

Surface Water Quality Standards Triennial Review

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is holding a series of public meetings to discuss Washington’s water quality standards ([WAC 173-201A](#)) and receive feedback from the public on how they can be improved.

The water quality standards are the basis for protecting and regulating the quality of Washington’s waters. This series of meetings starts the process commonly called the Triennial Review. The Triennial Review is an opportunity for the public to review the water quality standards and provide feedback on the priorities and commitments the agency makes regarding the standards.

The Surface Water Quality Standards Triennial Review process starts November 2010 with public meetings around the state. The public meetings will begin with a presentation and question/answer period, followed by a formal hearing to allow public testimony. Written comments on the Triennial Review can be submitted to the address provided until December 17, 2010. Ecology welcomes you to attend and participate in the Triennial Review.

Where are the meeting locations?

| Date and Time | Location |
|--------------------------------|--|
| November 4, 2010 1:30 p.m. | Lacey Community Center 6729 Pacific Avenue SE Lacey, Washington 98516 |
| November 9, 2010 1:30 p.m. | Spokane Regional Health Building 1101 W College Ave Spokane, WA 99201 |
| November 10, 2010 1:30 p.m. | Ecology Central Regional Office 15 W Yakima Ave, Suite 200 Yakima, Washington 98902-3401 |
| November 15, 2010 1:30 p.m. | Washington State School for the Blind 2214 E. 13th Street Vancouver, Washington 98661-4120 |
| November 16, 2010 1:30 p.m. | Skagit Transit Station 105 E. Kincaid Mount Vernon, Washington 98273 |

MORE INFORMATION

About the standards

The water quality standards are established to sustain public health and public enjoyment of the waters, and the propagation and protection of fish, shellfish, and wildlife.

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/swqs/index.html

About the Triennial Review

See the Triennial Review web site for updates and information on the review process.

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/swqs/triennial_review.html

Contact information for questions or to submit written comments

Email: swqs@ecy.wa.gov

Phone: 360-407-6413

Fax: 360-407-6426

Mail:

Washington Dept. of Ecology
Surface Water Quality Standards
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
Coordinator: Becca Conklin

Special accommodations

To ask about the availability of this document in a version for the visually impaired, 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.

Questions and Answers about the Triennial Review

What is the Triennial Review?

Ecology is required by federal regulations to hold periodic public workshops (approximately once every three years) to review the surface water quality standards. This process is called a Triennial Review. It is an opportunity for an open dialogue between Ecology, other government agencies, tribes, and the public on how to improve the standards and how the program is implemented.

Why is the Triennial Review important?

The Triennial Review provides a forum to discuss issues regarding the surface water quality standards and their implementation. The review also ensures that the latest scientific information is considered, and examines the state standards as they relate to any new federal requirements.

Why should I be involved in the Triennial Review?

Ecology needs to hear from as many interested parties, tribes, and governing agencies as possible who work with the standards. We want to hear about where the standards can be improved, where there are issues important to your organization or constituents, or where the standards are lacking.

How can I participate?

You can participate by attending one of the five Triennial Review meetings around the state in November. You can provide written comments by Dec. 17, 2010. You may also invite us to meet with your organization or group to discuss issues important to you. Ecology encourages you to describe what your issues or suggestions are, and how you would suggest they be resolved or improved upon.

What happens to my comments?

Ecology will record and transcribe public testimony and make it available to the public after the meetings. Your comments will become part of the public record for the Triennial Review process, and will be considered by Ecology for future actions. Ecology will provide a responsiveness summary by summer 2011, and will also provide a prioritized list of issues for future action, based on public feedback. All comments, both public testimony and written comments, will be made available for public viewing in early 2011.

What next? Is this a rule change?

Possible outcomes from the Triennial Review process can include rule changes; criteria development; new or revised guidance or policy development; training materials and sessions; and research needs.