



Focus on

Remedial Action Grants and Loans Rule Amendment

from Ecology's Solid Waste & Financial Assistance Program

Background

This rule establishes requirements for a program of grants and loans to local governments for cleaning up sites contaminated by hazardous waste. Authority for the program and rule comes from state law: RCW [70.105D.070](#) (3)(a) and (7). The remedial action grants and loans encourage and expedite the cleanup of hazardous waste sites. They also reduce the financial impact of the cleanup on ratepayers and taxpayers. The remedial action grants and loans supplement local government funding and funding from other sources to carry out site cleanups.

Proposed Amendments

The proposed amendments will create a new Extraordinary Financial Hardship loan program. This loan program will have deferred terms and conditions that may not be indefinite. Applicants for this new loan program must demonstrate all of the following hardships:

- Financial need for the loan.
- Inability to repay the loan under present circumstances.
- Inability to obtain funds from any other source.
- Inability to bond or raise its tax base.

Local governments cannot receive Extraordinary Financial Hardship loans unless the Department of Ecology's director approves their applications.

Public Involvement

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) has developed information and ways to inform the public about this rule amendment. Ecology regularly updates a Web page, http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/grants/rag_ammend.html, with information on rule activities. In addition, if you provide your name and address, Ecology will add you to an electronic mailing list and e-mail you information about rule activities. (To get on Ecology's electronic mailing list, visit <http://listserv.wa.gov/archives/322-rag1-rule-development.html>.)

Public Hearing

A public hearing is where you can submit your formal written or verbal “testimony.” Comments you give at a public hearing become part of the official record (Concise Explanatory Statement) required by the Administrative Procedures Act (RCW 34.05). There will be one public hearing for this rule.

<u>Public Hearing</u>	<u>Date</u>
Ecology Headquarters Building 300 Desmond Drive SE Lacey, Washington	January 17, 2007 Beginning at 1pm

Formal Comment Period

Ecology will accept formal comments on the proposed amendments until **5 p.m., January 25, 2007**.

- **Electronic Comment Form.** You may electronically submit your comments on this rule amendment. Please visit http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/grants/rag_ammend.html to complete the electronic comment form for this rule.
- **Email or US Mail.** You can send comments by Email or US Mail to:
Diane Singer, Remedial Action Grants/Loans Grant Manager
Department of Ecology-Solid Waste & Financial Assistance Program
P.O. Box 47600
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Ecology’s Response to Comments

Anyone who provides comments, during the formal comment period, is entitled to a copy of the Concise Explanatory Statement. You will be able to find your name listed in this document’s index. The index will tell you where in the document Ecology responded to your comments.

More Information

Contact Diane Singer at dire461@ecy.wa.gov or (360) 407-6062.

- Chapter 173-322 WAC, Remedial Action Grants and Loans
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-322>
- Rule amendment documents
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/activity/wac173322.html>
- Rule milestones and timeline
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/grants/rag_ammend.html