

Public Hearing: Air Quality Permit Fee Rule, Chapter 173-455 WAC

October 13, 2022

Ecology is updating Air Quality permit fees

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What fees are changing?

- Hourly rate for Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) determination
- Carbon Dioxide Mitigation Program fees
- New Source Review (NSR)
 - Minor new source review
 - Coverage under a general order (GO)
 - Replacement or alteration of control technology
 - Major new source review
 - Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD)
 - Nonattainment area

Why are fees changing?

- Air Quality permit fees have not been updated since 2012.
- Current permit fees need adjustment to cover the costs of issuing permits, as directed by the Washington Clean Air Act (RCW 70A.15.2210, -.2230, and -.6270)

What are the new fees?

- New rate for 2023: \$119/hour
- Previous rate established in 2012: \$95/hour
- Flat permit fees have been increased by 25% to match the new hourly rate

How were the new fees calculated?

Ecology completed a workload analysis for a 5-year period to accurately represent program costs:

- Each job class that billed hours on air quality permitting activities between 2017 and 2021 was combined.
- Job classes that billed the most hours were broken down to show different activities.
- Hours were averaged to create an hourly rate that represented the entire program, with even distribution between all types of air quality permits.

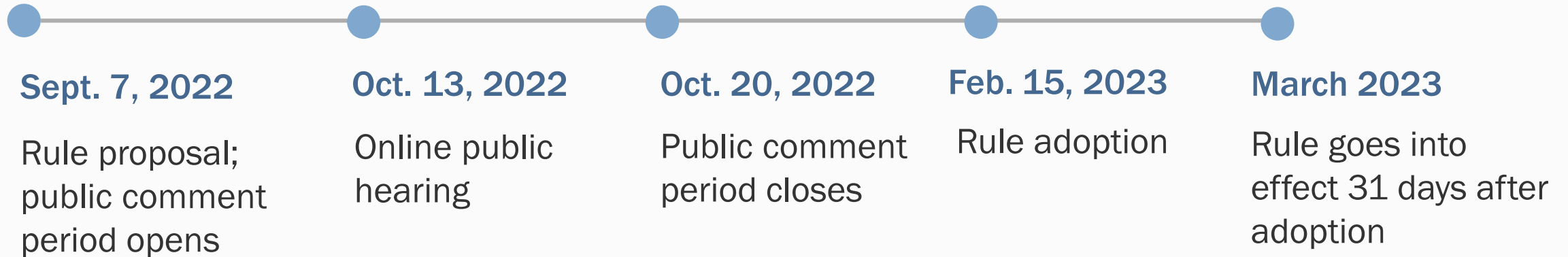
How are we improving the fee update process?

- A new section (WAC 173-455-031) has been added to create a streamlined process for future fee updates.
- Starting in 2023, the Air Quality Program will create an annual budget and workload analysis for permitting activities.
- If fee adjustments are needed, Ecology will post the new rate by August 1 and start a 30-day public comment period.
- Finalized fee will be posted by December 1 and take effect the following year.

What are the benefits of the new process?

- Permittees can anticipate small increases on a predictable schedule.
- Ecology will cover costs, meeting the requirements of the Washington Clean Air Act.
- Streamlined process will create more program efficiency.

When will the change go into effect?



More Information

- Rulemaking web page
 - <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Laws-rules-rulemaking/Rulemaking/WAC-173-455>
- Comment online
 - <https://aq.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=Zax2u>
- Rulemaking lead

Caitlin Cannon
caitlin.cannon@ecy.wa.gov
360-489-4046