

WAC 197-11-980 Determination of significance and scoping notice (DS).

**DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE
AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF EIS**

Description of proposal: The proposal is a water resources rule for the mainstem of the Columbia River that will define how the Department of Ecology will carry out its dual obligations to allocate water and preserve a healthy environment. The objective of the management program will be to meet the needs of a growing population and a healthy economy while also meeting the needs of fish and healthy watersheds. The rule is being developed through the Columbia River Initiative (CRI) process.

The program will involve amendment and/or partial repeal of the Instream Resources Protection Program for the Main Stem Columbia River in Washington State (Chapter 173-563 WAC) and the Water Resources Program for the John Day-McNary Pools Reach of the Columbia River (Chapter 173-531A WAC).

Proponent and Lead Agency: Washington State Department of Ecology

Location of proposal: The water resources rule developed by the Columbia River Initiative will be applicable to the waters of the Columbia River located above Bonneville Dam. The waters of related major tributaries may also be affected.

EIS Required. The lead agency has determined this proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c) and will be prepared. A Non-Project Review Form indicating the alternatives likely to be considered as a part of the EIS can be reviewed at our Central Regional (Yakima) or Headquarters (Lacey) offices, or on the Columbia River Initiative website: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cri/crihome.html.

Scoping. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. You may comment on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required.

Comments must be sent to: Gerry O'Keefe, Dept of Ecology, PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600 or CRI@ecy.wa.gov. Comments may also be submitted at the following website: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cri/crienvrev.html>. Comments must be received or postmarked no later than **December 12, 2003**.

Agency Contact: Gerry O'Keefe **Phone:** (360) 407-6640

Responsible official: Linda Hoffman

Position/title: Interim Director, Washington Department of Ecology

Address: PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Date: November 7, 2003

Signature

