



Meeting/Hearing Notice

Draft Sand and Gravel General Permit Available for Review and Public Comment — Workshops and Hearings Scheduled

from Ecology's Water Quality Program

Meetings/Hearings

Both hearings begin at 1:00 p.m. and conclude as soon as public testimony is completed.

August 10, 2004

Moses Lake
Convention Center
1475 Nelson Road, NE
Moses Lake, WA
(509)766-1416

Driving directions:
<http://www.moseslake.com/visitor.html>

August 12, 2004

WA State Department
of Ecology
300 Desmond Drive
Lacey, WA
(360)407-6000

Driving directions:
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/images/offices/map_hq_swro.pdf

Revising and Reissuing the Sand and Gravel General Permit

The Sand and Gravel NPDES and State Waste Discharge General Permit, issued by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) on June 25, 1999, will expire on August 6, 2004. Ecology has revised the permit and is proposing to reissue the permit on September 15, 2004. The proposed draft Sand and Gravel General Permit and fact sheet are available for review and public comment from July 7, 2004 to August 19, 2004. Ecology will host two informational workshops and public hearings on its proposal to reissue the Sand and Gravel General Permit. Ecology will accept written comments on the draft permit and fact sheet or oral comments can be given at the public hearings.

Purpose of the Sand and Gravel General Permit

The Sand and Gravel General Permit provides coverage for industries located in Washington State that discharge process water, mine dewatering water, and storm water associated with sand and gravel operations, rock quarries, concrete batch plants, asphalt batch plants, and related mining and processing facilities. Under federal and state water quality law (federal Clean Water Act and State Water Pollution Control Act), a permit is required for the discharge of wastewater. The proposed general permit addresses these legal requirements and controls the discharge of pollutants to protect surface water and ground water quality in Washington State.

A general permit is like an individual wastewater discharge permit except that it addresses a group of facilities as a whole. It implements the Federal Clean Water Act and State Water Pollution Control Act in a single permit. Individual facilities that receive coverage under the general permit are required to comply with the terms and conditions of the permit. Currently, 940 facilities are covered under the Sand and Gravel General Permit.

Those facilities with activities designated by the following Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes are required to comply with the Sand and Gravel General Permit:

- 0811 Timber Tracts (sand and gravel point sources)
- 1411 Dimension Stone
- 1422 Crushed and Broken Limestone
- 1423 Crushed and Broken Granite
- 1429 Crushed and Broken Stone, Not Elsewhere Classified
- 1442 Construction Sand and Gravel
- 1446 Industrial Sand
- 1455 Kaolin and Ball Clay
- 1459 Clay, Ceramic, and Refractory Minerals, Not Otherwise Classified
- 1499 Miscellaneous Nonmetallic Minerals, Except Fuels
- 2411 Logging (sand and gravel point sources)
- 2951 Asphalt Paving Mixtures and Blocks
- 3273 Ready-Mixed Concrete
- Other related mining or mineral processing facilities

Applying for a Sand and Gravel Permit

Facilities covered under the existing Sand and Gravel General Permit, who reapplied for permit coverage, will be covered under the proposed permit unless notified by Ecology. New or unpermitted facilities may obtain coverage under the general permit by submitting a complete permit application to Ecology and satisfying all applicable public notice and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requirements (Chapter 173-226-200 WAC). The application is available online at www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/ecy07031.html

Requesting Copies of the Permit

Beginning July 7, 2004, you can request copies of the proposed permit and fact sheet or you can download copies from the website listed below:

Internet: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/sand/

Contact Ecology: Jeff Killelea
Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Telephone: (360) 407-6442
FAX: (360) 407-6426
E-Mail: jkil461@ecy.wa.gov

Submitting Written and Oral Comments

Ecology will accept written and oral comments on the draft Sand and Gravel General Permit and fact sheet. Comments should reference specific text when possible. Comments may address the following:

- Technical issues
- Accuracy and completeness of information
- The scope of facilities proposed for coverage
- Adequacy of environmental protection and permit conditions
- Any other concern that would result from issuance of the revised permit

Submit written comments to:

Jeff Killelea
Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Written comments must be postmarked no later than midnight, Thursday, August 19, 2004. Oral comments can be made by attending and testifying at the public hearings.

Public Workshops/Hearings

The public workshops and hearings on the draft general permit will be held in Moses Lake, WA on August 10, 2004 and in Lacey, WA on August 12, 2004. The purpose of the workshops is to explain the general permit, what has changed from the previous permit, answer questions, and facilitate meaningful testimony during the hearing. The purpose of the hearings is to provide an opportunity for people to give formal oral testimony and comments on the proposed permit.

Issuing the Final Sand and Gravel General Permit

The final permit will be issued after Ecology receives and considers all public comments. If public comments represent a substantial departure from the scope or conditions in the original draft permit, another public notice of draft and comment period may ensue.

Ecology expects to issue the general permit on September 15, 2004. It will be effective 30 days later. When issued, a copy of the notice of issuance and Ecology's responses to the comments will be sent to all persons who submitted written comment or gave public testimony.

If you have special accommodations needs or if you require this information in an alternate format, please contact us at 360-407-6401. If you are a person with a speech or hearing impairment, call 711 or 800-833-6388 for TTY.