

Update on the Economic Analysis

Surface Water Quality Standards Rulemaking

Washington State Department of Ecology

September 16, 2013

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Take into account other agency rules, WA State law, and federal laws and rules, that exist in the absence of new rulemaking.

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- Cost-benefit analysis (CBA) looks at qualitative and quantitative costs and benefits.
- Least Burdensome Alternative Analysis (LBA) looks at whether this adoption was the least burdensome to choose.
- Small Business Economic Impact Statement (SBEIS) looks at impacts to small businesses (50 or fewer employees) compared to large businesses.

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Examples of historical benefits have included

- Improved health of WA fish-consuming populations or avoided human health impacts (for example look at value of statistical life [VSL]).
- Impacts to property values.
- Changes to liability and insurance, or avoided cleanup costs.
- Avoided ecological impacts that may affect tourism for water-dependent industries or products from fisheries-related businesses in WA State.

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Revised criteria could affect existing effluent limits in existing permits, and also new dischargers when a reasonable potential analysis determines HHC chemical is present in effluent.

- Use Ecology Water Quality Permitting and Reporting Information System (PARIS) to look at historical effluent limits and discharge monitoring data in existing permits.

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Attempt to make a quantitative estimate with existing estimates for willingness to pay or other empirical data from economic literature (to look at, for example, improved health of the population).