

Proposed Changes to Rules for General Sources of Air Pollution (Chapter 173-400 WAC)

This rule contains Ecology's general requirements for new or modified industrial sources of air pollution. It regulates both criteria pollutants (pollutants for which the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set health-based standards) and toxic air pollutants. This hearing notice explains the proposed changes and provides information about public involvement opportunities.

Purpose of the rule changes

Ecology is proposing changes to this rule to:

- develop New Source Review rules for sources in nonattainment areas;
- make needed corrections to the State Implementation Plan (the plan for meeting air quality standards); and
- make needed "housekeeping" changes.

What the changes do

The proposed changes will:

- bring the rule into compliance with EPA regulations (including standards for excess emissions, major stationary sources located in a nonattainment area and updating the date of federal regulations adopted by reference);
- set a new exemption level for greenhouse gas emissions, below which permitting is not required;
- create an inter-jurisdictional program for portable source permits; and
- establish a permitting procedure for emergency engines.

Who is affected

These proposed changes affect Washington businesses that emit criteria and toxic air pollutants. This is a broad range of industries and facilities.

DATES AND LOCATIONS

LACEY

November 9, 2010

6:00 p.m.

Department of Ecology

Headquarters Building

Room OA-32

300 Desmond Drive

SPOKANE - via video conference

November 9, 2010

6:00 p.m.

Department of Ecology

Eastern Regional Office

4601 N. Monroe Street

Contact information:

Linda Whitcher

(360) 407-6875

P.O. Box 47600

Olympia, WA 98504-7600

linda.whitcher@ecy.wa.gov

Information online:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/AirPollutionSourcesRule/GenRegs_Pollution.html

If you need special accommodations, please contact the Air Quality Program at (360) 407-6800 by October 25, 2010. If you have a hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. If you have a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

What will these changes mean for affected businesses?

The rule changes:

- Clarify the new source review process by:
 - separating the section that explains how to determine if a project is required to obtain a permit from the section that explains how the permit will be processed.
- Establish a clear process and criteria for determining when excess emissions are unavoidable and when they are subject to injunctive relief and penalty.
- Update the national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants that are adopted from EPA regulations by reference.

How to comment on the proposed rule changes

You can comment by attending one of the public hearings listed in the right-hand column on page 1; or by writing or emailing Linda Witcher using the contact information provided.