

Hearing Notice

Water Quality Program

July 2009

Public Hearings on Wastewater/Stormwater Discharge Permit Fees

Background

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) administers state and federal permits to regulate wastewater and stormwater discharges into Washington's surface and underground waters. In accordance with state water pollution control law (RCW 90.48.465), all permit holders are required to pay annual permit fees. Ecology uses the fee money to recover eligible costs associated with operating Ecology's wastewater discharge permit program.

Proposed changes to the fee regulation

Ecology proposes to make the following changes to Chapter 173-224 WAC - Wastewater Discharge Permit Fees:

- Increase annual permit fees for some permit categories by the following:
 - 5.20% for Fiscal Year 2010
 - 4.61% for Fiscal Year 2011
- Increase domestic wastewater fees by the following:
 - \$1.89 per residential equivalent (RE) for Fiscal Year 2010, and \$1.98 per RE for Fiscal 2011 for RE totals less than 250,000.
 - \$1.32 per RE for Fiscal Year 2011 for RE totals greater than 250,000
- Eliminate the proration of fees for terminated permits to the fiscal quarter.

Public comment

Ecology will accept written comments on the proposed changes until 5p.m., September 9, 2009. Send comments to:

Department of Ecology
Attn: Bev Poston
PO Box 47600
Olympia WA 98504-7600
Fax number: (360) 407-7131
E-mail address: bpos461@ecy.wa.gov

More Information

Public Hearing Schedule:

Ecology will hold a short workshop, immediately followed by a public hearing at the following locations, dates, and times:

August 25, 2009 - Spokane

12:30 p.m.
Spokane Regional Library
South Hill Branch
3324 S. Perry

August 26, 2009 - Ellensburg

12:30 p.m.
Hal Holmes Community
Center
201 N. Ruby St

August 27, 2009 - Lacey

12:30 p.m.
Ecology Headquarters Building
300 Desmond Dr. S.E.
Room R0A-34

Special accommodations:

To ask about the availability of this document in a version for the visually impaired call the call the Water Quality Program at 360-407-6700. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

Following the public comment period, Ecology will review and consider all comments. Ecology proposes to adopt the final rule on September 28, 2009. The rule will be effective October 29, 2009.

The proposed rule language is available for review on Ecology's website at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/permits/permit_fees/index.htm

For more information

If you would like more information about the hearings or proposed changes, or would like a copy of the final changes mailed to you, please contact Bev Poston at (360) 407-6425 or bpos461@ecy.wa.gov.