater pretreatment*

Fish are cleaned, filleted, and frozen. Guts and fin-parts are put into garbage bags. Any bits that fall on the floor are caught by grates covering drains in the processing areas. Effluent enters floor drains in the older building merging to a single pipe that drains to a wet well outside and across from the administrative office. Wastewater from the new building passes through floor grates and eventually drains to a single pipe, which drains to a sump and is pumped to the wet well. Effluent is then pumped up through 4-inch PVC piping and allowed to drain across the hydrosieve where fish scales and other organic matter are captured. Screened matter falls into a PVC tote and is disposed of as solid waste. Screened effluent gravity drains to the City of Blaine's sewer system.

### *Solid wastes*

The majority of solid wastes from fish processing are swept up and disposed of in garbage cans before they reach floor grates. Fins, scales, and bones are collected from the floor grates, troughs below the grates, and sumps. These wastes are deposited in solid waste cans. Solid wastes filtered by the hydrosieve drop to a tote and are removed at the end of the work day. Crab pieces from live crab tanks are removed and deposited in solid waste cans.

## B. Discharge location to the City of Blaine

Boundary Fish discharges to the City of Blaine’s sewer through a connection across Sigurdson Way from the company’s office. When Boundary Fish is processing, samples are taken from below the hydrosieve that removes fish scales and pieces. Flow is calculated from the City’s water meter.

## C. Wastewater characterization

Boundary Fish reported the concentration of pollutants in the permit application and in discharge monitoring reports. The tabulated data represents the quality of the effluent discharged from 10/19/2016 to 10/20/2016. The effluent is characterized as follows:

**Table 2. Wastewater Characterization**

Parameter	Units	# of Samples	Average Value	Maximum Value
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD <sub>5</sub> )	mg/L	5	457	1300
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	mg/L	5	187	470
Oil and Grease	mg/L	1	NA	15

Parameter	Units	# of Samples	Minimum Value	Maximum Value
pH	Standard Units	2	6.8	7.6
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	#/100 mL	2	23	30

## D. State environmental policy act (SEPA) compliance

State law exempts the issuance, reissuance, or modification of any wastewater discharge permit from the SEPA process as long as the permit contains conditions that are no less stringent than federal and state rules and regulations (RCW 43.21C.0383). The exemption applies only to existing discharges, not to new discharges.

## III. Proposed Permit Limits

State regulations require that Ecology base limits in a state waste discharge permit on the:

- Technology and treatment methods available to treat specific pollutants (technology-based). Technology-based limits are set by the EPA and published as a regulation (40 CFR 400 - 471), or Ecology develops limits on a case-by-case basis (40 CFR 125.3, and RCW 90.48). Dischargers must treat wastewater using all known, available, reasonable methods of prevention, control, and treatment (AKART).
- Effects of the pollutants on the publicly owned treatment works (POTW). Wastewater must not interfere with the operation of the POTW. Ecology considers local limits in developing permit limits.
- Applicable requirements of other local, state and federal laws.

Ecology applies the most stringent of these limits to each parameter of concern and further describes the proposed limits below.

The limits in this permit reflect information received in the application and from supporting reports (engineering, hydrogeology, monitoring, etc.). Ecology evaluated the permit application and determined the limits needed to comply with the rules adopted by the state of Washington. Ecology does not develop effluent limits for all reported pollutants. Some pollutants are not treatable at the concentrations reported, are not controllable at the source, and are not listed in regulation.

Ecology does not usually develop permit limits for pollutants not reported in the permit application but may be present in the discharge. The permit does not authorize the discharge of the non-reported pollutants. During the five-year permit term, the facility's effluent discharge conditions may change from those conditions reported in the permit application. The facility must notify Ecology if significant changes occur in any constituent. Until Ecology modifies the permit to reflect additional discharge of pollutants, a permitted facility could be violating its permit.

### **A. Technology-based effluent limits**

Waste discharge permits issued by Ecology specify conditions requiring all available and reasonable methods of prevention, control, and treatment (AKART) of discharges to waters of the state (RCW 90.48). The minimum requirements to demonstrate compliance with the AKART standard and specific design criteria for this facility were determined by using best professional judgment (BPJ) referencing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) contract document, *Reassessment of Effluent Limitations Guidelines and New Source Performance Standards for the Canned and Preserved Seafood Processing Point Source Category* (1979).

