



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Rule Implementation Plan

Wastewater Discharge Permit Fees

Chapter 173-224 WAC

October 2013
Publication no. 13-10-045

Publication and Contact Information

This report is available on the Department of Ecology's website at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/1310045.html>

For more information contact:

Bev Poston
Water Quality Program
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

E-mail: bev.poston@ecy.wa.gov
Phone: 360-407-6425

Washington State Department of Ecology - www.ecy.wa.gov

Headquarters, Olympia	360-407-6000
Northwest Regional Office, Bellevue	425-649-7000
Southwest Regional Office, Olympia	360-407-6300
Central Regional Office, Yakima	509-575-2490
Eastern Regional Office, Spokane	509-329-3400

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

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

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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 1, 2013, Ecology adopted proposed amendments to Chapter 173-224 WAC – Wastewater Discharge Permit Fees (AO #13-7-101). This rule implementation plan informs those who must comply with Chapter 173-224 WAC – Wastewater Discharge Permit Fees 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 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.
- Resources for more information about the rule.
- Contact information for Ecology employees who can answer questions about the rule implementation.

Implementation and Enforcement

Ecology will mail out invoices for those permit fee types that have received the fee increase in December 2013 for fiscal year 2014. Ecology will invoice all permit holders for fiscal year 2015 beginning in July 2014 for the first half of the fiscal year and January 2015 for the second half of the fiscal year. Permit holders have 45 days to submit payment. If payment is not received by the due date, Ecology mails a delinquent letter allowing an additional 30 days to submit payment. If Ecology does not receive payment by the second due date, Ecology turns the delinquent account over for collection action and adds a 20 percent surcharge to what is owed. This surcharge is what Ecology must pay for the collection action. A delinquent account will remain at collection three years before Ecology will write it off.

Once an account has been at collection for one fiscal year with no payment received, Ecology has the option of mailing a letter giving the permit holder 30 days to submit payment in full; after the 30 days has elapsed, Ecology will revoke the permit for nonpayment of fees.

Informing and Educating Persons Affected by the Rule

Permit holders will receive a direct mailing from Ecology informing them that Ecology has adopted the proposed fee increases. Ecology encourages existing permit holders to visit the permit fee webpage to review the amended permit fee regulation and, if interested, review how the fee program operates. First time permit holders will receive a copy of the adopted rule and other information explaining billing and collection processes.

Ecology will mail a statewide press release announcing the rule adoption. The press release will provide the address for the permit fee web page and contact information if there are any questions.

Ecology will notify the Ecology WACTrac Listserv, Water Quality Partnership, and the Tribes electronically of the fee rule adoption and provide the permit fee webpage and contact information if they have questions.

Promoting and Assisting Voluntary Compliance

Ecology mails out a delinquent letter before it forwards an account for collection action. This mailing usually results in most permit holders paying any outstanding monies owed to Ecology.

Evaluating the Rule

Information from the Water Quality Program Time Accounting System will show whether or not revenues received are matching up with Ecology's expenditures for those categories of fees that had their annual fees increased under this rule change.

Training and Informing Agency Staff

Assessment of permit fees is complicated. To ensure consistency, Ecology staff are encouraged to forward all questions concerning permit fees to Bev Poston, Fee Administrator for the Permit Fee Unit, at 360-407-6425.

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

None

Contact Information

Bev Poston
Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

360-407-6425

bev.poston@ecy.wa.gov