



Focus

Public Comment Sought on Applications for Sand and Gravel General Permits

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is seeking public comment on Sand and Gravel General Permit applications submitted by Bechtel National, Inc. The applications request coverage, under the state permit, for a gravel pit and a concrete batch plant to be used in constructing a tank-waste treatment facility at the Hanford Site. A 30-day comment period will begin on August 27 and run through September 26, 2001.

Background

The Sand and Gravel Permit is a statewide general permit issued to the sand and gravel industry. It provides coverage for discharges of process water, storm water, and mine dewatering water associated with sand and gravel operations, rock quarries, and similar mining operations, including stockpiles of mined materials. It also provides coverage for concrete batch operations and hot-mix asphalt operations. Operations covered under this permit are authorized to discharge waste water to waters of the state of Washington, subject to the conditions contained in the proposed permit. Since waste water includes storm water, and the "waters of the state" includes underground (ground) and surface waters, nearly all facilities require a discharge permit.

All sites operating under this permit must implement best management practices (BMPs) to control storm water and minimize soil erosion on site. The permit limits the discharge of pollutants to surface waters under the authority of the federal Water Pollution Control Act (U.S.C.S. 1251) and limits the discharge of pollutants to surface and underground waters under state law (Chapter 90.48 RCW).

The applications made to Ecology by Bechtel National, Inc. request permits for a gravel pit and a concrete batch plant. The activities will generate discharges of storm water and process water.

Storm water

Gravel-pit mining typically begins by removing topsoil to expose the desired material. This removal and land disturbance may cause some of the exposed soil to run off into nearby surface and ground waters. This sediment can harm the health of aquatic life

and water bodies. Vegetation and soil also serve to protect ground water from pollutants. They provide filtration, chemical and physical reactions, and biological activity that often will remove pollutants before they can enter ground water. Therefore, mining activities that remove vegetation and topsoil will typically make underlying ground water more vulnerable to pollution. Prior to receiving coverage under the permit, the applicant must prepare and implement a stormwater pollution-prevention plan (SWPPP) and an erosion and sediment control plan (ESCP).

Process Water

Water may be used in the mining, processing, handling or transporting of mined material. This water is categorized as process water.

Most process water results from dust control or washing and screening mined rock products. Water also may be used to clean truck tires and wheels to prevent tracking mud and dirt onto public paved roads. In addition to these easily identified sources of waste water, many other activities at a mining facility can pollute ground and surface waters. These activities include waste water from cleaning concrete trucks, equipment maintenance, and spills or leaks from tanks and equipment.

The applicant must prepare a water monitoring plan for discharges of process or storm waters before receiving coverage under the permit.

Concrete Batch Plants

Concrete batch plants are commonly associated with sand and gravel mining. An operator typically controls the batching (mixing) process from a central control room. Solid components are metered by weight, while water and chemical admixtures are metered by volume. Dry materials may be added to a truck from overhead silos and mixed with water in the truck, or they may be premixed at the facility and transferred to the truck wet. After loading, the truck may move to a wash area, where an overhead spray or hose is used to wash down the truck exterior. The truck then delivers the load to the job site.

Between loads or at the end of the day, returned concrete is discharged from the truck. The truck drum must be washed out to keep the concrete from hardening in the drum. Water is added to the drum, then drum is rotated and discharged to a wash-water collection basin. Settled process water often is used for washing out drums. The truck washout area must discharge to a lined pond.

How can you get involved?

A comment period will be held from August 27 to September 26, 2001. A public hearing will not be held unless there is significant public interest. All comments received during the comment period will be considered and responded to before a final decision on the applications is made.

Comments should be sent to:

Kathy Conaway
Washington State Department of Ecology
Nuclear Waste Program
1315 West Fourth Avenue
Kennewick, Washington 99336
Telephone: (509) 736-3045
E-mail: Kcon461@ecy.wa.gov

To request a public hearing, please contact Kathy Conaway in writing at the above address.

Copies of the applications and the Statewide Sand and Gravel General Permit are available on the Nuclear Waste Program Web Site at:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/>

HANFORD PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Portland

Portland State University
Branford Price Millar Library
934 S.W. Harrison and Park
Portland, Oregon 97207
Telephone: (503) 725-3690

Seattle

University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Government Publications Room
Seattle, Washington 98195
Telephone: (206) 543-1937

Richland

Washington State University
Tri-Cities Branch Campus
Consolidated Information Center, Room 101-L
2770 University Drive
Richland, Washington 99352
Telephone: (509) 372-7443

Spokane

Gonzaga University
Foley Center
East 502 Boone
Spokane, Washington 99258
Telephone: (509) 323-3839

If you have special accommodation needs, please contact Tim Hill, Washington State Department of Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program at (509) 736-3026 (voice); (509) 736-3039 (TDD); or e-mail tihi461@ecy.wa.gov.



