



# Focus on **Industrial Stormwater General Permit**

from Ecology's Water Quality Program

## **What is the Industrial Stormwater General Permit?**

The industrial stormwater general permit is a statewide permit that covers a large number of industrial facilities to prevent polluted runoff, or stormwater, from discharging into downstream receiving waters including wetlands, ditches, rivers, unnamed creeks, rivers, lakes, estuaries, and salt water.

In addition to industrial categories listed in the permit, the permit may cover any facility discharging stormwater that the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) determines to be a significant contributor of pollution to state waters. Ecology's determination is typically applied on a case-by-case basis and can also be applied to a specific sector of industry when the permit is re-issued.

## **When will the permit be re-issued?**

Ecology is in the process of updating and re-issuing the National Pollution Discharge Elimination (NPDES) and state waste discharge general permit for stormwater discharges associated with industrial activities. These two permits together are known as the "industrial stormwater general permit."

Ecology plans to re-issue the industrial stormwater general permit on August 20, 2007. The effective date of the permit will be September 20, 2007. The expiration date will be September 20, 2012. The re-issued permit will provide greater clarity to permittees on permit requirements and will address issues that were raised during the current permit cycle. Ecology issued the current permit on August 21, 2002. The permit was modified December 1, 2004, as a result of appeals and litigation. The current permit will expire September 20, 2007.

## **Who should apply for the permit?**

Permit coverage is required for industrial facilities that have specific Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes, if they have a discharge of stormwater from their industrial areas into a receiving water of the state, or into storm drains that discharge to a receiving water. Regardless of the SIC code, some industries may be required to seek permit coverage for areas of their industrial site that have a potential or are causing an impact to receiving waters. No permit is required if facilities treat and retain all the stormwater on site (discharge into ground). If facilities discharge all the stormwater into a combined sewer, which goes into a wastewater treatment plant, facilities need not apply for coverage.

## Where can I get more information and get help to apply for coverage?

For additional information in:

- Seattle and Kitsap, Pierce, Thurston counties, contact Charles Gilman at 360-407-7451.
- Island, King (except Seattle), San Juan counties, contact Elaine Worthen at 360-407-7229
- Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Skagit, Snohomish, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whatcom, Whitman counties, contact Carrol Johnston at 360-407-6437.
- Benton, Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Douglas, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lewis, Mason Okanogan, Pacific, Skamania, Wahkiakum, Yakima counties, contact Joyce Smith at 360-407-6858.

## Where can I get copies of the permit and other information?

Information on this topic can be accessed through Ecology's Web site. The address is:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/industrial/index.html#booklet>

*If you need this publication in an alternate format, please call the Water Quality Program at 360-407-6401. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.*