



Focus on **Proposed Revisions to Funding Program Rules**

from Ecology's Water Quality Program

The Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund & the Centennial Clean Water Program

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) administers the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund that provides loans, and the Centennial Clean Water Program that provides grants and loans.

Local governments and tribes can apply to these funding programs to obtain low-interest loans or grants for water pollution control facilities and projects with activities designed to prevent and control water pollution to our state's surface and ground water.

In September 2005, Ecology entered the rule-making process to revise the rules that guide and direct these two funding programs. If adopted, the proposed revisions will go into effect for the funding cycle beginning September 1, 2007 (Fiscal Year 2009).

The public comment period for these proposed revisions is now open. The public comment period will close on April 6, 2007. Ecology must receive your comments no later than 5 p.m. on that date.

What chapters are proposed for revision?

- Chapter 173-98 WAC, "Uses and Limitations of the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund"
- Chapter 173-95A WAC, "Uses and Limitations of the Centennial Clean Water Fund"

What are the proposed rule revisions?

The purpose of the proposed rule revisions is to respond to existing and emerging funding priorities and financial management needs identified by Ecology, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, interested parties, and clients.

These changes include:

- Defining and implementing federal perpetuity requirements for the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund.
- Updating hardship-funding criteria to include a sliding scale for hardship interest rate levels.
- Enhancing the current on-site septic system local loan program by introducing hardship grants.
- Introducing hardship grants for certain stormwater projects.

- Redistributing program-funding allocations between facilities and activities projects.
- Updating requirements for the design-build and design-build-operate process.
- Adding new loan and grant eligibilities, such as additional best management practices.
- Providing added flexibility in the application process.
- Applying “Plain Talk” principles according to the Governor’s Executive Order.
- Incorporating and clarifying federal requirements and the intent of state statute.
- Adding and clarifying definitions.

How do I comment on the proposed rule revisions?

People may comment in writing, give verbal comments by phone, or speak at the public hearings. The public hearing schedule is located below. After the comment period closes, Ecology will issue a responsiveness summary that addresses each comment.

For more information, visit Ecology’s Web site at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/wqhome.html>

Please direct comments to:

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Where and when are the public hearings?

Ecology will hold two public hearings. Each will be preceded by an information-sharing presentation that will include an in-depth question and answer session. Participants are not required to attend the information session in order to testify at the hearing. The information session is for those who seek additional knowledge on the proposed revisions before testifying.

Schedule of public hearings

When: **March 28, 2007**

When: **March 29, 2007**

Informational session: 10:00 a.m. – Noon

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Hearing starts at: 1 p.m.

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Where: Thurston County Fairgrounds
 Expo Center
 3054 Carpenter Rd SE
 Lacey, Wash. 98503
 360-786-5453

Where: Ramada Inn Spokane Airport
 8909 West Airport Drive
 Spokane, Wash. 99219
 509-838-5211

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