



Public Hearings Notice: CAFO Permit

from Ecology's Water Quality Program

Workshops and Hearings

All workshops and hearings are open to the public and begin at 7 p.m.

Mt. Vernon:

Monday, November 21
Skagit County PUD #1
1415 Freeway Drive
Mt. Vernon 98273

Longview:

Tuesday, November 22
Cowlitz County PUD
961 12th Avenue
Longview 98362

Yakima:

Thursday, December 1
Terrace Heights
Civic Center
4009 Commonwealth Dr.
Yakima 98901

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) is proposing to issue a general permit to Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO). The CAFO permit will replace the Dairy General Permit that expired in March 2005. Ecology proposed a first draft in December 2004. In February 2005, a court decision affected the federal CAFO rule. Ecology has revised and reissued the draft permit to reflect changes from the court decision and first comment period. Ecology is proposing to reissue the final permit soon after this comment period ends.

You are invited to review and comment on the new draft permit and fact sheet from October 19, 2005 to December 5, 2005. The Department of Ecology will host three workshops and public hearings on its proposed permit.

Workshops and Hearings

The purpose of the workshops is to explain the general permit and answer your questions. The purpose of the hearings is to provide an opportunity for you to give formal comments on the proposed permit. All workshops will begin at 7 pm and the hearings will follow each workshop.

Public Comments

You are encouraged to give written comments during the public comment period or oral comments at the public hearings. Please send comments to:

Mail: Kevin Hancock
Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
Phone: (360) 407-6283
Fax: (360) 407-6426
E-mail: khan461@ecy.wa.gov

Written, faxed and e-mailed comments must be received no later than 5pm Monday, **December 5, 2005**.

Purpose of the General Permit

The proposed general permit covers discharges of wastewater from CAFOs to waters of Washington State. Under federal and state water quality laws, a permit is required for the discharge of waste water. The permit provides a way for CAFOs to comply with these laws. It requires CAFOs to develop a nutrient management plan to manage their manure. It also requires CAFOs to store and use manure in a way that will protect water quality.

Issuing the Final CAFO General Permit

The Department of Ecology will issue the final permit after it considers all public comments. If you comment on the draft permit, the Department of Ecology will send a response to you when it issues the final permit.

For More Information

The Department of Ecology has prepared a draft permit, fact sheet, and application for your review. Copies of the documents are available on our web page at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/permits/cafo/index.html>

For more information, please contact Kevin Hancock of the Department of Ecology at (360) 407-6283 or khan461@ecy.wa.gov.

If you require special accommodation or need this information in an alternate format, please contact the Program Development Services Section Secretary at 360-407-6401. For persons with a speech or hearing impairment, call 711 for relay service or 800-833-6388 for TTY.

Which state agency is running the CAFO program?

In July 2003, the Legislature transferred the state CAFO Program from Ecology to the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA). The Environmental Protection Agency must transfer federal authority to run the CAFO program from Ecology to WSDA.


During this transition period, Ecology is still in charge of writing the CAFO general permit.

WSDA inspects CAFOs and works with them to solve any compliance problems.

When the transition is complete, WSDA will run the entire CAFO program.

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Water Quality Program
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The logo for the Department of Ecology of Washington State. It features a stylized map of Washington State with a sun rising over mountains and water. The text 'DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY' is written vertically to the right of the map, and 'WASHINGTON STATE' is written horizontally below the map.