The best conventional pollutant control technology (BCT) limits recommended in the document were achieved through in-plant changes to reduce water flow and waste loads, in addition to coarse screening (0.75"), followed by fine-mesh screening, defined as 20 mesh or finer.

Existing federal categorical limits for this facility are found under 40 CFR Part 408.

There are no numerical pretreatment standards for BOD5, pH, or TSS for existing sources in the seafood processing industry listed. Boundary Fish engages primarily in live crab with some raw fish processing.

The state waste discharge permit regulations include restrictions and prohibitions to protect publicly owned sewerage systems. A facility may not discharge any wastewater having a pH less than 5.0 or greater than 11.0 or having any other corrosive property capable of causing damage or hazard to structures, equipment, or personnel unless the:

- System is specifically designed to accommodate such discharge.
- Discharge is authorized by a permit (WAC 173-216-060).

Federal regulations (40 CFR 403.5b) also prohibit the discharge of pollutants which will cause corrosive structural damage to the POTW, but in no case discharges with pH lower than 5.0, unless the collection and treatment system is designed to accommodate such discharges.

The following permit limits are necessary to satisfy the requirement for AKART:

*All process wastewater (including clean-up water) shall be screened through 20-mesh screening or finer prior to discharge to the City of Blaine sanitary sewer system.*

## B. Effluent limits based on local limits

To protect the Lighthouse Point Water Reclamation Facility from pass-through, interference, concentrations of toxic chemicals that would impair beneficial or designated uses of sludge, or potentially hazardous exposure levels, Ecology believes it necessary to impose limits for certain parameters. However, the City of Blaine has not developed local limits. In its sewer use municipal code, the City has prohibitions on wastewater discharges outside the pH range of 5.5 to 9.5 and other prohibitions such as excessive oils and greases and the requirement to install grease traps, prohibitions on chromium, copper, zinc and other toxic substances. All of the City sewer use requirements, prohibitions, and restrictions are applicable to Boundary Fish Co. Ecology’s pretreatment program delegation agreement with EPA includes language in which Ecology agreed to enforce limits adopted by non-delegated programs (local limits). Applicable limits for this discharge include the following:

Parameter	Maximum Daily	
Oil & Grease	100 mg/L	

Parameter	Daily Minimum	Daily Maximum
pH	5.5 standard units	9.5 standard units

The oil and grease limit listed above, with monthly monitoring, is based on the permit writer’s best professional judgement in that most modern WWTP have a limit of 100 mg/L for nonpolar fats, oils, and greases.

The permit requires monitoring for five-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD<sub>5</sub>) and total suspended solids (TSS) on a monthly basis. No BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS limits have been imposed in the proposed permit. This data will characterize the wastewater to help future permitting decisions.

The permit also lists appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) that must be considered by the Permittee to avoid clogging of the collection system. The list includes the following: maintain all grease traps and oil/water separators, which discharge to the City of Blaine WWTP, in good working order; inspect such traps on at least a monthly basis and clean as necessary; maintain a log of each such inspection and cleaning performed and make the log available, upon request, to Ecology during any inspection of the facility it conducts; wastewater must not be discharged to sanitary sewer if free floating polar fats, oils, and greases (FOG) are visible on the surface or adhering to the sides of storage containers.

## IV. Monitoring Requirements

Ecology requires monitoring, recording, and reporting (WAC 173-216-110) to verify that the treatment process functions correctly and that the discharge complies with the permit’s effluent limits.

If a facility uses a contract laboratory to monitor wastewater, it must ensure that the laboratory uses the methods and meets or exceeds the method detection levels required by the permit. The permit describes when facilities may use alternative methods. It also describes what to do in

certain situations when the laboratory encounters matrix effects. When a facility uses an alternative method as allowed by the permit, it must report the test method, detection level (DL), and quantitation level (QL) on the discharge monitoring report or in the required report.

#### **A. Lab accreditation**

Ecology requires that facilities must use a laboratory registered or accredited under the provisions of chapter 173-50 WAC, Accreditation of Environmental Laboratories, to prepare all monitoring data (with the exception of certain parameters).

#### **B. Wastewater monitoring**

Ecology details the proposed monitoring schedule under Special Condition S2. Specified monitoring frequencies take into account the quantity and variability of the discharge, the treatment method, past compliance, significance of pollutants, and cost of monitoring.

