

## State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) WAC 197-11

The Department of Ecology proposes to adopt amendments to the *State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) rules*, Chapter 197-11 WAC. The rule proposal will be published in the *Washington State Register* on November 7, 2012.

The purpose of this rule proposal is to increase the flexible thresholds that local governments may adopt to exempt minor new construction projects from SEPA review. It will also increase the threshold for SEPA review of electric facilities. The proposal includes added flexibility for all lead agencies to improve the efficiency of the environmental checklist.

The following documents are now available for review and comment:

- Proposed rule language.
- Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) under the State Environmental Policy Act.
- Preliminary Cost-Benefit and Least Burdensome Alternative Analyses.

To download these documents visit:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/sepa/rulemaking2012.html>

### Public hearing schedule

**Date:** December 4, 2012

**Time:** 1:30 pm and 6:30pm. - Ecology will have a presentation, followed by a question and answer session followed by the formal hearing.

### Location:

Department of Ecology  
300 Desmond Drive  
Lacey, Washington 98503

Ecology will accept comments in-person and by phone. The call in number to participate and provide comments by phone is:  
1-800-704-9805, Participants Pin Number: 543362#

### Submit your comments

The public comment period ends on December 11, 2012.

You can give us your official comments in the following ways:

1. Testify (in-person or over the phone) or submit written comments at the public hearing.
2. Email your comments to: [separulemaking@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:separulemaking@ecy.wa.gov)

### SEPA Rule Making

Proposed changes include to:

- Establish separate flexible exemption thresholds for local governments in counties fully planning under RCW 36.70A.040 and local governments in other counties.
- Revise the process that local governments follow in adopting flexible SEPA exemption thresholds.
- Revise and clarify language related to the “residential”, “parking lot” and “landfill and excavation” categories of minor new construction.
- Increase the threshold for SEPA review of electric facilities.
- Improve the efficiency of the environmental checklist.
- Allow for electronic submittal of the environmental checklist, including electronic signature.

### Contact information:

Fran Sant  
360-407-6932  
[separulemaking@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:separulemaking@ecy.wa.gov)

### Special accommodations:

If you need this document in a format for the visually impaired, call Shorelands and Environment Assistance Program at 360-407-6600.

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

# Rule Proposal Notice



## Shorelands and Environmental Assistance

October 2012

3. Mail comments to:  
Department of Ecology  
Attention: Fran Sant  
PO Box 47703  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600

4. You can also fax your comments to 360-407-6904.

### Ecology's response to your comments

All of the comments we receive will become part of the official record. We will publish responses to comments in a document called a Concise Explanatory Statement (CES). The CES is required by the Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05) and is available after the rule is adopted. You will find your name listed in the document with a reference to where, in the document, Ecology responded your comments.

### Expected adoption date

Ecology expects to adopt this rule no earlier than December 28, 2012