



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT
DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Date of Issuance: October 4, 2017

Lead agency: Department of Ecology, Water Quality Program

Agency Contact: Heather R. Bartlett, Heather.Bartlett@ecy.wa.gov, 360-407-6405

Description of proposal:

Ecology proposes to adopt a new rule, Chapter 173-228 WAC – Vessel Sewage No Discharge Zones. The vessel sewage no discharge zone rule establishes to prohibit the release of sewage (black water) from vessels, whether treated or not, for Puget Sound area waters.

Location of proposal:

Marine waters of Washington State inward from the line between New Dungeness Lighthouse and the Discovery Island Lighthouse to the Canadian border, and fresh waters of Lake Washington, Lake Union, and connecting waters between and to Puget Sound.

Proponent:

Department of Ecology, Water Quality Program
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
Heather.Bartlett@ecy.wa.gov
Phone: 360-407-6405

Ecology determined that this proposal will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). We reviewed the attached Environmental Checklist. This is available at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/ruledev/wac173228/1702timedocs.html>.

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This determination is based on the following findings and conclusions:

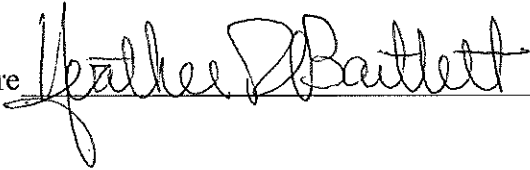
The adoption of this rule would to establish a Puget Sound No Discharge Zone. The proposed rule is designed to prevent sewage discharges from vessels. The proposed rule would not increase discharge to water, emissions to air, production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise. The proposed rule would not be likely to affect plants, animals, marine life, environmentally sensitive areas, land use, or shoreline use in a negative manner. The proposed rule would not be likely to deplete energy or natural resources, and would not be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services.

The comment period for this DNS corresponds with the comment period on proposed Chapter 173-228 WAC – Vessel Sewage No Discharge Zones, and will end on November 30, 2017.

Responsible official:

Heather R. Bartlett
Water Quality Program Manager
Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Signature



Date

10/3/17

This SEPA decision may be appealed in conjunction with an appeal on the underlying agency action.