### **V. Other Permit Conditions**

#### **A. Reporting and record keeping**

Ecology based Special Condition S3 on its authority to specify any appropriate reporting and record keeping requirements to prevent and control waste discharges [WAC 173-216-110 and CFR 403.12 (e),(g), and (h)].

#### **B. Operations and maintenance**

Ecology requires dischargers to take all reasonable steps to properly operate and maintain their wastewater treatment system in accordance with state regulations (WAC 173-240-080 and WAC 173-216-110). The facility must prepare and submit an updated of an operation and maintenance (O&M) manual as required by state regulation for the construction of wastewater treatment facilities (WAC 173-240-150). Implementation of the procedures in the operation and maintenance manual ensures the facility's compliance with the terms and limits in the permit.

#### **C. Prohibited discharges**

Ecology prohibits certain pollutants from being discharged to the POTW. These include substances which cause pass-through or interference, pollutants which may cause damage to the POTW or harm to the POTW workers (chapter 173-216 WAC) and the discharge of designated dangerous wastes not authorized by this permit (chapter 173-303 WAC).

#### **D. Dilution prohibited**

Ecology prohibits the facility from diluting its effluent as a partial or complete substitute for adequate treatment to achieve compliance with permit limits.

#### **E. Solid waste control plan**

Boundary Fish could cause pollution of the waters of the state through inappropriate disposal of solid waste or through the release of leachate from solid waste.

This proposed permit requires this facility to develop a solid waste control plan to prevent solid waste from causing pollution of waters of the state. Boundary Fish must submit the plan to Ecology for approval (RCW 90.48.080).

#### **F. Non-routine and unanticipated wastewater**

Occasionally, this facility may generate wastewater not characterized in the permit application because it is not a routine discharge and the facility did not anticipate it at the time of application. These wastes typically consist of waters used to pressure-test storage tanks or fire water systems or of leaks from drinking water systems.

The permit authorizes the discharge of non-routine and unanticipated wastewater under certain conditions. The facility must characterize these waste waters for pollutants and examine the opportunities for reuse. Depending on the nature and extent of pollutants in this wastewater and on any opportunities for reuse, Ecology may:

- Authorize the facility to discharge the water.
- Require the facility to treat the wastewater.
- Require the facility to reuse the wastewater.

#### **G. Slug discharge plan**

Ecology determined that Boundary Fish has the potential for a batch discharge or a spill that could adversely affect the treatment plant, therefore the proposed permit requires a slug discharge control plan [(40 CFR 403.8 (f)(1) (iii)(B)(6) and (f) (2)(vi)].

#### **H. General conditions**

Ecology bases the standardized general conditions on state law and regulations. They are included in all state waste discharge permits issued by Ecology.

### **VI. Public Notification of Noncompliance**

Ecology may annually publish a list of all industrial users in significant noncompliance with pretreatment standards or requirements during any of the previous four quarters in a local newspaper. Accordingly, this permit Special Condition informs the facility that noncompliance with this permit may result in publication of the noncompliance.

### **VII. Permit Issuance Procedures**

#### **A. Permit modifications**

Ecology may modify this permit to impose or change the numerical limits, if necessary, to comply with changes in the pretreatment requirements, conditions in local sewer ordinances, or based on new information from sources such as inspections and effluent monitoring. It may also modify this permit to comply with new or amended state or federal regulations.

## **B. Proposed permit issuance**

This proposed permit meets all statutory requirements for authorizing a wastewater discharge, including those limits and conditions believed necessary to control toxics. Ecology proposes that the permit be issued for 5 years.

## **VIII. References for Text and Appendices**

Washington State Department of Ecology.

Laws and Regulations

<https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Laws-rules-rulemaking>

Permit and Wastewater Related Information

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

January 2015. *Permit Writer's Manual*, Publication Number 92-109

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/92109.html>

February 2007. *Focus Sheet on Solid Waste Control Plan, Developing a Solid Waste Control Plan for Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permittees*, Publication Number 07-10-024.

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/0710024.html>

## Appendix A--Public Involvement Information

Ecology proposes to issue a permit to Boundary Fish Company. The permit includes wastewater discharge limits and other conditions. This fact sheet describes the facility and Ecology's reasons for requiring permit conditions.

Ecology will place a Public Notice of Draft on November 1, 2019, in the *Bellingham Herald* to inform the public and to invite comment on the proposed draft state waste discharge permit and fact sheet.

