



Hearing Notice

Municipal Stormwater Draft Permits

from Ecology's Water Quality Program

Public Comment Period

Ecology invites you to review and comment on the draft permits and fact sheets from February 15, 2006, to May 19, 2006.

Please send comments to:

Department of Ecology
Municipal Stormwater Permits
PO Box 47696
Olympia, WA 98504-7696

Fax:
360-407-6426

Ecology must receive all comments **by 5 p.m. on May 19, 2006.**

Questions?

Phone:
360-407-7529

Email:
jenh461@ecy.wa.gov

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) is issuing three draft general permits to address discharge of stormwater in Washington State. Stormwater is water, rain, or snow melt that runs off surfaces such as rooftops, paved streets, highways, and parking lots. As stormwater runs off these surfaces, it can pick up pollution such as oil, fertilizers, pesticides, pet waste, and trash, degrading water quality in our streams. Stormwater also damages streams, habitat, and property values by increasing water flows and flooding.

Which permits are open for formal public comment?

Ecology is issuing drafts of the Phase II municipal general permits for the first time and re-issuing a draft of the expired Phase I municipal permit on February 15, 2006. The comment period on these permits will run until May 19, 2006. This is a hearing and public comment period notice for the following draft general permits:

- Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit (reissue)
- Phase II Western Washington Municipal Stormwater Permit
- Phase II Eastern Washington Municipal Stormwater Permit

During summer and fall 2005, Ecology held workshops around the state on the preliminary drafts of these three stormwater permits. Comments received were incorporated into the final draft proposals.

Hearings:

You are encouraged to submit written comments or give oral comments at the following public hearings:

Phase I and

Phase II Western Washington

Tuesday, May 2, 2006, 1 p.m.

Pierce County Library
Administrative Services Center
3005 112 Street East
Tacoma

Phase II Eastern Washington

Tuesday, April 25, 2006, 1 p.m.

Hal Holmes Community Center
209 North Ruby Street
Ellensburg

Ecology will host **eight informational workshops** on the proposed draft permits. For more information on locations and times, please visit Ecology's web page:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/index.html>.

After considering all public comments, Ecology expects to issue the final permits in the fall of 2006. A response will be sent to all people who provide comments.

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. If you are a person with speech or hearing impairment call 711 for relay service or 800-833-6388 for TTY.

Background

State and federal law requires certain cities, counties, and other public districts that discharge stormwater from their municipal separate storm sewer systems to state waters to apply for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Ecology implements the NPDES stormwater permits in Washington through general permits. The first permit program, called Phase I, covered cities, counties, and other public districts serving over 100,000 people. Ecology issued the first Phase I municipal stormwater permits in 1995. These permits expired in 2000; however, they remain in effect until Ecology issues the new permit.

Federal regulations established Phase II municipal stormwater rules in 1999. The Phase II permits regulate cities, counties, and public districts located in census-defined urbanized areas of Washington that discharge stormwater from their municipal separate storm sewer systems. Phase II covers areas that generally have more than 1,000 people per square mile. Ecology is issuing two separate Phase II permits, one for Eastern Washington and one for Western Washington. For maps of census-defined urban areas in Washington, please consult Ecology's Web page at:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/phase_2/maps.html.

What do the permits require?

For Phase I and Phase II jurisdictions, the federal rules require operators of municipal separate storm sewer systems such as cities and counties to develop and implement a *stormwater management program* that:

- Reduces the discharge of pollutants to the "maximum extent practicable."
- Satisfies appropriate requirements of the Clean Water Act.
- Meets state requirements to use all known, available, and reasonable methods to prevent and control pollution to waters of the state.
- Protects water quality.

For More Information

This hearing notice is a summary of the draft permits. For more details, including locations of workshops and copies of the draft permits and fact sheets, please visit our Web page at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/index.html>.

FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WASHINGTON STATE
DEPT. OF PRINTING

Department of Ecology
Water Quality Program
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
ECOLGY
WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF

