DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
JUL 1 5 2009
WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

July 13, 2009

Jeff Killelea
Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dear Mr. Killelea:

I run a small vehicle recycling firm and I am very concerned that the new draft Washington State Industrial Stormwater General Permit will put my business and others small firms in our industry out of business. We strongly object to the draft Permit as now proposed.

The draft state stormwater permit is way too complex and imposes unreasonable requirements. I am trying to run a small auto wrecking firm in a very difficult economy. You would need to be an engineer and a lawyer to understand what this permit requires and how to comply with it. None of us here are engineers and lawyers. This permit needs to be far simpler for small business instead of being so very difficult to understand and implement.

The Department is proposing that our stormwater to be cleaner than the public drinking water in most areas of the state for copper. The copper in the drinking water where I live is at 34 parts-per-billion and you want the stormwater that runs off our property to be at 14 parts-per-billion. That is way beyond reasonable. Copper from vehicles comes mostly from brake pads and most of that is found on the roads where people drive and use their brakes. When they use their brakes, they release copper brake dust into the environment. Yet, the Department is proposing nothing to control that main source of copper that is millions of times greater than the copper that comes from our facilities.

This permit prohibits my business from having a visible oil sheen but does nothing about the oil running off public streets and parking lots. Again, the oil from all of our vehicle recycling facilities combined is miniscule as compared to the oil going into storm drains from our public roads and from parking lots. Yet, you are proposing nothing to control that oil in stormwater.

This permit will kill most of the businesses in our industry, put people out of work and will cost the State of Washington well over $50 million annually due to lost revenues from our industry and new costs to the state to replace the functions we now perform. Putting our industry out of business eliminates the re-use of the end-of-life vehicle waste stream. Reuse of a waste stream is the highest environmental priority set in state law for any waste stream – yet this permit will effectively eliminate the vehicle recycling industry. That makes no sense.

Who is going to handle this junk vehicle waste stream when we are gone? Illegal operations that drain anti-freeze into storm drains and CFC gases into the air, etc., in the back streets and alleys across the state to prepare junk cars for recycling. You'll never catch them but you'll find the messes they will leave all over the state.

Many suggestions have been made by the Independent Business Association regarding how to make this permit work far better for small businesses. Please carefully review

their suggestions and put them in this permit.

The vehicle recycling industry is struggling to survive. Too many in our industry have already gone out of business mostly due to extremely costly government regulations. This draft permit could well be the straw that breaks the back of the entire industry in Washington State, if not re-written.

Thank you for considering our comments and making changes to the permit so our industry can continue to provide the highest management of the junk vehicle waste stream (re-use), continue to protect the environment by collecting and properly disposing of many substances from junk vehicles, continue to collect sales taxes for Washington State at no cost to the state, continue to pay business taxes to Washington State, continue to provide jobs for our workers, and continue to help keep the cost of auto repairs and vehicle insurance down through our sale of used vehicle parts.

Sincerely,

Barry Fleming

Barry Fleming
PO Box 1479
Kent, WA 98035

cc: Governor Gregoire
Senator Keiser
Representative Upthegrove
Representative Orwall