



Meeting Notice

Workshops on Water Quality Assessment Including Update of "Polluted Waters" List

from Ecology's Water Quality Program, Watershed Management Section

Workshops

Spokane Tues. Feb 3

Spokane Falls
Community College
Student Union Bldg. #17
Lounge A & B
3419 W. Fort George
Wright Dr
6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Yakima Wed. Feb 4

Yakima Arboretum
1401 Arboretum Drive
6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Everett Tues. Feb. 10

Walter E. Hall Golf
Course
1226 W. Casino Road
6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Longview Wed. Feb 11

Cowlitz PUD
961 12th Avenue
6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Olympia Thur. Feb. 12

Ecology HQ Auditorium
300 Desmond Drive
1:30pm - 4:00pm

Agenda

- *Overview of federal Clean Water Act requirements to develop this list*
- *Directions on how to review and comment on the list assessments*
- *Information on how the data was reviewed*
- *Ecology's process & schedule for submitting the list to EPA*

You are invited to comment on Washington's Water Quality Assessment. The comment period ends March 15, 2004.

What is the Water Quality Assessment?

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) has prepared a preliminary assessment of water quality in Washington. This assessment meets requirements of the Clean Water Act. Assessed waters include all the rivers, lakes, and marine waters in the state where data were available. The assessed waters are listed in five categories that describe the status of water quality.

Category 5, the polluted waters category, is also known as the "303(d) list." Ecology will use the list of polluted waters to develop water cleanup plans, also known as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).

The last polluted waters list was done in 1998. Following guidance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the current listing process includes a much more comprehensive assessment of Washington's waters.

What can the public comment on during this review?

Ecology encourages you to review waters with which you are familiar and provide comments where you see problems or disagree with the assessment results. If you disagree with the assessment results, please explain why and submit additional data, if available.

What if no data were submitted?

During this review, Ecology will also accept new data that were not submitted during the 2002 call for data. This information will be reviewed and incorporated into the final assessment as appropriate. See the webpage for details on how to submit data.

What happens after the public review?

Ecology will review all comments and make changes to the preliminary assessment of waters as appropriate. We will also assess any new data we receive and update the assessment results based on the additional data. If there are a large number of changes due to new data, Ecology will go out again for public review and comment on the new data.

The final assessment of waters in the various categories will be formally submitted to the EPA for review and approval.

How do I learn more?

To learn more about the preliminary assessment of Washington's waters, attend one of the five workshops scheduled in February 2004. These workshops are designed to provide general information about Washington's Water Quality Assessment.

Ecology will not be able to answer questions about every specific listing at the workshops. If you cannot attend a workshop, or have comments or questions about specific listings, contact Ken Koch at 360-407-6782, or visit our web site at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/303d/2002/2002-index.html>

Since this is a large database with over 40,000 records, we are making it available on Ecology's web site. If you need this in an alternate format, please contact us.

Where may I submit comments?

E-Mail 303d@ecy.wa.gov

Mail: Ken Koch
 Department of Ecology
 P.O. Box 47600
 Olympia, WA 98504-7600

If you have special accommodations or need this publication in an alternate format, please contact us at (360) 407-6404. The TTY number (for the hearing or speech impaired) is 711 or 1-800-833-638