Public Notice of Application for the Concrete Batch Plant

NOTICE: **Announcement of Application for Coverage under a General Permit to Discharge to State Waters**

PERMIT NO: **WAG-50-5-5180**

PERMITTEE: **Bechtel National, Inc.
3000 George Washington Way
Richland, WA 99352**

has filed an application for coverage under the NPDES and State Waste Discharge General Permit for Process Water, Storm Water and Mine Dewatering Water Discharge Associated with Sand and Gravel Operations, Rock Quarries, and Similar Mining Facilities, Including Stockpiles of Mined Materials, Concrete Batch Operations and Hot Mix Asphalt Operations in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 90.48 Revised Code of Washington, Chapter 173.226 Washington Administrative Code, SEPA Chapter 197-11, and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended.

The concrete batch plant, located in the River Protection Project-Waste Treatment Plant site, 200 East Area United States Department of Energy (USDOE) in Benton County, has two discharges, process water and stormwater. Industrial activities include concrete batching, truck washout, stockpiling and truck washing (exterior). The discharges will be in compliance with the Department of Ecology's Water Quality Standards.

Tentative Determination

The Department proposes to issue coverage under a general permit to the above listed applicant to operate subject to special permit conditions. This determination is tentative. A final determination will not be made until all comments received pursuant to this notice have been evaluated.

Public Comment and Information

Any person desiring to present their view to the Department of Ecology regarding this application may do so in writing during the 30-day comment period beginning on August 27, 2001 and ending on September 26, 2001. Comments shall be submitted to the Department of Ecology. Any person interested in the Department's action on this application may notify the Department of their interest within thirty days of the last date of publication of this notice.

Comments should be sent to:

Washington State Department of Ecology
Nuclear Waste Program
1315 W. 4th Avenue
Kennewick, WA 99336
Attn: Kathy Conaway
(509) 736-3045

If the comments received indicate significant public interest in the applicability of coverage, or if useful information could be produced thereby, the director may hold a public hearing on the application. The Department shall only consider issues regarding the general permit's applicability or nonapplicability to the discharger when considering the need to hold a public hearing.

The application and related documents are available for inspection and copying by appointment between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday at the Nuclear Waste Program Office. For more information or special accommodation needs contact: Kathy Conaway (509) 736-3045 or (509) 736-3039 (TDD).





Public Notice of Application for the Gravel Pit

NOTICE: **Announcement of Application for Coverage under a General Permit to Discharge to State Waters**

PERMIT NO: **WAG-50-5-5181**

PERMITTEE: **Bechtel National, Inc.
3000 George Washington Way
Richland, WA 99352**

has filed an application for coverage under the NPDES and State Waste Discharge General Permit for Process Water, Storm Water and Mine Dewatering Water Discharge Associated with Sand and Gravel Operations, Rock Quarries, and Similar Mining Facilities, Including Stockpiles of Mined Materials, Concrete Batch Operations and Hot Mix Asphalt Operations in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 90.48 Revised Code of Washington, Chapter 173.226 Washington Administrative Code, SEPA Chapter 197-11, and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended.

The Pit 30, located in the 200 East Area, United States Department of Energy in Benton County, has two discharges, process water and stormwater. Industrial activities include mining/extraction, crushing, screening, washing, and truck washing. The discharges will be in compliance with the Department of Ecology's Water Quality Standards.

Tentative Determination

The Department proposes to issue coverage under a general permit to the above listed applicant to operate subject to special permit conditions. This determination is tentative. A final determination will not be made until all comments received pursuant to this notice have been evaluated.

Public Comment and Information

Any person desiring to present their view to the Department of Ecology regarding this application may do so in writing during the 30-day comment period beginning on August 27, 2001 and ending on September 26, 2001. Comments shall be submitted to the Department of Ecology. Any person interested in the Department's action on this application may notify the Department of their interest within thirty days of the last date of publication of this notice.

Comments should be sent to:

Washington State Department of Ecology
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1315 W. 4th Avenue
Kennewick, WA 99336
Attn: Kathy Conaway
(509) 736-3045

If the comments received indicate significant public interest in the applicability of coverage, or if useful information could be produced thereby, the director may hold a public hearing on the application. The Department shall only consider issues regarding the general permit's applicability or nonapplicability to the discharger when considering the need to hold a public hearing.

The application and related documents are available for inspection and copying by appointment between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday at the Nuclear Waste Program Office. For more information or special accommodation needs contact: Kathy Conaway (509) 736-3045 or (509) 736-3039 (TDD).

