

Aquatic Pesticide Irrigation District Permit

Ecology reissues the Aquatic Pesticide Irrigation District General Permit

On February 20, 2008, the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is issuing a general permit to cover pesticide use in irrigation systems. The permit is called the "Irrigation System Aquatic Weed Control National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and State Waste Discharge General Permit."

Purpose of the Permit

The permit covers the use of pesticides in irrigation systems to control plant and algae growth. Under the Washington State Water Pollution Control Act, a permit is required to discharge pollutants that alter the biological or chemical characteristics of a water body. The permit addresses these legal requirements and regulates the discharge of pollutants to protect water quality in Washington.

Changes from the draft to the final general permit

Ecology made the following changes to the permit based on public comments:

- Changed March 2008 dates to April 2008 to allow permit holders more time to comply with requirements.
- Added wording to make it clear that the effluent limits applied at the point of compliance.
- Clarified the 24-hour averaging in the copper compliance schedule.
- Clarified the sample timing requirements.
- Added a clause explaining how to treat overlapping treatments when taking samples.
- Added detail to the travel time requirements.
- Added detail to the annual treatment report requirements.

Ecology held a public comment period from November 7, 2007 to January 11, 2008. Ecology held public workshops and public hearings in Kennewick on December 10, 2007 and in Ellensburg on December 11, 2007. Ecology is issuing the final permit after considering all public comments.

Non-permitted irrigation districts may obtain coverage under the permit by sending a complete permit application to Ecology at the address listed in the right column.

MORE INFORMATION

Contact information:

You can request copies of the permit, fact sheet, and application by contacting:

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The permit and fact sheet are also available online at:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/pesticides/irrigation/irrigation_inde.html

Special accommodations:

If you need this publication in an alternate format, call the Water Quality Program at 360-407-6404. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.