The notice:

- Tells where copies of the draft permit and fact sheet are available for public evaluation (a local public library, the closest Regional or Field Office, posted on our website).
- Offers to provide the documents in an alternate format to accommodate special needs.
- Urges people to submit their comments, in writing, before the end of the comment period
- Tells how to request a public hearing of comments about the proposed state waste discharge permit.
- Explains the next step(s) in the permitting process.

Ecology has published a document entitled *Frequently Asked Questions about Effective Public Commenting*, which is available on our website at

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/0307023.html>.

You may obtain further information from Ecology by telephone, (425) 649-7201, or by writing to the address listed below.

Water Quality Permit Coordinator  
Department of Ecology  
Northwest Regional Office  
3190 160<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

The primary authors of this permit and fact sheet are Mark Henderson and Biniam Zelelow.

## Appendix B--Your Right to Appeal

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

To appeal, you must do the following within thirty (30) days of the date of receipt of this permit:

- File your appeal and a copy of this permit with the PCHB (see addresses below). Filing means actual receipt by the PCHB during regular business hours.
- Serve a copy of your appeal and this permit on Ecology in paper form - by mail or in person. (See addresses below.) E-mail is not accepted.

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

### ADDRESS AND LOCATION INFORMATION

Street Addresses	Mailing Addresses
<b>Department of Ecology</b> Attn: Appeals Processing Desk 300 Desmond Drive SE Lacey, WA 98503	<b>Department of Ecology</b> Attn: Appeals Processing Desk PO Box 47608 Olympia, WA 98504-7608
<b>Pollution Control Hearings Board</b> 1111 Israel RD SW STE 301 Tumwater, WA 98501	<b>Pollution Control Hearings Board</b> PO Box 40903 Olympia, WA 98504-0903

## Appendix C--Glossary

**AKART** -- The acronym for “all known, available, and reasonable methods of prevention, control and treatment.” AKART is a technology-based approach to limiting pollutants from wastewater discharges, which requires an engineering judgment and an economic judgment. AKART must be applied to all wastes and contaminants prior to entry into waters of the state in accordance with RCW 90.48.010 and 520, WAC 173-200-030(2)(c)(ii), and WAC 173-216-110(1)(a).

**Alternate point of compliance** -- An alternative location in the groundwater from the point of compliance where compliance with the groundwater standards is measured. It may be established in the groundwater at locations some distance from the discharge source, up to, but not exceeding the property boundary and is determined on a site specific basis following an AKART analysis. An “early warning value” must be used when an alternate point is established. An alternate point of compliance must be determined and approved in accordance with WAC 173-200-060(2).

**Ambient water quality** -- The existing environmental condition of the water in a receiving water body.

**Ammonia** -- Ammonia is produced by the breakdown of nitrogenous materials in wastewater. Ammonia is toxic to aquatic organisms, exerts an oxygen demand, and contributes to eutrophication. It also increases the amount of chlorine needed to disinfect wastewater.

**Average monthly discharge limit** -- The average of the measured values obtained over a calendar month's time.

**Background water quality** -- The concentrations of chemical, physical, biological or radiological constituents or other characteristics in or of groundwater at a particular point in time upgradient of an activity that has not been affected by that activity [WAC 173-200-020(3)]. Background water quality for any parameter is statistically defined as the 95% upper tolerance interval with a 95% confidence based on at least eight hydraulically upgradient water quality samples. The eight samples are collected over a period of at least one year, with no more than one sample collected during any month in a single calendar year.

**Best management practices (BMPs)** -- Schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other physical, structural and/or managerial practices to prevent or reduce the pollution of waters of the state. BMPs include treatment systems, operating procedures, and practices to control: plant site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw material storage. BMPs may be further categorized as operational, source control, erosion and sediment control, and treatment BMPs.

**BOD5** -- Determining the five-day Biochemical Oxygen Demand of an effluent is an indirect way of measuring the quantity of organic material present in an effluent that is utilized by bacteria. The BOD5 is used in modeling to measure the reduction of dissolved oxygen in receiving waters after effluent is discharged. Stress caused by reduced dissolved oxygen levels makes organisms less competitive and less able to sustain their species in the aquatic environment. Although BOD<sub>5</sub> is not a specific compound, it is defined as a conventional pollutant under the federal Clean Water Act.

