

ADDENDUM TO THE FACT SHEET  
FOR NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE  
ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES)  
PERMIT NO. WA 000054-0

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Facility:

Columbia Gorge Aluminum Company  
85 John Day Dam Road  
Goldendale, WA 98620

II. APPLICATION REVIEW

An application for permit reissuance was submitted to the Department of Ecology (Department) on February 14, 2007, and accepted by the Department on February 26, 2007. The scope and manner of any review of an application for replacement of permit by the Department shall be sufficiently detailed as to insure the following:

- That the permittee is in substantial compliance with all of the terms, conditions, requirements and schedules of compliance of the expired permit;
- That the Department has up-to-date information on the permittee's production levels; permittee's waste treatment practices; nature, content, and frequencies of permittee's discharge; either pursuant to the submission of new forms and applications or pursuant to monitoring records and reports resubmitted to the Department by the permittee; and
- That the discharge is consistent with applicable effluent standards and limitations, water quality standards, and other legally applicable requirements listed in WAC 173-220-130.

The application for

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was reviewed. Because the process discharge is eliminated due to process curtailment the quantity of the discharge is much reduced and the quality of the discharge should be improved. When the facility resumes operations Ecology will determine when the permit should be reissued.

III. PERMIT REAUTHORIZATION

The Columbia Gorge smelter has been shutdown since April 2003 due to a combination of high power costs and the low price of aluminum. The permittee submitted the application for permit renewal in February 2007. The smelter is unlikely to restart in the near future which has led to Ecology's decision to reauthorize this permit. Permit conditions remain unchanged from the

previous permit with several exceptions including submittal dates, submittal requirements and monitoring requirements during periods of temporary curtailment.

This fact sheet addendum accompanies the draft permit, which is to be reauthorized to

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for the discharge of wastewater to the Columbia River. The previous fact sheet is also part of this administrative record and explains the basis for the discharge limitations and conditions of the reauthorized permit.

The existing permit requirements, including discharge limitations and monitoring, do not need to be changed to protect the receiving water quality. The previous fact sheet addressed conditions and issues at the facility at the time when the previous permit was issued when the facility was at full production. Because production is curtailed and the discharge only includes stormwater and a negligible amount of sanitary wastewater discharge, Ecology is not undertaking a complete renewal of this permit. The discharge limits and conditions in effect at the time of expiration of the previous permit are carried over unchanged to this reauthorized permit with the exception of reduced monitoring requirements added to the permit for periods of curtailment.

The permit reauthorization process, in concert with the routine renewal of high priority permits, allows the Department to reissue permits in a timely manner and minimize the number of active permits that have passed expiration dates.

The only other changes to the previous permit are the submittal date requirements. Submittal requirements from the previous permit that were completed and submitted and do not require additional or continued assessment were removed from this permit. The submittal dates for the other standard compliance and submittal requirements that have been carried over from the past permit into this reauthorized permit have been adjusted to the proposed permit schedule. The Department considered these submittals necessary in the previous permit and no information has come forward to cause a reconsideration of the submittal requirement.

Public notice of the availability of the draft reauthorized permit is required at least 30 days before the permit is issued [Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-220-050]. The fact sheet and draft permit are available for review (see Appendix A—Public Involvement for more detail on the Public Notice procedures).

After the public comment period has closed, the Department will summarize the substantive comments and the response to each comment. The summary and response to comments will become part of the file for the permit and parties submitting comments will receive a copy of the Department's response. Comments and the resultant changes to the permit will be summarized in the fact sheet addendum, Appendix D—Response to Comments.

#### IV. RECOMMENDATION FOR PERMIT ISSUANCE

The Department proposes that this permit be issued for 5 years.

## **APPENDIX A – PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT INFORMATION**

The Department has determined to reauthorize a discharge permit to the applicant listed on page 1 of this fact sheet addendum. The permit contains conditions and effluent limitations that are described in the fact sheet.

The Department will publish a Public Notice of Draft (PNOD) on February 7, 2008, in the Goldendale Sentinel to inform the public that a draft permit and fact sheet are available for review. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments regarding the draft permit. The draft permit, fact sheet addendum, and fact sheet are available for inspection and copying between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays, by appointment, at the regional office listed below. Written comments should be mailed to:

Bob King  
Department of Ecology  
Industrial Section  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia WA 98504-7600

Any interested party may comment on the draft permit or request a public hearing on this draft permit within the 30-day comment period to the address above. The request for a hearing shall indicate the interest of the party and the reasons why the hearing is warranted. The Department will hold a hearing if it determines there is a significant public interest in the draft permit (WAC 173-220-090). Public notice regarding any hearing will be circulated at least 30 days in advance of the hearing. People expressing an interest in this permit will be mailed an individual notice of hearing (WAC 173-220-100).

Comments should reference specific test followed by proposed modification or concern when possible. Comments may address technical issues, accuracy and completeness of information, the scope of the facility's proposed coverage, adequacy of environmental protection, permit conditions, or any other concern that would result from reauthorization of this permit.

The Department will consider all comments received within 30 days from the date of the PNOD indicated above, in formulating a final determination to issue, revise, or deny the permit. The Department's response to all significant comments is available upon request and will be mailed directly to people expressing an interest in this permit.

Further information may be obtained from the Department by telephone at (360) 407-7563, or by writing to the address listed above.