

SEPA Rule Amendments
Proposed Topics/Issues Schedule – 2013

<p>Meeting #1 December 2012</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Workgroups: Agree to list and approach, including schedule for Committee consideration of Work Group reports (this may affect the schedule below). Initial ideas for groups for discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceptions to exemptions • Utilities and transportation • Non-project actions • Environmental checklist 2. Notice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency, Tribes and Public notice of projects through SEPA and other processes: What happens now, what would meet needs of recipients? • Address cultural resource protection in light of SEPA exemptions
<p>Meeting #2 January 2013</p>	<p>Exceptions to Exemptions: Review and update</p>
<p>Meeting #3 February</p>	<p>Categorical Exemptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project actions: Update, but not decrease, the thresholds for all other project actions not addressed in round 1 • Nonproject actions: Create categorical exemptions for minor code amendments for which review under chapter 43.21C RCW would not be required because they do not lessen environmental protection.
<p>Meeting #4 March</p>	<p>Categorical Exemptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency-specific and other exemptions - Consider consolidating exemptions to only apply to types of proposals instead of specific agency decisions –to help simplify and clarify when sect. 305 applies • Definitions and terminology: Examine and revise, including definition of “nonexempt license”; watershed, fish and shoreline restoration projects • Clarify maintenance exemptions: Including bulkheads and dredging issue • Utilities: Pipe size for water systems etc
<p>Meeting #5 April</p>	<p>Categorical Exemptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relation to statutory detailed exemptions: Wireless and others. Fit of RCW provisions with rule-based exemptions; harmonize via removal of details from statute? • Minor land use/minor construction: Integration or clarification. • Transportation facilities: Consider different size and location parameters for minor new construction (e.g. traffic increases)

Meeting #6 Early May	<p>Checklist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-project review: Update process and document templates • Checklist: Update Ag and other questions, especially to reflect GMA and other regulations added since inception of SEPA.
Meeting #7 Late May	<p>GMA/SEPA integration (legislative direction)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative Direction: Consider revisions to procedures including WAC 197-11-210 through 197-11-232 to further the goals of RCW 43.21C.240.
Meeting #8 Early June	<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise list of “agencies with expertise” • Review lead agency provisions and consider updates and clarifications • Amend WAC 173-802-130 (2) [Ecology’s SEPA procedures] and 173-806-070 [model ordinance] to reflect the changes made in Round 1 rulemaking. • Use of existing documents and NEPA/SEPA integration
Late June # 9	<p>Final review of all topics and issues; revisions to harmonize various sections of the rule.</p> <p>Approve version of rule for informal comment period during July</p>
Meeting #10 Late July	<p>Wrap-up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review comments received during informal comment period and consider changes • Final recommendations to Ecology on rule language for CR-102 filing

APA Requirements

Aug 1	Target date for submittal of completed proposed language to ECY Rules Unit (Rules unit works on APA requirements including small business economic impact statement, cost/benefit analysis)
Sept 19	CR-102 filing/publication
Oct 2	CR-102 publication: Start of comment period
October	Hearings and comments on proposal
November	Staff preparation of responsiveness summary, other APA requirements
Dec 18	CR-103 filing
January 2, 2014	Official publication date; rule is effective in 30 days