WSR 26-16-073
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
[Filed August 4, 2026, 11:18 a.m.]

Public Notice: Announcing the Draft Major Modification of the Industrial Stormwater General Permit for Review and Comment

The Washington state department of ecology (ecology) proposes a major modification of the 2025 industrial stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and state waste discharge general permit. The current permit was issued December 2, 2024, and went into effect January 1, 2025. The draft of the modified portions of the general permit and fact sheet are available on the permit web page at https://ecology.wa.gov/IndustrialStormwaterPermit. The public is invited to review and comment on the draft modifications from 9:00 a.m. August 19, 2026, through 11:59 p.m., October 2, 2026. Ecology will host one online public meeting and hearing on the draft modification.

Purpose of the Permit: Stormwater can pick up pollution from factories and businesses. Those contaminants are carried into waterways and harm fish and other aquatic life. The industrial stormwater general permit helps industrial facilities comply with federal and state regulations that reduce pollution. We require most industrial sites in Washington to monitor, measure, and reduce stormwater pollution leaving their site.

The industrial stormwater general permit limits the discharge of pollutants to surface waters under the authority of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, Title 33 U.S.C. § 1251, and limits the discharge of pollutants to surface and groundwater under the authority of the state Water Pollution Control Act, chapter 90.48 RCW. When the permitted activities conducted by a specific class of industries are similar, ecology issues a general permit to cover all of them, rather than issuing a series of individual permits.

What's Changing: Due to a settlement agreement between ecology and industrial appellants and ecology's internal permit development workload, we are **proposing to release the next version of the general permit in 2029 instead of 2030**. Because of the early reissuance, ecology is proposing to modify the current permit expiration date and subsequent duty to reapply date.

Based on ecology's experience reissuing both the industrial and the construction stormwater general permits within a year of each other, ecology has concluded that the workload demand requires reissuing the industrial stormwater general permit early to create more time between the two permit schedules to relieve the burden.

To make this change, ecology proposes to:

- Move the current industrial stormwater general permit expiration date a year early: From December 31, 2029, to December 31, 2028.
- Change the subsequent duty to reapply date from July 3, 2029, to July 3, 2028. Duty to reapply tells permittees they must reapply for coverage within 180 days of the expiration date of the permit.

Modifying the expiration date and duty to reapply dates in the permit keeps permittees and ecology in compliance with 40 C.F.R. § 122.41.

Submitting Comments: Ecology will accept comments on the draft permit from 9:00 a.m., August 19, 2026, through 11:59 p.m., October 2, 2026. Ecology prefers online comment submission. Comments should reference specific permit text when possible.

You can submit comments in the following ways:

- Online at https://ecology.commentinput.com?id=sQFgDx2rWS (preferred method).
- By mail to Shannon McClellan, Washington Department of Ecology, P.O. Box 47696, Olympia, WA 98504-7696.
- At our hearing.

Public Meeting and Hearing: During the comment period we will host one online public meeting and hearing where we will explain the proposed changes to the permit and answer questions prior to the formal hearing. The hearing provides opportunity for the public to give formal spoken testimony on the proposed draft permit. The public hearing begins immediately following the meeting and concludes when public testimony is complete. Spoken testimony will receive the same consideration as written comments.

Online Public Meeting and Hearing: On September 23, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Register in advance for this meeting at https://waecy-wa-gov.zoom.us/meeting/register/YOIyrRONRTCzZzJslqZrFA.

Ecology will review and consider all comments received. We will make appropriate revisions based on public comments, publish an official response to comments as an appendix to the fact sheet and make a final decision on permit issuance in October 2026.

Copies of the Draft Permit and Fact Sheet: The draft permit, fact sheet explaining the legal and technical basis for the permit, and related documents will be available online at https://ecology.wa.gov/IndustrialStormwaterPermit. You may request hard copies from the water quality program by contacting Jackie Lince at jackie.lince@ecy.wa.gov or 360-407-6600.

Ecology Contact: Shannon McClellan, Water Quality Permit Specialist, Washington State Department of Ecology, Water Quality Program, P.O. Box 47696, Olympia, WA 98504-7696, email shannon.mcclellan@ecy.wa.gov, phone 360-280-8370.

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