

WSR 24-02-082

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

[Filed January 2, 2024, 4:05 p.m.]

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Announcing the Draft Winery General Permit
and Fact Sheet for Review and Comment**

The Washington state department of ecology (ecology) proposes to reissue the winery state waste discharge general permit (permit). The current permit was issued in July 2019 and will expire **July 1, 2024**. The revised draft permit and fact sheet, which explains the legal and technical basis for the permit, are available with any associated documents for review and public comment from **January 18, 2024, through March 1, 2024, 11:59 p.m.** Ecology will host informational workshops and public hearings on the draft permit.

Purpose of the Permit: The permit provides coverage for the conditional discharge of pollutants to land, ground waters, or to a wastewater treatment plant in the state of Washington. The wastewater discharge methods covered under this permit include unlisted wastewater treatment plants, irrigation to managed vegetation, lagoons or other liquid storage structures, road dust abatement, subsurface infiltration systems, and infiltration basins. Under state water quality laws (State Water Pollution Control Act), a permit is required for the discharge of these wastewaters. Wineries that discharge wastewater to land or ground waters of the state, or to an unlisted wastewater treatment plant, must obtain permit authorization for their discharge.

Applying for Coverage under the Permit: Facilities that have already applied for coverage by January 3, 2024, and are covered under the existing permit, are covered under the new permit. New or unpermitted facilities may obtain coverage under the permit by submitting a complete permit application to ecology and satisfying all applicable public notice and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requirements (WAC 173-226-200). Access to the application is available online at <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Permits-certifications/Winery-permit>.

Copies of the Draft Permit and Fact Sheet: The draft permit and fact sheet are available online at <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Permits-certifications/Winery-permit> by end of day on January 18, 2024. You may also request copies from Jackie Lince at 360-407-6600 or by email at jackie.lince@ecy.wa.gov.

Submitting Written Comments: Ecology will accept written comments on the draft permit from **January 18, 2024, through March 1, 2024, 11:59 p.m.** Ecology prefers online comment submission via the eComment form (link below) on the permit web page. Written comments by mail must be postmarked by **March 1, 2024**. Comments should reference specific permit text when possible.

Online via the eComment form: <https://wq.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=Fsx2D3etaj> (preferred).

By mail: Send to Danielle Edelman, Washington State Department of Ecology, P.O. Box 47696, Olympia, WA 98504-7696, phone 360-763-2597, email danielle.edelman@ecy.wa.gov.

Assistance for Persons with Disabilities: To request ADA accommodation for disabilities, call ecology at 360-407-7285 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington relay service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

Public Workshop(s) and Hearing(s): The purpose of the workshops is to explain the general permit and to answer questions prior to the formal public hearings. The purpose of the hearings is to provide an opportunity for people to give formal oral testimony and written comments on the proposed draft permit. Oral testimony will receive the same consideration as written comments.

The public hearings will begin immediately following the public workshops and will conclude when public testimony is complete.

The winery general permit workshops and hearings will occur on February 20, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., via webinar. Join the webinar at <https://waecy-wa-gov.zoom.us/j/86247971743>; or join by phone at +1 (253) 215-8782; and on February 26, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., via webinar. Join the webinar at <https://waecy-wa-gov.zoom.us/j/86586031100>; or join by phone at +1 (253) 205-0468.

Issuing the Permit: After ecology receives and considers all public comments, we will make a final decision on permit issuance. Ecology expects to make a decision on the general permit in **May 2024**.