



Frequently Asked Questions about the Boatyard General Permit

from Ecology's Water Quality Program

Response to Monitoring Values which Exceed Benchmarks

Q: Should I use pen or pencil to fill out my Level One Response?

A: You (the permittee) should use a pen when filling out any form you send to the Department of Ecology (Ecology).

Q: What is a Level One Response?

A: A Level One Response is a report that you must send to Ecology when you discover that a sampling parameter in stormwater exceeds the permit benchmarks. You must send the Level One Response report to Ecology along with your Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR).

Q: What must I do to complete a Level One Response?

A: A Level One Response has 5 steps:

1. Conduct an inspection of the permitted facility as soon as possible after the sample results are available.
2. Identify and evaluate possible source(s) of the benchmark parameter in the stormwater discharge.
3. Identify source/operational control methods by which you can reduce stormwater contamination.
4. Summarize the inspection results, including remedial actions you have taken or plan to take and place them in the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).
5. Send Ecology your completed Level One Response report. This should include the proposed remedial actions and a schedule for implementing them.

Q: Do I send a Level One Response every time a sampling parameter exceeds the benchmark?

A: Yes, you must send a Level One Response report for each month which a sampling parameter or group of parameters is exceeded.

Q: Do I need to send a separate Level One Response for each sampling parameter that is exceeded within that month?

A: No, you can address all of the sampling parameters exceeded in the same Level One Response report for that month.

Q: When do I have to send in the Level One Response?

A: You should send Ecology the Level One Response report along with the Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) for the month the sampling parameter(s) were exceeded. The DMR is due by the 15th of the month following the sampling month.

Q: What is a Level Two Response?

A: If you exceed the sampling parameter(s) 4 times, a more detailed report is required that investigates all available options, including treatment Best Management Practices (BMPs) , to reduce the contamination levels below the benchmark.

Q: What must I do to complete a Level Two Response?

A: A Level Two Response has 3 steps:

1. Investigate all available options of stormwater **treatment** BMPs to reduce stormwater contaminant levels below permit benchmark values.
2. Evaluate potential **stormwater treatment practices or structures** to reduce stormwater contaminant levels identified in Level One investigations.
3. Send your completed Level Two Response report to Ecology.

Q: When do I have to send in the Level Two Response?

A: Send the Level Two Response report to Ecology within 3 months of exceeding a sampling parameter 4 times.

Q: What if one sampling parameter is exceeded 3 times and another is exceeded 4 times? What responses do I have to send in?

A: You are required to send a Level One Response report for both parameters. In addition, you are required to send a Level Two Response report for the sampling parameter which exceeded 4 times.

Q: What if a sampling parameter(s) is exceeded 5 times? What responses do I have to send in?

A: If you exceed the sampling parameter a fifth time, a Level One Response report is required. However, you should prepare for a Level Three Response report if the cause of exceedance is not clearly identified and corrected.

Q: What happens when a sampling parameter(s) is exceeded 6 times?

A: In addition to the Level One Response report, a Level Three Response report is required.

Q: When do I have to send in the Level Three Response?

A: Send the Level Three Response report to Ecology within 3 months of exceeding a sampling parameter 6 times.

Q: What must I do to complete a Level Three Response?

A: A Level Three Response has 3 steps:

1. Prepare an engineering report that meets the requirements of WAC 173-240, *Submission of Plans and Reports for Construction of Wastewater Facilities*. The report shall include any design and construction information for treatment devices or structures that are to be installed.
2. Submit the engineering report to Ecology within 3 months of initiating a Level Three Response. The engineering report shall include an implementation schedule for implementation of the preferred option within 12 months from the time Ecology accepts the engineering report.
3. Implement the preferred option. This will probably require a modification of coverage and therefore a new application.

Information on this topic can be accessed through Ecology's Web site at:

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

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