**Bypass** -- The intentional diversion of waste streams from any portion of a treatment facility.

**Categorical pretreatment standards** -- National pretreatment standards specifying quantities or concentrations of pollutants or pollutant properties, which may be discharged to a POTW by existing or new industrial users in specific industrial subcategories.

**Chlorine** -- A chemical used to disinfect wastewaters of pathogens harmful to human health. It is also extremely toxic to aquatic life.

**Chronic toxicity** -- The effect of a compound on an organism over a relatively long time, often 1/10 of an organism's lifespan or more. Chronic toxicity can measure survival, reproduction or growth rates, or other parameters to measure the toxic effects of a compound or combination of compounds.

**Clean water act (CWA)** -- The federal Water Pollution Control Act enacted by Public Law 92-500, as amended by Public Laws 95-217, 95-576, 96-483, 97-117; USC 1251 et seq.

**Compliance inspection-without sampling** -- A site visit for the purpose of determining the compliance of a facility with the terms and conditions of its permit or with applicable statutes and regulations.

**Compliance inspection-with sampling** -- A site visit for the purpose of determining the compliance of a facility with the terms and conditions of its permit or with applicable statutes and regulations. In addition it includes as a minimum, sampling and analysis for all parameters with limits in the permit to ascertain compliance with those limits; and, for municipal facilities, sampling of influent to ascertain compliance with the 85 percent removal requirement. Ecology may conduct additional sampling.

**Composite sample** -- A mixture of grab samples collected at the same sampling point at different times, formed either by continuous sampling or by mixing discrete samples. May be "time-composite" (collected at constant time intervals) or "flow-proportional" (collected either as a constant sample volume at time intervals proportional to stream flow, or collected by increasing the volume of each aliquot as the flow increased while maintaining a constant time interval between the aliquots).

**Construction activity** -- Clearing, grading, excavation, and any other activity, which disturbs the surface of the land. Such activities may include road building; construction of residential houses, office buildings, or industrial buildings; and demolition activity.

**Continuous monitoring** -- Uninterrupted, unless otherwise noted in the permit.

**Critical condition** -- The time during which the combination of receiving water and waste discharge conditions have the highest potential for causing toxicity in the receiving water environment. This situation usually occurs when the flow within a water body is low, thus, its ability to dilute effluent is reduced.

**Date of receipt** -- This is defined in RCW 43.21B.001(2) as five business days after the date of mailing; or the date of actual receipt, when the actual receipt date can be proven by a preponderance of the evidence. The recipient's sworn affidavit or declaration indicating the date of receipt, which is unchallenged by the agency, constitutes sufficient evidence of actual receipt. The date of actual receipt, however, may not exceed forty-five days from the date of mailing.

**Detection limit** -- The minimum concentration of a substance that can be measured and reported with 99 percent confidence that the pollutant concentration is above zero and is determined from analysis of a sample in a given matrix containing the pollutant.

**Dilution factor (DF)** -- A measure of the amount of mixing of effluent and receiving water that occurs at the boundary of the mixing zone. Expressed as the inverse of the percent effluent fraction, for example, a dilution factor of 10 means the effluent comprises 10% by volume and the receiving water 90%.

**Enforcement limit** -- The concentration assigned to a contaminant in the groundwater at the point of compliance for the purpose of regulation, [WAC 173-200-020(11)]. This limit assures that a groundwater criterion will not be exceeded and that background water quality will be protected.

**Engineering report** -- A document that thoroughly examines the engineering and administrative aspects of a particular domestic or industrial wastewater facility. The report must contain the appropriate information required in WAC 173-240-060 or 173-240-130.

**Fecal coliform bacteria** -- Fecal coliform bacteria are used as indicators of pathogenic bacteria in the effluent that are harmful to humans. Pathogenic bacteria in wastewater discharges are controlled by disinfecting the wastewater. The presence of high numbers of fecal coliform bacteria in a water body can indicate the recent release of untreated wastewater and/or the presence of animal feces.

**Grab sample** -- A single sample or measurement taken at a specific time or over as short a period of time as is feasible.

**Groundwater** -- Water in a saturated zone or stratum beneath the surface of land or below a surface water body.

**Industrial user** -- A discharger of wastewater to the sanitary sewer that is not sanitary wastewater or is not equivalent to sanitary wastewater in character.

