



Rule Proposal Notice

Chapter 173-224-WAC Wastewater Discharge Permit Fees

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is proposing to amend Chapter 173-224 WAC - Wastewater Discharge Permit Fees. This amendment will allow permit fees to be increased for most wastewater and stormwater permit fee types.

State law (RCW 80.48.465 – Water Pollution Control) requires Ecology to fund its wastewater and stormwater permit programs through annual fees paid by permit holders. Ecology is proposing fee changes because increased fee revenue is required to support the costs of administering the permit program next biennium.

The proposed changes also seek to continue moving the program toward payment equity between permit categories. Ecology is seeking a larger percentage fee increase for underpaying categories and a smaller percentage fee increase for overpaying categories, while the overall revenue increase to the permit program stays within the state fiscal growth factor limits of 4.22% for state fiscal year 2016 and 4.19% for state fiscal year 2017.

Ecology’s goals in establishing the percentage splits within the overall fiscal growth factor increase are to honor the need for fund equity while not over-burdening the under-paying categories with an increase that is not sustainable.

The fee increases being proposed are the following:

Underpaying Fee Categories		
SFY 2016 (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016)	5.31%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aluminum Alloys • Aluminum and Magnesium Reduction Mills • Aluminum Forming • Aggregate Production – Individual and General Permits • Aquatic Pest Control • Boatyards (Individual and General Permits) • Coal Mining and Preparation • Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations • Dairies • Iron and Steel • Metal Finishing • Nonferrous Metals Forming • Ore Mining • Private and State Owned Facilities • Shipyards • Stormwater Construction (Individual and General Permits) • Stormwater Industrial (Individual and General Permits) • Stormwater Municipal Phase 1 and 2 Permits.
SFY 2017 (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017)	5.27%	
Overpaying Fee Categories		
SFY 2016 (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016)	3.25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquaculture • Combined Industrial Waste Treatment • Combined Food Processing Waste Treatment • Combined Sewer Overflow System • Commercial Laundry • Crop Preparing (Individual and General Permits Facilities • Not Otherwise Classified (Individual and General Permits) • Flavor Extraction • Food Processing • Fuel and Chemical Storage • Hazardous Waste Cleanup Sites • Ink Formulation and Printing • Inorganic Chemicals Manufacturing • Noncontact Cooling Water With Additives (Individual and General Permits) • Noncontact Cooling Water Without Additives (Individual and General Permits) • Organic Chemical Manufacturing • Petroleum Refining • Photofinishers • Power and/or Steam Plants • Radioactive Effluents and Discharges • RCRA Corrective Action Sites • Seafood Processing • Solid Waste Sites • Textile Mills • Timber Products • Vegetable/Bulb Washing Facilities • Vehicle Maintenance and Freight Transfer • Water Plants (Individual and General Permits).
SFY 2017 (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017)	3.21%	

King County Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants will have the following fee increases:

4.22% for Fiscal Year 2016 (July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016)

4.19% for Fiscal Year 2017 (July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017)

Other publicly-owned treatment works will not have a change to the rate they currently pay per residential equivalent.

New Fee Category Proposals

Ecology has recently issued or will be issuing new permits which will require fee categories to be developed. The categories are:

- Bridge Washing
- In-water Vessel Deconstruction
- Wineries

There is an existing fee category for wineries that was developed for a small number of individual facilities. The new winery general permit is under development and could ultimately include many additional permit holders. Ecology is developing a new category structure that will better reflect what it will take to manage this permit with a large number of permit holders.

Ecology expects to file the formal rule proposal mid-July. This will begin the public comment period and announce the public hearing. You will be directly notified when the filing takes place.

For more information on the fee rule amendment process, please visit Ecology's website at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/ruledev/wac173224/1502ov.html>

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call the Water Quality Program at Ecology, 360-407-6600. Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.