# *Public Comment Period*

## Air Quality Program                December 2015

# Sabey Intergate Data Center Draft Revised Air Permit

**Para asistencia en español: Gregory Bohn (509) 454-4174, Richelle Perez (360) 407-6084, o preguntas@ecy.wa.gov.**

Sabey Intergate applied to Ecology to revise their existing air quality permit in Quincy.  The public comment period is **December 10, 2015 through January 10, 2016**.

Data centers house the servers that provide email, manage instant messages, and run applications for our computers.

## The Permit

Sabey Intergate applied to Ecology to revise their existing air permit called a "notice of construction approval order" (NOC).  An NOC revision is required when facilities plan to modify equipment, operations, or existing permit requirements.  As part of the permit revision process, Ecology reviews emissions of air contaminants to ensure that public health is protected and all applicable regulations are followed.

Sabey Intergate was previously permitted to install 44 diesel generators and associated cooling equipment, capable of producing 88 megawatts of emergency backup electrical power.  Sabey proposes to allow options in engine suppliers; reduce the size of some of the diesel engines; and modify testing, monitoring, and recordkeeping requirements.  Sabey also asks to extend the deadline to install all 44 diesel engines.

To protect the public from air pollution, the proposed NOC includes the following conditions:

- limit the amount of fuel that can be burned,
- limit the total hours per year the diesel engines can operate,
- test diesel engines to make sure air pollution control equipment works.

## How Ecology Evaluates Diesel Engine Exhaust

During review of a permit application, Ecology evaluates how much air pollution the project will add.  Ecology cannot approve a permit that allows air pollutants to be emitted at levels that cause health problems.

## MORE INFORMATION

**Public Comment Period**
December 10, 2015 –
January 10, 2016

**Documents available at**
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/quincydatacenter

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104 B Street SW
Quincy, WA 98848

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For special accommodations or documents in alternate format, call (509) 329-3400, 711 (relay service), or 877-833-6341 (TTY).

Ecology uses computer models to estimate where air pollution will be carried by the wind as well as the amount of air pollution. Ecology reviews the results from computer models to assess possible health risks.

## The Health Risks of Diesel Exhaust

The toxic air pollutants in diesel exhaust include nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, organic compounds, and tiny particles called diesel exhaust particulates. Ecology evaluated the levels of all these pollutants during the permit review process. Diesel exhaust particles and nitrogen dioxide are the pollutants most likely to be produced in high enough amounts to potentially affect health. For more information about the health effects of these pollutants, read Ecology's publication "*Focus on Diesel Exhaust Health Risks*." This is available in English and Spanish.

## Community Modeling

Ecology evaluates the emissions from each individual data center as well as the combined emissions from all data centers and other air pollution sources in the area. To do this, a computer model adds any new data center emissions to those from other air pollution sources and determines if the total emissions are likely to be harmful to human health. This computer modeling process is called "community modeling." Community modeling was used in Quincy because so many data centers are located in Quincy.

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DATA CENTER AIR PERMITS

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