



# Focus on **Industrial Stormwater General Permit**

from Ecology's Water Quality Program

## **Background**

Ecology issued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and state waste discharge general permit for stormwater discharges associated with a broad range of industrial activities on October 4, 2000. That permit was appealed by a coalition of environmental groups who charged that the permit did not meet the intent of the Federal Clean Water Act and Washington State's Water Pollution Control Law. The permit was revised and reissued on August 21, 2002. The revised permit addresses the issues highlighted in the settlement agreement, including compliance with water quality standards; monitoring and reporting, including sampling and analysis; discharges to impaired waters listed under Section 303(d); and consistency with water clean up plans (TMDLs).

## **Differences Between the New Permit and the Prior Permit**

The most significant difference between the two permits is that industrial facilities covered by the permit must now conduct stormwater sampling to provide information on how clean stormwater is as it leaves each site. All permittees must submit information to Ecology about where they discharge. Mixing zones, the portions of water bodies where stormwater mixes with receiving waters, are authorized for permittees that meet the following conditions: (1) the facility has a stormwater pollution prevention plan and implements all known available and reasonable methods of prevention, control, and treatment; (2) there is no loss of sensitive or important habitat; and (3) there is no damaging interference to naturally occurring organisms. Facilities that discharge to water bodies with documented water quality problems may have additional requirements.

## **Current situation**

The revised permit has again been appealed but it is still in effect. The permit could be modified pending the final outcome of legal proceedings. For information on the permit requirements or appeals, please visit the website listed below.

## **For more information**

For more information, please contact:

Keith Johnson  
Department of Ecology, Water Quality Program  
Phone: (360) 407-6442  
Email: [kjoh461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:kjoh461@ecy.wa.gov)

or visit Ecology's stormwater website at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/>

*If you need this publication in an alternate format, please contact us at (360) 407-6401 or (TTY) at 711 or 1-800-833-6388*