

WAC 173-204-400 General considerations. (1) The standards of WAC 173-204-400 through 173-204-420 specify a process for managing sources of sediment contamination. These procedures include:

(a) Evaluating the potential for a waste discharge to create a sediment impact;

(b) Requiring application for a sediment impact zone authorization;

(c) Verifying whether a discharge has received all known, available and reasonable methods of prevention, control, and treatment prior to discharge, and/or application of best management practices;

(d) Analysis and verification of the potential sediment impact;

(e) Determining whether the sediment impact zone would meet maximum allowable contamination requirements;

(f) Evaluating the proposed sediment impact zone in consideration of locational criteria;

(g) Design and/or constrain the sediment impact zone to be as small, and with the least contamination, as practicable;

(h) Public review of the proposed sediment impact zone authorization;

(i) Issuance of the sediment impact zone authorization with provisions for maintenance and closure; and

(j) Reducing and eventually eliminating the sediment impact zone via renewals and modifications of a sediment impact zone authorization.

(2) Permits and other authorizations of wastewater, stormwater, and nonpoint source discharges to surface waters of the state of Washington under authority of chapter 90.48 RCW shall be conditioned so that the discharge receives all known, available and reasonable methods of prevention, control, and treatment, and best management practices prior to discharge, as required by chapters 90.48, 90.52, and 90.54 RCW. The department shall provide consistent guidance on the collection, analysis and evaluation of wastewater, receiving-water, and sediment samples to meet the intent of this section using consideration of pertinent sections of the *Department of Ecology Permit Writers' Manual*, as amended, and other guidance approved by the department.

(3) As determined necessary, the department shall require any person who proposes a new discharge to evaluate the potential for the proposed discharge to cause a violation of the applicable sediment quality standards of WAC 173-204-320 through 173-204-340.

(4) As determined necessary, the department shall require existing permitted discharges to evaluate the potential for the permitted discharge to cause a violation of the applicable sediment quality standards of WAC 173-204-320 through 173-204-340.

(5) Within permits authorizing existing discharges to surface waters of the state of Washington, the department may specify appropriate locations and methodologies for the collection and analysis of representative samples of wastewater, receiving-water, and sediments to evaluate the potential for the discharge to cause a violation of the applicable sediment quality standards of WAC 173-204-320 through 173-204-340.

(6) In establishing the need for, and the appropriate, individual permit monitoring conditions, the department shall consider multiple factors relating to the potential for a discharge to cause a violation of the applicable sediment quality standards of WAC 173-204-320 through 173-204-340 including but not limited to:

(a) Discharge particulate characteristics;

- (b) Discharge contaminant concentrations, flow, and loading rate;
- (c) Sediment chemical concentration and biological effects levels;
- (d) Receiving water characteristics;
- (e) The geomorphology of sediments;
- (f) Cost mitigating factors such as the available resources of the discharger; and
- (g) Other factors determined necessary by the department.

(7) As determined necessary to ensure the wastewater discharge does not cause a violation of the applicable standards of WAC 173-204-320 through 173-204-340, except as authorized by the department under WAC 173-204-415, Sediment impact zones, the department shall stipulate permit terms and conditions which include wastewater discharge average and maximum mass loading per unit time, and wastewater discharge average and maximum chemical concentrations within new and existing facility permits authorizing wastewater discharges to surface waters of the state of Washington.

(8) As determined necessary, the department shall modify wastewater discharge permits whenever it appears the discharge causes a violation, or creates a substantial potential to cause a violation of the applicable sediment quality standards of WAC 173-204-320 through 173-204-340, as authorized by RCW 90.48.520.

(9) To meet the intent of this section, the sediment quality standards of WAC 173-204-320 through 173-204-340 and the sediment impact zone standards of WAC 173-204-415 through 173-204-420 are not considered to be federal discharge permit effluent limits subject to antibacksliding requirements of the federal Clean Water Act. Discharge permit sediment monitoring and sediment impact zone compliance requirements may be used to establish effluent limits sufficient to meet the standards of this chapter.

(10) As determined necessary, the department shall use issuance of administrative actions under authority of chapters 90.48 or 70.105D RCW to implement this chapter.

(11) Wastewater dilution zones. Water quality mixing zones authorized by the department pursuant to chapter 173-201A WAC, Water quality standards for surface waters of the state of Washington, do not satisfy the standards of WAC 173-204-415, Sediment impact zones.

(12) For the sediment source control standards of WAC 173-204-400 through 173-204-420, any and all references to violation of, potential to violate, exceedance of, or potential to exceed the applicable standards of WAC 173-204-320 through 173-204-340 shall also apply to the antidegradation and designated use policies of WAC 173-204-120. Any exceedances or potential exceedances of the antidegradation or designated use policies of WAC 173-204-120 shall meet the applicable requirements of WAC 173-204-400 through 173-204-420.

(13) Under no circumstances shall the provisions of sediment source control standards WAC 173-204-400 through 173-204-420 be construed as providing for the relaxation of discharge permit requirements under other authorities including, but not limited to, chapter 90.48 RCW, the Water Pollution Control Act, chapter 90.54 RCW, the Water Resources Act of 1971, and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 and amendments.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 90.48.220. WSR 96-02-058, § 173-204-400, filed 12/29/95, effective 1/29/96. Statutory Authority: Chapters 43.21C, 70.105D, 90.48, 90.52, 90.54 and 90.70 RCW. WSR 91-08-019 (Order 90-41), § 173-204-400, filed 3/27/91, effective 4/27/91.]