

What are the Surface Water Quality Standards?

Washington's surface water quality standards are the basis for protecting and regulating the quality of surface waters in Washington. The standards set limits on pollution in our lakes, rivers, and marine waters in order to protect beneficial uses such as swimming and fishing.

What activities are taking place?

Ecology will initiate two separate actions in fall 2010.

1. A rule-making to make minor corrections and clarifications to the Water Quality Standards rule.
2. The triennial review process.

A 45-day public review on the minor corrections and clarifications will begin this October. A public hearing is scheduled for October 26, 2010. Locations and time will be available online on the rule revision activities web page (link available at right).

To receive feedback on the triennial review, Ecology will hold workshops across the state later in fall 2010.

1. What minor corrections and clarifications to the standards rule are proposed?

The proposed corrections and clarifications are minor in nature and not substantive. The following are examples of the proposed rule changes:

- Missing references to a section of the rule.
- Clarifications/errors such as eliminating text pertaining only to fresh waters that appears in the marine section.
- Imprecise or erroneous latitude/longitude values or incorrect section-township-range locations in the use designation table (Table 602).

TO LEARN MORE

ABOUT THE STANDARDS:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/swqs/index.html

ABOUT RULE REVISION ACTIVITIES:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/swqs/rule_rev-timeline.html

Timelines and public meeting announcements (times and locations) will be posted on this web site.

ABOUT THE TRIENNIAL REVIEW PROCESS:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/swqs/triennial_review.html

Contact Information

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Special accommodations

To ask about the availability of this document in a version for the visually impaired, call the Water Quality Program at 360-407-6404.

Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

2. What is the triennial review?

Federal regulations require Ecology to hold periodic public workshops (approximately once every three years) to review the surface water quality standards. This process is called a *triennial review*. It is an opportunity for an open dialogue between Ecology, other government agencies, tribes, and the public on how to improve the standards and how Ecology implements the program.

Goals of the triennial review:

- Provide a forum to discuss issues regarding the surface water quality standards and their implementation.
- Ensure that the latest scientific information is considered.
- Examine the state standards as they relate to any new federal requirements.
- Provide guidance to understand or better use the standards.

Anticipated Activity Timeframe

Summer 2010	Outreach with interested stakeholders and tribes.
August 2010	File CR-101 for minor rule changes.
October 2010	CR-102 filing date with a 45 day public review.
October 26, 2010	Public hearing on the minor rule changes.
December 2010	File CR-103 to adopt minor rule changes.
Fall 2010	Host triennial review workshops around the state.
Winter/Spring 2011	Prioritize issues for action based on feedback from triennial review.

How can I get more information about these activities?

Information about the triennial review and rule revision activities is available on the water quality standards website www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/swqs/rule_rev-timeline.html.

Where do I submit comments?

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