



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

PO Box 47600 • Olympia, WA 98504-7600 • 1-866-211-2955  
TTY 711 or 800-833-6388 (for the speech or hearing impaired)

September 11, 2009

Dear Business Owner,

Our records show that we have not received your payment for the 2008 Hazardous Waste Generation Fee. **If you have already sent your payment, please disregard this notice.** If you generated any dangerous waste in 2008, you are required to pay the \$46.00 Hazardous Waste Generation fee (Generation Fee). This annual fee is billed to businesses in early June. Please send your payment with the enclosed billing coupon by **September 30, 2009** so that we can credit your account.

### **Is this a new fee?**

No, the Generation Fee is not a new fee. For many years, it was called the Hazardous Waste Education Fee. The name Hazardous Waste Education fee created confusion over the years. In an effort to resolve the confusion, we are now calling the fee by its literal name.

### **Why am I paying this fee?**

Your business is included in this mailing because it is assigned a North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code that typically generates dangerous waste. See your NAICS code on the attached billing invoice.

You must pay the Generation Fee if your business meets the following criteria:

1. Your business generated dangerous waste in 2008.  
AND
2. The income reported on your Business and Occupation Tax or Public Utilities Tax return for Washington State exceeded \$12,000 in 2008.

**Or**

Your business has an active Dangerous Waste Site ID number and reported disposing of dangerous waste in 2008.

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\* Note the terms *hazardous* and *dangerous* are used interchangeably. Dangerous is a state term, hazardous is a federal term.

## What are some examples of dangerous waste?

The following list contains **examples** of wastes generated by some sectors included in the fee. This list is **not** a complete list of wastes but is intended as an example:

- Any amount of dental amalgam that has been removed even if captured in an amalgam separator and disposed of properly.
- Used oil and anti-freeze, even if it has been recycled.
- Paint and paint solvents that are disposed of, including latex paints or paint thinner.
- Any used X-ray or photo processing chemicals even if they are recycled or disposed of by your equipment's service provider.

Refer to the *Dangerous Waste Regulations*, listed at the end of this letter, to determine if your waste is dangerous.

## What is the Generation Fee used for?

Funds generated by the Generation Fee help pay for activities such as:

- Technical assistance to businesses
- Staff to answer phone questions
- On-site technical visits
- Waste prevention literature

Ecology's toxics reduction specialists offer technical assistance to anyone requesting help. These experts can explain the *Dangerous Waste Regulations*, and help with pollution prevention and effective waste management. Many businesses working closely with our staff have reduced or eliminated the waste they generate.

## Do I have to pay the fee if I don't generate dangerous waste?

No, businesses that do not produce dangerous waste can apply for a waiver or exemption of the fee, depending on their situation.

- You can apply for a waiver if your business did not produce any dangerous waste in 2008 but will produce dangerous waste in the future. This waiver is good for one year. You will be billed again next year.
- You can apply for an exemption if your business did not, and will not produce any dangerous waste. If an exemption is granted, you will not have to pay the fee and will not be billed again.

If you believe you qualify for a waiver or exemption to this fee, fill out the form found on the back of your bill and return it in the envelope provided. Please return the form **before September 30, 2009**. You will receive a response to your request in the mail. For a faster response to your application for the waiver or exemption, apply online at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/edfees/waiver.html>. Your request will be responded to within a few business days by email.

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## What if the NAICS code assigned to my business is wrong?

The NAICS code assigned to your business by the Washington State Department of Revenue (DOR) appears on the right side of the billing coupon. If you believe this code is wrong, you must contact them at 1-800-647-7706 to have it changed. Also, call Ecology at 1-866-211-2955 to see if your corrected NAICS code is subject to the fee. If you are not subject to the fee, you will be asked to apply for an exemption.

### Additional information:

For more information on the Generation Fee, visit our website at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/edfees/index.html>

#### Rules:

WAC 173-305 Hazardous Waste Fees regulation (section 110)  
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-305>

WAC 173-303 Dangerous Waste Regulations  
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-303>

#### Law:

RCW 70.95E Hazardous Waste Fees (section 040)  
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=70.95E>


#### NAICS information:

You can look up the NAICS code your business at:  
<http://www.census.gov/epcd/naics02/index.html>

## How do I get more information if I do not have Internet access?

Businesses without Internet access or who need more assistance can call 1-866-211-2955 for more information. Your call will be answered by an automated system. Please follow the directions given by the system. Leave a message if asked to do so. Your call will be answered in the order received and as quickly as possible, usually within one business day.

Sincerely,



Jeri Berube  
Hazardous Waste Generation Fee Administrator  
Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program

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