



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Rule Implementation Plan

Creating

- **Chapter 173-476 WAC Ambient Air Quality Standards**

Repealing

- **Chapter 173-470 WAC Ambient Air Quality Standard for Particulate Matter**
 - **Chapter 173-474 WAC Ambient Air Quality Standards for Sulfur Oxides**
 - **Chapter 173-475 WAC Ambient Air Quality Standards for Carbon Monoxide, Ozone, and Nitrogen Dioxide**
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Publication and Contact Information

This report is available on the Department of Ecology's website at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/1302024.html>.

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Ecology publishes this document to meet the requirements of the Washington State Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05.325)

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Purpose

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) provides the information in this implementation plan to meet agency and Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05.328) requirements related to rule adoptions.

Introduction

On November 20, 2013, Ecology:

- Adopted a new rule, Chapter 173-476 WAC Ambient Air Quality Standards (AO # 12-05).
- Repealed three outdated rules because the new chapter includes updated versions. They are:
 - Chapter 173-470 WAC, Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter
 - Chapter 173-474 WAC, Ambient Air Quality Standards for Sulfur Oxides
 - Chapter 173-475 WAC, Ambient Air Quality Standards for Carbon Monoxide, Ozone, and Nitrogen Dioxide

The purpose of this rule implementation plan is to inform those who must comply with Ambient Air Quality Standards about how Ecology intends to:

- Implement and enforce the rule
- Inform and educate persons affected by the rule
- Promote and assist voluntary compliance for the rule
- Evaluate the rule
- Train and inform Ecology staff about the new or amended rule

Also included in this plan is information about:

- Supporting documents that may need to be written or revised because of the new rule or amended rule
- Other resources where more information about the rule is available
- Contact information for Ecology employees who can answer questions about the rule implementation

Implementation and Enforcement

Ecology and local air quality agencies will implement and enforce this rule. The program distribution list for this rule making includes staff from the different agencies that already monitor, implement, and permit the standards in this rule. Using existing resources, these staff will continue to work with permit holders in complying with NAAQS emission limits. Since the standards in this rule are already being implemented, we do not anticipate additional resources are needed to implement and enforce this rule.

Informing and Educating Persons Affected by the Rule

To help inform and educate the affected persons, Ecology is doing or has done the following:

Before the rule is finalized:

- Sent out public notices
- Used a distribution list created for this rule making to send updates
- Posted information on Ecology's agency and Air Quality web pages
- Held a public workshop to gather stakeholder input prior to CR-102 filing
- Held public hearing with a public workshop

Once the rule is adopted:

- Issue a press release announcing the adoption of the rule
- Email stakeholders who have requested to be on our distribution list for this rule making
- Post the final rule and Concise Explanatory Statement on the internet for public access
- Continue to include information on the program and rule-making process under the Archived Rules section of Ecology's Laws and Rules web site
- Inform and educate the public when they contact Ecology

Promoting and Assisting Voluntary Compliance

The actions mentioned above to inform and educate affected persons on the changes also help to promote voluntary compliance. Program staff is available to respond to stakeholder phone and e-mail inquiries.

Evaluating the Rule

There are several ways Ecology and local air agencies evaluate if the NAAQS standards are being met. They include:

- A statewide monitoring system.
 - Most ambient air monitors are in areas expected to have higher levels of air pollutants.
 - Staff from Ecology and local air agencies perform:
 - daily observations of ambient monitors.
 - analysis as needed through modeling programs. Examples are during wild fire season or winter time weather inversions.
- Active participation from Ecology, local air agencies, and local governments to protect Washington's air quality and meet the NAAQS standards.
 - Only one area in Washington is designated as nonattainment. This area has been able to demonstrate significant improvements. A maintenance plan is currently being developed to request the area be designated in attainment.
 - Some other areas in the state are moving towards nonattainment. These areas are being closely monitored.

- Maintenance plans are developed for areas that have been determined to be in nonattainment. The original plan must be updated every ten years providing additional safeguards to ensure the air in Washington attains and maintains compliance with the federal standards.
- A permitting program to demonstrate businesses are neither causing nor contributing to violations of the standards.
 - When it is required, permit limits for NAAQS have been established to set emission rates which ensure that the pollutant concentration at the property line of businesses does not exceed the standard.
 - Some industry permits require continuous emission monitors and specify reporting requirements.

Training and Informing Agency Staff

Program staff who have worked on this rule making will continue to network with other staff throughout Ecology and local air agencies as needed. No additional training is required.

List of Supporting Documents that May Need to be Written or Revised

We have identified no supporting documents that may need to be written or revised. Rule-making documents are available on Ecology's website at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/wac173470_474_475/1205.html.

More Information

Rule making documents are available at:
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/wac173470_474_475/1205.html

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