

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON  
DRAFT GENERAL NPDES PERMIT FOR  
THE FRESH FRUIT PACKING INDUSTRY

Issuing agency: Washington Department of Ecology  
Water Quality Program  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600

PURPOSE OF HEARING: The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) posted a public notice of draft permit for the Fresh Fruit Packing Industry General Permit on May 4, 2016 in the Wenatchee World and the Yakima Herald.

TIME AND LOCATION: All parties interested in the draft NPDES Permit for the Fresh Fruit Packing Industry may attend the hearing at the time and location indicated below.

Date: Thursday, June 9, 2016

Time: 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Location: Department of Ecology  
Central Region Office  
1250 West Alder Street  
Union Gap, WA 98903

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Ecology developed a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permit to regulate the discharge of wastewater from fresh fruit packing facilities.

This permit was developed to meet the requirements of Chapters 90.48, 90.52, and 90.54 Revised Code of Washington (RCW) as amended, and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA) (Title 33 United States Code, Section 1251 et seq.) as amended. All requirements of 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 122.41 and 122.42 are incorporated in this general permit by reference.

The fruit packing industry is eligible for coverage under a general permit due to: (1) the similar wastewater characteristics among facilities; (2) the uniform discharge conditions to which all facilities would be subject; and (3) the significant reduction of resources necessary for permit handling. However, individual NPDES/State Waste Discharge permits will still be applied in those instances where Ecology determines the general permit is not appropriate for a facility or an individual facility does not wish to be covered by the general permit.

This general permit establishes Treatment/Disposal Methods, effluent limits, and Best Management Practices for discharges from the fresh fruit packing industry. Compliance with this general permit is anticipated to protect human health and waters of the state.

All persons, including applicants, who believe any condition of the proposed permit is inappropriate, must raise all reasonably ascertainable issues and submit all reasonably available arguments supporting their position by the close of the public hearing. Written comments will be accepted until the close of business on June 17, 2016. Any supporting materials which are submitted must be included in full and may not be incorporated by reference unless they are already part of the administrative record in the same proceeding or are generally available reference material.

Document locations:

Washington Department of Ecology  
Water Quality Permitting Internet Web Page  
[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/permits/fruit\\_packers/index.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/permits/fruit_packers/index.html)

Washington Department of Ecology  
Central Region Office  
1250 West Alder Street  
Union Gap, WA 98903  
8:00 am to 4:30 pm

(draft permit, fact sheet, and economic impact analysis)

Copies of Ecology's final determinations regarding the proposed permit will be sent to all persons who submit comments and will be available for inspection.