

## **Underground Storage Tank Regulations, Chapters 173-360 WAC**

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) plans to amend Chapter 173-360 WAC, Underground Storage Tank (UST) Regulations. The regulations are intended to prevent the release of petroleum or other hazardous substances from UST systems, and ensure that any release is detected and cleaned up. The announcement of the rulemaking will be published in the Washington State Register on April 6, 2016.

### **Scope of Rulemaking**

As part the rulemaking, Ecology plans to:

- Incorporate federal rule changes needed to maintain state program approval, as specified in 40 CFR Parts 280 and 281 and adopted in June 2015.
- Incorporate changes to the state's UST program specified in the authorizing state statute, Chapter 90.76 RCW.
- Make other selective changes to the requirements governing the state's UST program (such as updating UST service provider requirements).
- Streamline rule requirements, improve rule clarity, and improve consistency within the rule and with other state and federal laws and rules.

### **Reasons for Rulemaking**

Ecology is conducting the rulemaking to:

- Maintain federal approval of the state's UST program, as required by the authorizing state statute, Chapter 90.76 RCW.
- Implement changes to state's UST program specified in the authorizing state statute, Chapter 90.76 RCW.
- Reduce the number and severity of releases of petroleum and other hazardous substances from UST systems, which pose a serious threat to human health and the environment, including drinking water.
- Make the rule easier to use and understand by the regulated community.

#### **WHY IT MATTERS**

The state's underground storage tank (UST) compliance program is intended to prevent the release of petroleum and other hazardous substances from UST systems. Such releases can pollute drinking water and pose serious threats to human health and the environment.

Ecology regulates more than 9,000 systems at more than 3,300 facilities. Each year, about 50 new releases are confirmed at those facilities.

The planned rule changes are necessary to reduce the number and severity of those releases.

#### **More information:**

For more information about the UST program, visit: [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/ust-lust/tanks.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/ust-lust/tanks.html).

#### **Contact information:**

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#### **Accommodation Requests:**

To request ADA accommodation, including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call the Toxics Cleanup Program at 360-407-7170. Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

## Persons Impacted

The rulemaking may impact persons who:

- Own or operate UST systems.
- Provide services to owners and operators.
- Deliver product to, or collect waste oil from, UST systems.
- Provide pollution liability insurance for UST systems.
- Conduct training for operators of UST systems.

## Stay Informed

You can stay informed about the rulemaking and public involvement opportunities by:

1. Visiting our web page at:  
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/regs/wac173360/1602ov.html>.
2. Signing up to receive email notices at: <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?A0=ECOLOGY-UST-RULE>.
3. Contacting the Rule Coordinator:

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## Get Involved

You can get involved in the rulemaking by:

1. Participating in Rule Development

During development of the rule proposal, Ecology plans to consult with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), other affected state agencies, representatives of the regulated community, and other interested persons. Ecology will also extend an offer for government-to-government consultation with tribal governments. As part of the consultations, Ecology may share preliminary drafts of the rule.

2. Commenting on the Rule Proposal

Ecology will submit the proposal for review and comment and hold at least one public hearing on the proposal.

