



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY**  
**Eastern Region Office**

4601 North Monroe St., Spokane, WA 99205-1265 • 509-329-3400

November 7, 2024

Chris Robinson  
President & General Manager  
Inland Empire Paper Company  
3320 North Argonne Road  
Spokane, Washington 99212

RE: Draft Modified National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit  
WA000825 – Inland Empire Paper Company

Dear Chris Robinson:

Enclosed is Ecology's draft modified National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. Please review these documents to ensure that you understand and agree with all changes and conditions.

Also enclosed is a copy of the public notice of draft permit describing your wastewater treatment discharge and the reason for the permit modification. The Department of Ecology will publish this notice in the "Legal Classified Section" of the Spokesman Review on November 7, 2024.

The draft documents are available on [PARIS<sup>1</sup>](#), Ecology's Water Quality Permitting and Reporting Information System website. There is a more detailed explanation in the attached fact sheet amendment.

The comment period ends December 9, 2024; submit comments no later than that date. Ecology will review and respond to comments received during the 30-day public review period and will issue the final permit after all comments have been addressed.

Please contact Pat Hallinan at (509) 329-3500 or by email at [phal461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:phal461@ecy.wa.gov) if you have questions or need assistance.

Sincerely,

Shara Joy  
Water Quality Program  
Eastern Regional Office

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/paris/DocumentSearch.aspx>



SJ:sj

Enclosures: Draft modified permit, fact sheet amendment, & public notice

cc: Doug Krapas, Inland Empire Paper Company

Justin Yeager, NOAA

Gina Hoff, Bureau of Reclamation

Shayne Cothorn, Department of Natural Resources

Katelyn Scott, Spokane Riverkeeper

Kevin Cooke, Spokane County

Rachael Osborn, Center for Environmental Law & Policy

Kathy Dixon, Upper Columbia River Group

Meghan Lunney, Avista Corporation

Kevin Freeman, City of Millwood

Jennifer Wu, US EPA Region 10

Cody Piscitelli, US EPA Region 10

Brian Nickel, US EPA Region 10

Susan Poulson, US EPA Region 10

Andy C. Joseph Jr., Colville Confederated Tribes

Rodney Cawston, Colville Confederated Tribes

Douglas Marconi Jr., Colville Confederated Tribes

Cody Desautel, Colville Confederated Tribes

Carol Evans, Spokane Tribe of Indians

Chad McCrea, Spokane Tribe of Indians

Glen D. Nenema, Kalispel Tribe of Indians

Deane Osterman, Kalispel Tribe of Indians

Ken Merrill, Kalispel Tribe of Indians

Chief Allan, Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Caj Matheson, Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Scott Fields, Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Pat Hallinan, WQP Permit Manager, Ecology Eastern Region

Art Jenkins, PE, WQP Permit Management Unit Supervisor, Ecology Eastern Region

Greg Dobb, PE, WQP Permit Development Unit Supervisor, Ecology Eastern Region



## NOTICE: ANNOUNCEMENT OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT PERMIT MODIFICATION

Permit Number: WA000825  
Applicant: Inland Empire Paper Company  
Facility Address: 3320 North Argonne Road, Spokane, WA 99212

Inland Empire Paper Company has requested a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit modification in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 90.48 Revised Code of Washington (RCW), Chapter 173-220 Washington Administrative Code (WAC), and the Federal Clean Water Act.

Inland Empire Paper Company is unable to meet its wasteload allocation specified in the NPDES permit issued in 2022 and has requested an extension to meet final water quality based effluent limits (WQBELS) for total phosphorus and five day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD<sub>5</sub>) based on the Spokane River and Lake Spokane dissolved oxygen total maximum daily load (DO TMDL). The seasonal average limits are applicable from February to October for total phosphorus and March through October for CBOD<sub>5</sub>. Ecology is proposing to extend the compliance schedule through the end of the 2027 compliance season. The fact sheet amendment explains the compliance schedule and the request for an extension in more detail.

Ecology is issuing a draft amended permit and fact sheet amendment and is only accepting comments on the modified portions.

The wastewater, following treatment, must meet the requirements of the Washington State Water Pollution Control Act and applicable regulations for a permit to be issued. A final determination will not be made until all timely comments received in response to this notice have been evaluated.

### PUBLIC COMMENT AND INFORMATION

The draft modified permit and related documents can be viewed online using [PARIS<sup>1</sup>](#), Ecology's Permitting and Reporting Information System database or in person between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., weekdays, by appointment only, at the regional office listed below. Please call (509) 329-3400 to make an appointment to request copies or arrange to view copies.

Ecology invites interested persons to submit written comments regarding the proposed permit modification. Submit comments within 30 days after publication of this notice to be considered for the final determination. Comments must be received by our office no later than December 9, 2024.

Send written comments to: Pat Hallinan  
Eastern Regional Office  
WQP - Department of Ecology  
4601 N. Monroe Street  
Spokane, Washington 99205-1265

Send email comments to: Patrick.Hallinan@ecy.wa.gov

URL for event listing: <https://ecykenpub/events/wq/waste-discharge-permits/Inland-Empire-Paper-Company-Public-Notice>

Publication date & time: 11/7/2024, 12:00 a.m. – 12/9/2024, 11:59 p.m.  
Comments must be submitted no later than 12/9/2024.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/paris/DocumentSearch.aspx>

Any interested party may request a public hearing on the proposed permit within 30 days of the publication date of this notice. The request for a hearing shall state the interest of the party and the reasons why a hearing is necessary. Send the request to the address above. The Department will hold a hearing if it determines that there is significant public interest, if a hearing is scheduled, public notice will be published at least 30 days in advance of the hearing date. Any party responding to this notice with comments will receive a copy of a hearing public notice.

Please bring this public notice to the attention of persons who you know would be interested in this matter. Ecology is an equal opportunity agency. If you need this publication in an alternate format, please contact us at (509) 329-3400 or TTY (for the speech and hearing impaired) at 711 or 1-800-833-6388.