

New Fees Proposed for Gasoline Dispensing Facilities

Ecology proposes to re-establish air quality inspection fees for gasoline dispensing facilities (mainly gas stations) in counties regulated by Ecology. This will be a rule change to Chapter 173-455 WAC, Air Quality Fee Regulation. The proposal will be published in the Washington State Register on September 5, 2012. The Air Quality Fee Regulation contains fees for a number of air quality activities.

Q: Does this new fee apply to my gas station?

A: This action applies to you if your gasoline dispensing facility is located in Adams, Asotin, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, San Juan, Stevens, Walla Walla, or Whitman County. Gas stations located in the other counties are regulated by one of the seven local air agencies (see <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/local.html>).

Q: What is Ecology doing?

A: The state rule requires gasoline dispensing facilities in counties regulated by Ecology to register with Ecology (WAC 173-400-100). Ecology discontinued its registration program due to budget constraints in the early 2000's.

The registration fee will be used to re-establish the gasoline vapor recovery inspection program. The program will reduce the health risk from benzene (a carcinogen) exposure at and near gasoline dispensing facilities, and reduces the formation of ground-level ozone (contributor to smog).

Q: Is there a fee?

A: Yes. Ecology is authorized to charge a fee to cover the cost of registration, periodic on-site inspection of the gasoline vapor recovery system, review of emissions inventory reports, and administrative support. We are proposing to modify our fee rule (Chapter 173-455 WAC) to collect the amount needed to operate this program.

MORE INFORMATION

Presentation followed by public hearing:

Ecology is holding a presentation and question-and-answer session in three locations. The formal public hearing will follow. You can participate in person at one of Ecology's offices in Lacey, Spokane, and Yakima or call in.

Date and time:

Tuesday, September 25, 2012
1:30 p.m.

Primary location:

Lacey: Ecology Headquarters
300 Desmond Drive SE

Video conference locations:

Yakima: Ecology Central
Regional Office
15 West Yakima Avenue Suite 200

Spokane: Ecology Eastern
Regional Office
North 4601 Monroe Street

Call in number:

(360) 407-3780
PIN Code: 980708 #

Wait for the conference operator to connect you if the lines are full.

Web site:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/rules/fee_rule.html

Contact information

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Special accommodations

For special accommodations or documents in an alternative format, call (360) 407-6800, 711 (relay service), or 877-833-6341 (TTY).

Q: How much is the fee?

A: Each of the 416 affected gasoline dispensing facilities will have to pay \$130 for each tank that dispenses gasoline. This is in addition to the underground storage tank inspection fee which is also charged on a per tank basis. Ecology has determined that it costs approximately \$109,000 per year to administer this program.

Q: How was the \$109,000 cost determined?

A: The Washington State Legislature authorized Ecology to collect up to \$200,000 to register and inspect the gasoline vapor recovery system at each gasoline dispensing facility. Ecology wanted to keep the costs to a minimum so Ecology's Underground Storage Tank (UST) Section and the Air Quality Program worked together to send one Ecology (UST) inspector to each site. This is more efficient, minimizing travel, supervisory, and administrative costs.

Q: When is the fee due?

A: Beginning July 1, 2013, you will pay the fee as part of the yearly business license fees collected by the Business Licensing Service, which is part of the Department of Revenue.

Q: What are local air agencies and why do they have different fees?

A: The Washington Clean Air Act (Chapter 70.94 RCW) grants counties the power to create and operate their own local air agencies. In counties where there is no local air agency, Ecology assumes the responsibility for regulating businesses with air emissions. Ecology has no oversight authority over local air agencies. They set their fees based on their operational costs.

Q: The state rule that regulates gasoline dispensing facilities (Chapter 173-491 WAC) is out of date. Is Ecology planning to update that rule?

A: Yes. Ecology plans on revising that rule after finishing working on the fee rule. Federal requirements for gasoline dispensing facilities are more stringent than state requirements. We will offer the opportunity for gasoline dispensing facilities to participate in and comment on that rule-making process. When that process begins, Ecology will send out notice to gasoline dispensing facilities and other interested parties.

Translation available

अगर आपको हिन्दी में इस दस्तावेज़ की जरूरत है तो कृपया ऐलेना गुलफ़ाइल से संपर्क करें।
फ़ोन (360) 407-6855, ईमेल elena.guilfoil@ecy.wa.gov

한국어로 번역된 것을 원하시는분은 Elena Guilfoil 에게 문의 하세요 (360-407-6855 |
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