

Large On-Site Sewage System

Rule Advisory Committee

Ch 90.48 RCW Water Quality Permits

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Ch 90.48 RCW

Water Quality Permits

**Chapter 173-220 WAC,
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Program**
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/wac173220.html>

**Chapter 173-216 WAC,
State Waste Discharge Permit Program**
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/wac173216.html>

**Chapter 173-226 WAC,
Waste Discharge General Permit Program**
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/wac173226.html>



Permit Program Demographics

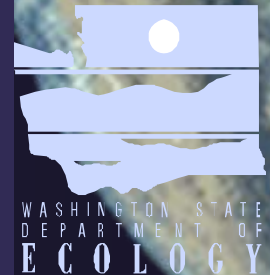
Individual Permits – 814 total (14%)
 NPDES (surface water)- 452
 State – to POTW – 183
 State – to land – 179
General Permits – 5096 total (86%)

TOTAL: 5910 total permits



State Waste Discharge Permits

- Discharge to ground or ground water.
- Permits required for all discharges.
- Must meet “AKART” AND Ground Water Quality Standards.
- Permit term: 5 years.
- Amended by Order (appealable)
- Each individual permit = large workload



General Permits

Aquatic Pesticides	303
Boatyards	93
CAFO	33
Hatcheries	78
Fruit Packers	184
Sand and Gravel	930
Construction Stormwater	2308
Industrial Stormwater	1136
Water treatment plants	31
Total	5096



General Permit Advantages

- ✓ Administrative – large numbers of similar facilities
- ✓ Predictable permit requirements
- ✓ Fast permit coverage – generally less than 45 days
- ✓ Historically ‘simpler’ permits
- ✓ Cheaper



General Permit Disadvantages

- ✓ Limited ability to site specific concerns
 - ✓ Compliance with Water Quality Stds.
 - ✓ TMDLs
 - ✓ Impaired water bodies
- ✓ Declining Administrative Advantages
 - ✓ Monitoring and reports submittal (data management)
 - ✓ Compliance Assurance Activities
 - ✓ Inspections
 - ✓ Technical assistance
 - ✓ Enforcement
- ✓ Permit effectiveness judged as a whole



General Permit Requirements

The Permitting Requirements for General Permits are the same as for Individual Permits:

- ✓ Compliance with water quality standards
- ✓ Technology based treatment requirements
- ✓ Legal and technical rigor expected
- ✓ Renewed every 5 years



General Permit Coverage

- Operator notifies Ecology that they wish to be covered under general permit.
- Pay permit fee.
- Notification implies compliance with permit conditions.
- Permitted set time after notification, unless coverage denied by Ecology.



“Unique” Facility Permits

Facilities that don't fit general permits may apply for an individual wastewater discharge permit or Ecology may deny general permit coverage.

OR

General Permits may be issued with companion orders which include specific requirements, such as ground water monitoring.



General Permit Requirements

- Ecology must Inspect.
- All required plans completed, whether submitted or kept on site.
- Public Disclosure.
- Compliance Monitoring Required.
- Must Report Non-compliance.
- Must submit reports.
- Annual permit fee.



Permit Fees

Chapter 173-224 WAC, Wastewater Discharge Permit Fees

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/wac173224.html>

- RCW 90.48.465 authorizes the department to base fees on factors related to the complexity of permit issuance and compliance and to charge fees to fully recover, but not exceed the costs of the permit program based on expenses incurred in the issuance and comprehensive administration of state waste discharge and NPDES permits.



Permit Fees

Waste Water Discharge Permit Fee Rule,

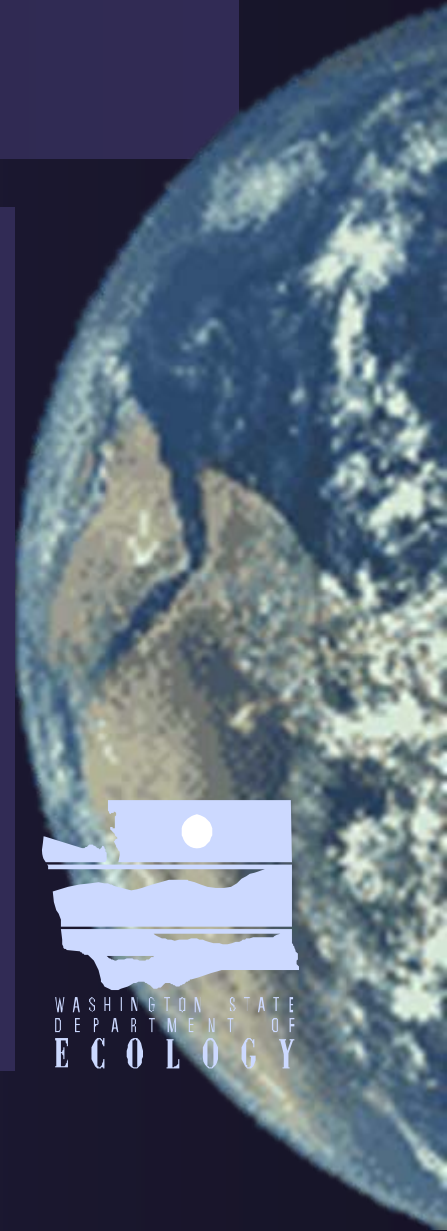
Ch 173-224 WAC

Sewage Treatment Permit Fees

Permitted Flows	Annual Fee
.1 MGD and up	\$7913.
.05 MGD to .1 MGD	\$3166.
.0008 MGD to .05 MGD	\$1583.
less than .0008 MGD	\$ 477.



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Permit Fees

- Rule Revision Required to change fees.
- Recent voter initiative may require legislature to approve increases.



Permit Fees

- Permits issued for 5 years.
- Permit Fees billed annually.
- Fees to cover 100% of program cost.



Compliance

- Inspections are Required.
(individual and general permits)
- Access is enforceable permit condition.
- Notice of Violation (NOV) (RCW 90.48.120).
- Operator has 30 days to respond to NOV.
- Orders, may include penalty.
- Orders/Penalties appealable to PCHB.



Permit Renewals

- Permits not to exceed 5 years.
- Operator applies 180 days prior to expiration
- Renewal involves review of:
 - facilities compliance,
 - water quality issues,
 - technology advances.
- Permit to include any additional requirements needed to meet Water Quality Standards
- Permits may not cause violation of water quality standards but may include a compliance schedule to bring into compliance by expiration.