**Industrial wastewater** -- Water or liquid-carried waste from industrial or commercial processes, as distinct from domestic wastewater. These wastes may result from any process or activity of industry, manufacture, trade or business; from the development of any natural resource; or from animal operations such as feed lots, poultry houses, or dairies. The term includes contaminated stormwater and, also, leachate from solid waste facilities.

**Interference** -- A discharge which, alone or in conjunction with a discharge or discharges from other sources, both:

- Inhibits or disrupts the POTW, its treatment processes or operations, or its sludge processes, use or disposal; and
- Therefore is a cause of a violation of any requirement of the POTW's NPDES permit (including an increase in the magnitude or duration of a violation) or of the prevention of sewage sludge use or disposal in compliance with the following statutory provisions and regulations or permits issued thereunder (or more stringent State or local regulations): Section 405 of the Clean Water Act, the Solid Waste Disposal Act (SWDA) (including Title II, more commonly referred to as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and including State regulations contained in any State sludge management plan

prepared pursuant to subtitle D of the SWDA), sludge regulations appearing in 40 CFR Part 507, the Clean Air Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, and the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act.

**Local limits** -- Specific prohibitions or limits on pollutants or pollutant parameters developed by a POTW.

**Major facility** -- A facility discharging to surface water with an EPA rating score of > 80 points based on such factors as flow volume, toxic pollutant potential, and public health impact.

**Maximum daily discharge limit** -- The highest allowable daily discharge of a pollutant measured during a calendar day or any 24-hour period that reasonably represents the calendar day for purposes of sampling. The daily discharge is the maximum discharge of a pollutant measured during a calendar day.

**Method detection level (MDL)** -- See Detection Limit.

**National pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES)** -- The NPDES (Section 402 of the Clean Water Act) is the federal wastewater permitting system for discharges to navigable waters of the United States. Many states, including the state of Washington, have been delegated the authority to issue these permits. NPDES permits issued by Washington State permit writers are joint NPDES/State permits issued under both state and federal laws.

**pH** -- The pH of a liquid measures its acidity or alkalinity. It is the negative logarithm of the hydrogen ion concentration. A pH of 7 is defined as neutral and large variations above or below this value are considered harmful to most aquatic life.

**Pass-through** -- A discharge which exits the POTW into waters of the State in quantities or concentrations which, alone or in conjunction with a discharge or discharges from other sources, is a cause of a violation of any requirement of the POTW's NPDES permit (including an increase in the magnitude or duration of a violation), or which is a cause of a violation of State water quality standards.

**Point of compliance** -- The location in the groundwater where the enforcement limit must not be exceeded and a facility must comply with the Ground Water Quality Standards. Ecology determines this limit on a site-specific basis. Ecology locates the point of compliance in the groundwater as near and directly downgradient from the pollutant source as technically, hydrogeologically, and geographically feasible, unless it approves an alternative point of compliance.

**Potential significant industrial user (PSIU)** --A potential significant industrial user is defined as an Industrial User that does not meet the criteria for a Significant Industrial User, but which discharges wastewater meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- a. Exceeds 0.5 % of treatment plant design capacity criteria and discharges <25,000 gallons per day; or
- b. Is a member of a group of similar industrial users which, taken together, have the potential to cause pass through or interference at the POTW (e.g. facilities which develop photographic film or paper, and car washes).

Ecology may determine that a discharger initially classified as a potential significant industrial user should be managed as a significant industrial user.

**Quantitation level (QL)** -- Also known as Minimum Level of Quantitation (ML) – The lowest level at which the entire analytical system must give a recognizable signal and acceptable calibration point for the analyte. It is equivalent to the concentration of the lowest calibration standard, assuming that the lab has used all method-specified sample weights, volumes, and cleanup procedures. The QL is calculated by multiplying the MDL by 3.18 and rounding the result to the number nearest to  $(1, 2, \text{ or } 5) \times 10^n$ , where  $n$  is an integer (64 FR 30417).

ALSO GIVEN AS:

The smallest detectable concentration of analyte greater than the Detection Limit (DL) where the accuracy (precision & bias) achieves the objectives of the intended purpose. (Report of the Federal Advisory Committee on Detection and Quantitation Approaches and Uses in Clean Water Act Programs Submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency, December 2007).

**Reasonable potential** -- A reasonable potential to cause a water quality violation, or loss of sensitive and/or important habitat.

