



Western States Petroleum Association
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Frank E. Holmes
Director, Northwest Region

March 23, 2015

Cheryl Niemi, Project Manager
Washington State Department of Ecology
Water Quality Program
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) rulemaking activities on Chapter 173-201A WAC, Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington

Dear Ms. Niemi,

The Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA) is a non-profit trade group representing 25 companies that explore for, develop, transport, refine, and market petroleum products in Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada and Arizona. Member operations will be affected by the proposed changes to Chapter 173-201A WAC rulemaking.

WSPA recognizes the importance of the proposed rulemaking, and we submit these comments in response to CR-102 notice filed by Ecology January 08, 2015. Generally, WSPA supports the rule as written. We also have some suggestions to clarify intent, or improve implementation:

- The approved analytical methods used for enforcement or listing purposes should be cited in the rule.
- The variance procedure is lengthy. Ecology has proposed an administrative solution to provide for extension of an existing permit while a variance application is being processed. We request this solution be clarified in the rule.
- The intake credit tool has little applicability as proposed. We propose it allow credit for any pollutants not created by the permittee when determining compliance with discharge and water quality standards.
- Ecology should clarify if the final benefit analysis is for meeting the rule, or meeting the criteria.

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If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at 360.352.4506, or my staff, Ms. Jessica Spiegel at 360.352.4512 or jspiegel@wspa.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank E. Holmes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "F".

Frank E. Holmes
Director, Northwest Region