

Chapter 173-98 WAC and Chapter 173-95A WAC Pre-proposal Statement of Inquiry (CR-101) Filed

Overview

On July 19, 2016, the Department of Ecology's Water Quality Program filed a *Pre-proposal Statement of Inquiry* (CR-101 form) with the Office of the Code Reviser that states our intent to start rulemaking for two existing rules, Chapter 173-98 WAC, *Uses and Limitations of the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund*, and Chapter 173-95A WAC, *Uses and Limitations of the Centennial Clean Water Program*.

Chapter 173-98 WAC sets forth requirements for Ecology's administration of Washington State's Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund (CWSRF). CWSRF provides low interest rate loans to public bodies for statewide, high-priority water quality projects that are consistent with the federal Clean Water Act.

Chapter 173-95A WAC sets forth requirements for Ecology's administration of the Centennial Clean Water Program (Centennial). Centennial provides grants and loans to public bodies for statewide, high-priority water quality projects through appropriation by the Washington state legislature.

Scope of Rulemaking

Since rulemaking in 2011, external stakeholders and Ecology have identified several issues related to the clarity and flexibility in the rules. In addition, in 2014 the federal Clean Water Act was amended to allow states to offer loan terms of up to 30 years and to provide loans to acquire land for constructing treatment facilities. And, in 2016, Chapter 90.50A RCW was amended to allow Ecology to offer loan terms of up to 30 years. The extended loan terms and land acquisition amendments would provide new funding opportunities if the rules are revised.

With this rulemaking, we are trying to:

- Address "housekeeping" issues
- Provide more clarity
- Provide more flexibility
- Take advantage of new funding opportunities consistent with state and federal updates

How to Stay Informed and be Involved

Interested parties can stay informed about the rulemaking and public involvement opportunities by:

- 1) Visiting the Chapter 173-98 WAC (CWSRF) and Chapter 173-95A WAC (Centennial) Rulemaking website for updates at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/ruledev/wac17398/1604ov.html>.
- 2) Signing up to receive e-mail notices at [ECY-WQ-GRANTS-LOANS LISTSERV](#).
- 3) Contacting the Rulemaking Lead:

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