**Responsible corporate officer** -- 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 the manager of one or more manufacturing, production, or operating facilities employing more than 250 persons or have gross annual sales or expenditures exceeding \$25 million (in second quarter 1980 dollars), if authority to sign documents has been assigned or delegated to the manager in accordance with corporate procedures (40 CFR 122.22).

**Sample Maximum** -- No sample may exceed this value.

**Significant industrial user (SIU)** --

- 1) All industrial users subject to Categorical Pretreatment Standards under 40 CFR 403.6 and 40 CFR Chapter I, Subchapter N; and
- 2) Any other industrial user that discharges an average of 25,000 gallons per day or more of process wastewater to the POTW (excluding sanitary, noncontact cooling, and boiler blow-down wastewater); contributes a process wastestream that makes up 5 percent or more of the average dry weather hydraulic or organic capacity of the POTW treatment plant; or is designated as such by the Control Authority\* on the basis that the industrial user has a reasonable potential for adversely affecting the POTW's operation or for violating any pretreatment standard or requirement [in accordance with 40 CFR 403.8(f)(6)].

Upon finding that the industrial user meeting the criteria in paragraph 2, above, has no reasonable potential for adversely affecting the POTW's operation or for violating any pretreatment standard or requirement, the Control Authority\* may at any time, on its own initiative or in response to a petition received from an industrial user or POTW, and in accordance with 40 CFR 403.8(f)(6), determine that such industrial user is not a significant industrial user.

\*The term "Control Authority" refers to the Washington State Department of Ecology in the case of non-delegated POTWs or to the POTW in the case of delegated POTWs.

**Slug discharge** -- Any discharge of a non-routine, episodic nature, including but not limited to an accidental spill or a non-customary batch discharge to the POTW. This may include any pollutant released at a flow rate that may cause interference or pass through with the POTW or in any way violate the permit conditions or the POTW's regulations and local limits.

**Solid waste** -- All putrescible and non-putrescible solid and semisolid wastes including, but not limited to, garbage, rubbish, ashes, industrial wastes, swill, sewage sludge, demolition and construction wastes, abandoned vehicles or parts thereof, contaminated soils and contaminated dredged material, and recyclable materials.

**Soluble BOD<sub>5</sub>** -- Determining the soluble fraction of Biochemical Oxygen Demand of an effluent is an indirect way of measuring the quantity of soluble organic material present in an effluent that is utilized by bacteria. Although the soluble BOD<sub>5</sub> test is not specifically described in Standard Methods, filtering the raw sample through at least a 1.2 um filter prior to running the standard BOD<sub>5</sub> test is sufficient to remove the particulate organic fraction.

**State waters** -- Lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, inland waters, underground waters, salt waters, and all other surface waters and watercourses within the jurisdiction of the state of Washington.

**Stormwater** -- That portion of precipitation that does not naturally percolate into the ground or evaporate, but flows via overland flow, interflow, pipes, and other features of a stormwater drainage system into a defined surface water body, or a constructed infiltration facility.

**Technology-based effluent limit** -- A permit limit based on the ability of a treatment method to reduce the pollutant.

**Total coliform bacteria** -- A microbiological test, which detects and enumerates the total coliform group of bacteria in water samples.

**Total dissolved solids** -- That portion of total solids in water or wastewater that passes through a specific filter.

**Total maximum daily load (TMDL)** -- A determination of the amount of pollutant that a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards.

**Total suspended solids (TSS)** -- Total suspended solids is the particulate material in an effluent. Large quantities of TSS discharged to a receiving water may result in solids accumulation. Apart from any toxic effects attributable to substances leached out by water, suspended solids may kill fish, shellfish, and other aquatic organisms by causing abrasive injuries and by clogging the gills and respiratory passages of various aquatic fauna. Indirectly, suspended solids can screen out light and can promote and maintain the development of noxious conditions through oxygen depletion.

**Upset** -- An exceptional incident in which there is unintentional and temporary noncompliance with technology-based permit effluent limits because of factors beyond the reasonable control of the Permittee. An upset does not include noncompliance to the extent caused by operational error, improperly designed treatment facilities, lack of preventative maintenance, or careless or improper operation.

**Water quality-based effluent limit** -- A limit imposed on the concentration of an effluent parameter to prevent the concentration of that parameter from exceeding its water quality criterion after discharge into receiving waters.

## **Appendix D--Response to Comments**

[Ecology will complete this section after the public notice of draft period.]