**From:** Stevens, Sen. Val
**Date:** Wednesday, July 15, 2009 12:14:12 PM
**Posted At:** Industrial Stormwater Comments
**Conversation:** Constituent Inquiry- Draft Washington State Industrial Storm Water Permit
**Subject:** Constituent Inquiry- Draft Washington State Industrial Storm Water Permit

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Members of the Department of Ecology,

Recently a constituent contacted Senator Val Stevens office stating a few concerns he had with the draft of the Washington State Industrial Storm Water Permit. After reviewing the draft and taking a look at your website it seems that written comments and concerns can be submitted here. Please see the below email from the constituent and see that his concerns are addressed.

We look forward to hearing from you shortly as I am sure Mr. Covey is as well.

Thanks,

*Ashley Stokesbary*
On behalf of Senator Val Stevens | 39th Legislative District
Associate Legislative Assistant to Senator Val Stevens
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**From:** Covey's Auto Parts [mailto:coveysmazdaparts@verizon.net]
**Sent:** Monday, July 13, 2009 11:39 AM
**To:** Stevens, Sen. Val
**Cc:** Kristiansen, Rep. Dan; Pearson, Rep. Kirk
**Subject:** Draft Washington State Idustrial Storm Water Permit

July 13, 2009

Subject: Draft Washington State Industrial Storm Water Permit

Dear Honorable Val Stevens:

As the owner of a small vehicle recycling business, I believe that the new draft Washington State Industrial Stormwater General Permit could put small firms in the industry - including mine - out of business. The draft Permit as now proposed as it is far too burdensome for companies in the

vehicle recycling industry like mine.

The vehicle recycling industry provides important benefits to the state's economy and environment. The vehicle recycling industry handles over 350,000 end-of-life vehicles in Washington State per year, keeping them from being simply abandoned. In properly handling these vehicles, we remove hazardous materials like anti-freeze, ozone depleting CFC gases from the air conditioning systems, lead, explosives from the airbags, mercury switches, and other materials. We manage and dispose of those wastes properly and in an environmentally-friendly manner.

We maximize re-use - the highest waste management option for this waste-stream. Re-use is a much higher priority than even recycling as it saves massive amounts of energy and other resources that would otherwise have to be used to manufacture new vehicle parts. Our industry recycles over 450,000 tons of used metals so it can be recycled into new metal products.

Our industry collects over $10 million per year in sales taxes and pays over $2 million in business taxes to help fund the operations of state government. Our industry provides about 1200 jobs in Washington State. And we are a critical industry to hold down vehicle repair costs and insurance costs for the citizens of Washington State.

The loss of the vehicle recycling industry would cost the State of Washington well over $30 million to $50 million annually, due both to lost revenues and to new costs the state would incur to replace the functions we now perform. Plus, there would be a huge loss in the reuse of the waste stream our industry now provides.

As for the draft permit, we have the following comments:

? The permit is 71 pages long. Then there is an additional 119 page Fact Sheet. This is overly long and needlessly complex. We are trying to run a small business and do not have time to become technical or environmental consultants. This permit is piling on-adding these new requirements to the over 100,000 government regulations from 58 state, local and federal agencies we already have to comply with. We aren't some huge company with a staff of experts

who can decipher all of this stuff. We're a small business trying to stay open in a very difficult economic environment. This permit needs to have a far simpler "for small business section" instead of all of the incomprehensible stuff that it now contains.

? This draft permit imposes ridiculously low limits on contamination of stormwater.

- Copper limits are set at 14 micrograms per liter in Western Washington. That is a level below that of the copper in drinking water in many areas of Washington State. This is a ridiculously low level. A leak of tap water could violate the permit conditions in some areas.

  The copper exposure in our industry comes mostly from the brakes on vehicles. We don't put the copper in the brakes. The vehicle recycling industry produces less than 1% of the copper dust that contaminates stormwater in Washington State. The rest of it is on the public roadways as people drive their vehicles and use their brakes. Yet, to solve less than 1% of the problem you are willing to put our industry out of business, while failing to address 99% of the problem. This is flawed environmental science, is ridiculous economic policy, and makes absolutely no sense.

- The "visible sheen" benchmark for petroleum is not logical. Go to any mall parking lot when it rains and you will see a visible sheen on the water running into the catch basins. Yet, my business can be put out of business because of a visible sheen, but the mall parking lot gets off totally. There is no fairness or equity in this?

? This permit requires the identification and installation of best management practices from the technical manual to achieve All Known and Reasonable Treatment Technology (AKART). That means a lot of expenses I cannot afford, nor can the industry afford. This means I am going to have to hire some very expensive consultants to tell me what all of this means. I've heard estimates that

these requirements can cost $10,000's to $100,000 per year to install and manage. How is the State of Washington going to do all that the vehicle recyclers have done once we are driven out of business by these kind of costs?

Many suggestions have been proposed to you, by the Independent Business Association, about how to make this permit work far better for small businesses. Please carefully review those suggestions and put them in this permit, if Washington State has any interest in keeping small businesses like ours in business and providing the 1200 jobs our industry has historically provided.

Excessive and costly regulations have been the primary cause of a contraction of the vehicle recycling industry by about 40% in the past 8 years. This draft permit could well destroy the entire industry in Washington State if not greatly improved for small businesses.

Thank you for considering our comments and please make changes to the permit so our industry can survive. Our future as a business and industry depends on the decisions you make.

Tim Covey
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