



PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

CR-101 (June 2004)
(Implements RCW 34.05.310)
Do NOT use for expedited rule making

Agency: Department of Ecology **AO#:** 15-02

Subject of possible rule making: Amend Chapter 173-224 WAC – Wastewater Discharge Permit Fees

Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject: RCW 90.48.465 – Water Pollution Control

Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish: RCW 90.48.465 – Water Pollution Control requires Ecology to establish by rule, annual fees that will fund the wastewater and stormwater permit programs. Ecology adopted Chapter 173-224 WAC Wastewater Discharge Permit Fees in response to this law.

This rule amendment allows continued recovery of Ecology's expenses in operating and managing the permit programs. Ecology is proposing to increase fees to match the revenue needed to run the programs if passed by the 2015 Washington State Legislature (anticipated as 4.22% for state fiscal year 2016 and 4.19% by state fiscal year 2017). Ecology is proposing to add the following new fee categories: Bridge Washing and In-Water Vessel Deconstruction. Ecology proposes to restructure the existing Winery fee category.

The changes Ecology is looking at making need to continue moving the program toward payment equity between permit categories.

Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies:
None

Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):
 Negotiated rule making
 Pilot rule making
 Agency study
 Other (describe) Amend an existing rule. Hold public hearings simultaneously with video conferencing from four different locations around the state. Directly notify all permit holders and interested parties via postal mailing and/or email of the potential rule changes. Information will be posted on Ecology's ListServe and on the Permit Fee Rulemaking Web Page located at:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/ruledev/wac173224/1502ov.html>

How interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication:
(List names, addresses, telephone, fax numbers, and e-mail of persons to contact; describe meetings, other exchanges of information, etc.)
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360/407-6425 – work phone or 360/407-7151 – fax number

DATE
June 2, 2015

NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)
Heather R. Bartlett

SIGNATURE

TITLE
Water Quality Program Manager

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
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