



Focus on **Air Operating Permit Jurisdictions**

From the Department of Ecology's Air Quality Program

The 1990 amendments to the federal Clean Air Act required all states to develop statewide operating permit programs. The Department of Ecology's (Ecology's) permitting program is implemented by Ecology, the Department of Health, the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, and local air quality agencies.

Roles and responsibilities

Local air quality agencies

The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) authorized Ecology to delegate the operating permit program to local air quality agencies with jurisdiction in given areas. These local agencies act as permitting authorities in their jurisdictions. There are seven local air quality agencies in Washington:

Olympic Region Clean Air Agency
(Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Pacific, and Thurston counties)

Puget Sound Clean Air Agency
(King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish counties)

Northwest Clean Air Agency
(Island, Skagit, and Whatcom counties)

Southwest Clean Air Agency
(Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Skamania, and Wahkiakum counties)

Spokane County Air Pollution Control Authority

Benton Clean Air Authority

Yakima Regional Clean Air Authority

Department of Ecology

Ecology is responsible for developing and overseeing local agency implementation of the statewide operating permit program. Ecology also issues permits for:

- Sources located in counties in Washington that are not under the jurisdiction of a local air quality agency; and
- Pulp and paper mills, aluminum mills, and facilities on the Hanford Reservation.

Department of Health

The Department of Health (DOH) is the main regulator of radionuclide air emissions in Washington. DOH issues and enforces a license that sets control requirements for sources of radionuclides. Permits issued by local air quality agencies will include the DOH-issued license as an applicable requirement. The roles of DOH and the local air quality agencies regarding permit compliance and enforcement are defined in a Memorandum of Agreement. Ecology and DOH jointly issue permits for sources regulated by Ecology, and each agency is responsible for its portion of the permit.

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

The Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council issues operating permits to energy facilities under its jurisdiction.

EPA

EPA is responsible for developing the federal operating permit program and reviewing and approving the state rule. EPA also reviews individual permits issued by state and local permitting authorities. Ultimately, the agency will oversee the state program and act on any petitions filed on individual permits.

For more information

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