

WAC 468-51-130 Closure of unpermitted connections. Closure criteria, permit requirements. Any unpermitted connections to the state highway system which were in existence and in active use consistent with the type of connection on July 1, 1990, shall not require the issuance of a permit and may continue to provide connection to the state highway system, unless the property owner had received written notification initiating connection closure from the department prior to July 1, 1990, or unless the department determines that the unpermitted connection does not meet minimum acceptable standards of highway safety and mobility based on accident and/or traffic data or accepted traffic engineering criteria, a copy of which must be provided to the property owner and/or permit holder and tenant upon written request. The department may require that a permit be obtained if a significant change occurs in the use, design, or traffic flow of the connection or of the state highway. If a permit is not obtained, the department may initiate action to close the unpermitted connection point in compliance with RCW 47.50.040. Any unpermitted connection opened subsequent to July 1, 1990, is subject to closure by the department. The process to be followed by the department in the closure of an unpermitted connection shall be consistent with chapter 34.05 RCW and rules adopted thereunder. The notification process is as follows:

(1) Notification. The department shall serve notice, in accordance with rules adopted in compliance with chapter 34.05 RCW, upon the property owner of a connection to a state highway which is found by the department to be unpermitted. This notice shall clearly describe the highway connection violation and shall establish a thirty-day time limit for either applying for a connection permit or requesting an adjudicative proceeding in compliance with chapter 34.05 RCW. The notice will further advise the property owner that failure to act in either of the prescribed ways within the time period will result in department closure of the unpermitted connection.

(2) Permit application. If a permit application is filed within the thirty days, and the application is denied, the department shall notify the property owner of the denial. The property owner may then proceed with the permit application revision process set forth in WAC 468-51-080 or request an adjudicative proceeding in compliance with WAC 468-51-150 within thirty days. Failure to act in either of those prescribed ways within the time period set forth in the rules will result in department closure of the unpermitted connection. If the location and design of the connection in the permit application are acceptable to the department, the existing connection may continue to be used for a specified period of time or until the connection specified in the permit application is constructed.

(3) Approval conditions. Modifications, relocation, or closure of unpermitted connections may be required by the department as a requirement of permit approval, subject to the adjudicative proceedings provisions of WAC 468-51-150.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 47.50 RCW. WSR 99-06-034 (Order 187), § 468-51-130, filed 2/25/99, effective 3/28/99. Statutory Authority: RCW 47.01.101 and chapter 47.50 RCW. WSR 92-14-044, § 468-51-130, filed 6/24/92, effective 7/25/92.]