

Accreditation of Environmental Laboratories, Chapter 173-50 WAC

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is proposing to amend the laboratory accreditation rule under Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-50. The proposal will be published in the Washington State Register on April 7, 2010.

The proposed rule is designed to raise fees to cover Ecology's costs for carrying out the state lab accreditation program. The last time Ecology changed its fees was in 2002. In addition, a recent reduction in Ecology staff means Ecology will be changing some of its business practices under the rule.

Ecology has issued a Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) under the State Environmental Policy Act, a Small Business Economic Impact Statement (SBEIS), and a preliminary cost-benefit analysis. These documents, along with the rule proposal, are available for public review and comment through May 7, 2010.

Public hearing schedule

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

1:00 p.m.
Lacey Community Center
6729 Pacific Avenue
Lacey

Thursday, April 29, 2010

10:00 a.m.
Moses Lake Fire Department
701 East Third Avenue
Moses Lake

(See reverse side for more details.)

Why It Matters

Ecology administers an accreditation program for about 460 environmental laboratories, including labs that analyze drinking water.

Accreditation of environmental laboratories ensures that labs are capable of providing accurate and defensible analytical data to Ecology, the state Department of Health, and other local, state and tribal agencies. This helps protect public health and the environment.

State drinking water and environmental permits require that accredited labs are used.

Contact information

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Special accommodations

If you need this publication in an alternate format, call Joan LeTourneau at 360-407-6764. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

How to submit your comments

You can provide comments on the proposed rule and associated documents by:

- Testifying at a public hearing.
- E-mailing comments to stew.lombard@ecy.wa.gov
- Mailing comments to:
Stewart Lombard
Department of Ecology
PO Box 488
Manchester, WA 98353-0488

All comments must be received by 5 p.m., May 7, 2010.

Ecology's response to your comments

After the public comment period closes, Ecology will compile all the comments received regarding the draft rule. Your comments will become part of the official record in a document called a Concise Explanatory Statement. The document will include a summary of the comments received and a reference where, in the document, Ecology responded to the comments.

Expected adoption date

Ecology expects to adopt an amended laboratory accreditation rule in August 2010.

On the web

The rule proposal and associated documents are available on the Internet at www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/wac17350/0909.html

This Rule Proposal Notice is available on the Internet at www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/1003022.html