

Municipal Stormwater Permit Comment Period



Water Quality Program

October 2011

Ecology Seeks Input on Draft Phase I & II Municipal Stormwater General Permits

On October 19, 2011, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) released three-updated draft Municipal Stormwater General Permits for public review and comment. The draft permits authorize stormwater discharges from public stormwater systems in urban areas. They are:

- Phase I Municipal Stormwater General Permit.
- Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater General Permit.
- Eastern Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater General Permit.

Ecology invites the public to comment on the proposed draft permits and fact sheets. The comment period ends at 5 p.m., Feb. 3, 2012. Due to 2011 legislation, Ecology also released versions of each permit in their current form for public comment. These will, be in effect from 2012 to 2013. The current permits are unchanged, except for limited changes to Phase I monitoring requirements. The updated permits will be effective in 2013.

Where do I find the draft permits?

For more information and to view or download the draft permits and fact sheets please go to www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/2012draftMUNIcon.html

How do I comment?

Ecology welcomes comments in hard copy or electronically, or in testimony at a public hearing. Please send email comments to:

SWPermitComments@ecy.wa.gov.

Ecology must receive your email comments or post-marked hard copy comments no later than 5 p.m., February 3, 2012.

Municipal Permit Comments
WA Department of Ecology
Water Quality Program
PO Box 47696
Olympia, WA 98504-7696

EASTERN WASHINGTON WORKSHOPS/HEARINGS

ELLENSBURG

December 5, 2011
9 a.m.
Hal Holmes Center
209 North Ruby Street

SPOKANE VALLEY

December 6, 2011
9 a.m.
Center Place Regional Event Center
2426 North Discovery Place

WALLA WALLA/workshop only*

December 12, 2011
9 a.m.
Port of Walla Walla
45 Terminal Loop Road

* Please note: Ecology will **not** accept oral public testimony during workshops.

Contact information

Water Quality Program
Department of Ecology
PO Box 47696
Olympia WA 98504-7696

For Phase II Permits

Harriet Beale
360-407-6457
harriet.beale@ecy.wa.gov

For Phase I Permit

Carrie Graul
360-407-7221
carrie.graul@ecy.wa.gov

Please include the following information with your comments:

- The permit(s) subject to your comment.
- Page number(s) and where indicated, a section reference (for example, S8.D.2.b).
- A concise comment that includes the legal, technical, administrative, or other basis for the concern.
- Suggested permit language or a conceptual alternative to address your concern.

What comes next?

Ecology will review and incorporate the comments where appropriate and prepare a Response to Comments document for issuance with the final permit. Ecology expects to issue the final permits in June of 2012. If you submit a written comment or give public testimony at the public hearings, you will receive a Notice of Issuance when Ecology issues the final permits.

What are the Municipal Stormwater General Permits and why do they matter?

Polluted runoff is the leading pollution in urban areas of the state. Urban areas that collect stormwater runoff in municipal separate storm sewers (MS4s) and discharge it to surface waters are required to have a permit under the federal Clean Water Act.

The Environmental Protection Agency stormwater regulations established two phases--Phase I and Phase II--for the municipal stormwater permit program.

Ecology develops and administers National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) municipal stormwater permits in Washington State. Ecology must reissue the permits every five years. Ecology issued the current permits in 2007 and they expire in 2012.

Even small concentrations of polluted runoff are bad for fish and other aquatic life. Polluted runoff creates problems for the fish and shellfish industry, whose economic value in Washington State is more than \$1 billion annually. The Phase I and Phase II Municipal Stormwater General Permits are one of the state's key tools to protect water quality in Washington's lakes, streams, and rivers. Washington's waters are ours to protect. The updated permits are key tools to help us solve problems caused by polluted runoff.

WESTERN WASHINGTON WORKSHOPS/HEARINGS

LACEY

January 9, 2012
10 a.m.
Department of Ecology
300 Desmond Drive SE

VANCOUVER

January 10, 2012
10 a.m.
School for the Blind
Fries Auditorium
2214 East 13th Street

MOUNT VERNON

January 17, 2012
10 a.m.
Skagit Transit Station
105 E. Kincaid Street

POULSBORO/Workshop only*

January 19, 2012
10 a.m.
City Council Chambers
200 NE Moe Street

RENTON

January 24, 2012
9 a.m.
Renton Community Center
1715 Maple Valley Highway

Special accommodations

If you require special accommodations or need this document in a version for the visually impaired, call the Water Quality Program 360-407-6600.

Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service.
Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.