

Rule Adoption Notice

Water Quality Program

November 2015

Chapter 173-224-WAC – Wastewater Discharge Permit Fees

What is Chapter 173-224 WAC and why is it being updated?

Chapter 173-224 established a fee system for state waste discharge and National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. The state uses wastewater and stormwater permits as primary tools to protect clean water.

This rule is being amended to update the annual fees for wastewater and stormwater discharge permits. These permit fees are reviewed and updated every two years as needed to meet the requirements of RCW 90.48.465.

Summary of the rule changes adopted on November 18, 2015

After the completion of a public rulemaking process, Ecology has amended wastewater and stormwater discharge permit fees for state fiscal years 2016 (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016) and 2017 (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017). Fee categories were also created for Ecology's new Bridge Washing, In-Water Vessel Deconstruction, and Wineries permits.

Response to Comments

Ecology's response to comments received during the public comment period is now available. A copy of the Concise Explanatory Statement can be downloaded at: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/ruledev/wac173224/102ov/html

Whom does this rule affect?

Ecology will assess permit fee increases as described on page 2 of this notice. Underpaying categories include those permits whose annual fees don't cover the department's costs for permit administration. Overpaying categories include those permits whose annual fees are in excess of the department's costs for related permit administration. Small business and hardship fee reduction information is available at: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/permits/permit_fees/index.html.

MORE INFORMATION

Wastewater/Stormwater Permit Fee Website:
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/permits/permit_fees/index.html

Rule Adopted:

November 18, 2015

Rule Effective date:

December 19, 2015

Contact information:

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Special accommodations:

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call the Water Quality Program at 360-407-6600. Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call 877-833-6341.

Underpaying Fee Categories		
SFY 2016 (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016)	5.31%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aluminum Alloys Aluminum Forming Aggregate Production – Individual and General Permits Aquatic Pest Control Boatyards (Individual and General Permits) Coal Mining and Preparation Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations Iron and Steel Metal Finishing Nonferrous Metals Forming Ore Mining Private and State Owned Facilities Shipyards Stormwater Construction (Individual and General Permits) Stormwater Industrial (Individual and General Permits) Stormwater Municipal Phase 1 and 2 Permits.
SFY 2017 (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017)	5.27%	
Overpaying Fee Categories		
SFY 2016 (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016)	3.25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aquaculture Aluminum and Magnesium Reduction Mills Combined Industrial Waste Treatment Combined Food Processing Waste Treatment Combined Sewer Overflow System Commercial Laundry Crop Preparing (Individual and General Permits Facilities) Not Otherwise Classified (Individual and General Permits) Flavor Extraction Food Processing Fuel and Chemical Storage Hazardous Waste Cleanup Sites Ink Formulation and Printing Inorganic Chemicals Manufacturing Noncontact Cooling Water With Additives (Individual and General Permits) Noncontact Cooling Water Without Additives (Individual and General Permits) Organic Chemical Manufacturing Petroleum Refining Photofinishers Power and/or Steam Plants Radioactive Effluents and Discharges RCRA Corrective Action Sites Seafood Processing Solid Waste Sites Textile Mills Timber Products Vegetable/Bulb Washing Facilities Vehicle Maintenance and Freight Transfer Water Plants (Individual and General Permits).
SFY 2017 (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017)	3.21%	

Ecology is also adding three new fee categories that will include Bridge Washing, In-water Vessel Deconstruction, and Wineries – General Permits.

King County DNR Wastewater Treatment will have fees increased by 4.22% for State Fiscal Year 2016 and 4.19% for State Fiscal Year 2017.

More information

To get updates on Ecology’s rulemaking activities, sign-up for the WACTrack e-mail list at www.ecy.wa.gov/maillist.html.

Appeal procedures

This adoption can be appealed under procedures described in the Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05.330). For more information about appealing this rule adoption, please contact Bari Schreiner, Agency Rules Coordinator, at bari.schreiner@ecy.wa.gov or 360-407-6998.

