

Proposed Municipal Fee Amendments

Proposed Changes

- Allow the \$0.15/month/ERU increase by the fiscal growth factor (FGF)
- Add a surcharge to domestic wastewater treatment fee to support
 - One roving operator and
 - One permit fee analyst

Rationale

- 90.48 RCW requires Ecology to recover costs
 - All municipalities, except Seattle, have reached cap
 - Not proposing to remove cap – just to increase by FGF

Rationale

- Roving operator technical assistance
 - Good compliance tool
 - EPA's funding likely to be removed
- Surcharge will allow Ecology to continue the program

Rationale

- Permit holders desire greater accountability
 - Permit fee tracking
 - WQP increased level of detail tracked
- Need staff person to review data

Impacts

- Current fee
 - \$1.80/RE/yr for <250,000 RE
 - \$1.12/RE/yr for >250,000 RE
- FGF varies with economy
 - Typically between 3 – 5 %
- Surcharge proposed
 - \$0.08/RE/yr (\$0.0067/RE/month)

Operator Certification Fee Amendments

Proposed Changes

- Remove cap on operator certification fees
- Deposit fees in permit fee account
 - Rather than General Fund

Rationale

- Current caps
 - \$50 application fee
 - \$30 annual renewal fee
- Fees cover ~ 60% of 1 FTE
- Current program lacks sufficient staff
 - Service to operators not always timely
- General Fund unavailable for increased support

Impacts

- Additional staff needs – 1.5 FTEs
- Set fee by rule
 - Amount determined through public process
 - One option
 - \$200 application fee
 - \$108 annual renewal fee