



Frequently Asked Questions about Permit Fees in Washington State

from Ecology's Water Quality Program

NPDES/Stormwater/State Waste Discharge Permit Fees in Washington State

Q: Why do people pay permit fees?

A: In 1988 Washington voters passed Initiative 97 (RCW 90.45.465) requiring wastewater discharge permit holders to pay for a permit that allows for discharges to state surface and ground waters. The Department of Ecology is required by state law to fund the wastewater and stormwater permit program by collecting annual permit fees.

Q: Who pays permit fees?

A: Industries, municipalities and/or businesses that have National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, state wastewater discharge permits, and facilities issued temporary wastewater permits must pay annual fees.

Q: What do permit fees pay for?

A: Fees pay for Ecology's management of the Wastewater/Stormwater Discharge Permit Program. Some of these activities include:

- Reviewing permit applications, issuing permits
- Conducting on-site inspections
- Review various technical documents
 - Engineering reports, discharge monitoring reports
 - Solid waste plans, operating plans
- Providing technical assistance

Q: How are permit fees billed?

A: Ecology mails invoices directly to permit holders. Most permit holders owing more than \$500 in fees are billed in two equal payments. If the fee is less than the \$500 the full amount is billed at the beginning of the state fiscal year (July 1). Construction stormwater permit holders are billed once per fiscal year.

Q: When does someone stop paying permit fees?

A: Permit fees stop when Ecology officially cancels or terminates the permit. Permit holders need to contact their Ecology regional office representative as soon as a permitted activity stops. Permit fees will continue until Ecology cancels the permit, regardless of when the permitted activity stopped.

Q: What time period does the annual permit fee cover?

A: Permit fees are based on the state fiscal year (July 1 through June 30). In the case of new permit issuance, the fee begins upon the permit coverage date.

Q: Does Ecology provide any relief for small businesses?

A: Yes. The permit fee regulation, Wastewater Discharge Permit Fees (Chapter 173-224 WAC), contains a provision that allows Ecology to reduce annual permit fees for any eligible small business. Approval or denial of the fee reduction requests are based on annual gross revenue. Please contact Shirley Rollins to obtain an application form or to receive more information. Her phone number is 360-407-7330, or you can send email to srol461@ecy.wa.gov.

Q: Whom do I contact if I have questions regarding wastewater or stormwater permits?

A: Water quality permit coordinators in each of Ecology's regional offices are the primary contacts for information about specific permits.

Northwest Regional Office

Tricia Miller
425-649-7201
tmil461@ecy.wa.gov
Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom

Southwest Regional Office

Carey Cholski - Municipal/General Permits
360-407-6279
cgru461@ecy.wa.gov
Sherri Greenup - Industrial Permits
360-407-6280
swal461@ecy.wa.gov
Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum

Central Regional Office

Cynthia Huwe
509-457-7105
chuw461@ecy.wa.gov
Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, Yakima

Eastern Regional Office

Shara Trantum
509-329-3455
cywa461@ecy.wa.gov
Adams, Ferry, Franklin, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Whitman

Ecology Headquarters Stormwater Permit Managers

Josh Klimek 360-407-7451 chgi461@ecy.wa.gov	<i>Kitsap, Pierce, City of Seattle, Thurston</i>
Carrol Johnston 360-407-6437 carr461@ecy.wa.gov	<i>Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Franklin, Ferry, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Skagit, Snohomish, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whatcom, Whitman</i>
Joyce Smith 360-407-6858 josm461@ecy.wa.gov	<i>Benton, Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Douglas, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lewis, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Skamania, Wahkiakum, Yakima</i>
Elaine Worthen 360-407-7229 ewor461@ecy.wa.gov	<i>Island, King (exclude City of Seattle), San Juan,</i>

Q: Whom do I contact if I have questions regarding permit fees?

A: For more information, please contact:

Fee Administrator

Bev Poston
360-407-6425
bpos461@ecy.wa.gov

Municipal & Wastewater

Shirley Rollins
360-407-7330
srol461@ecy.wa.gov

Industrial & Construction Stormwater

Jeanna Ridner
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If you need this publication in an alternate format, please call the Water Quality Program at 360-407-6502. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.