



The Life of a Rulemaking

at the Department of Ecology



Initiation Phase

Exploratory, Approval and Announcement (CR-101)

Exploratory process

- Legislative changes
- Federal changes to a law or rule
- Input from stakeholders
- Court decisions
- New technology and/or science
- Possible multiple rulemakings

Approval by Ecology's senior management

- What do we want to do
- Why is it needed?
- Who is interested?
- Why now?
- Get approval to proceed

Announce rulemaking

- Describe the scope
- Invite participation
- Start a dialog with interested parties



Proposal Phase

(CR-102)

Accept Comments

- Accept written and oral comments (via mail, online, webinars, videoconference)
- Hold public hearing(s)

Issue a rule proposal

- Include proposed rule language and economic analyses
- Open the formal comment period
- Publish to State Register

Develop proposed language

- Draft preliminary language
- Engage stakeholders and tribes
- Seek feedback through meetings, workshops, and online tools
- No time limit on duration



Adoption Phase

(CR-103)

Consider comments

- Consider and respond to comments
- Are changes needed
- Should Ecology seek adoption?

Adopt the rule

- Adopt within 6 months of proposal
- Publish in State Register

Implementation

- Usually effective in 31 days
- Issue guidance and tools
- Provide technical assistance

Learn more at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/index.html>