



# PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

**CR-101 (June 2004)**  
(Implements RCW 34.05.310)  
Do NOT use for expedited rule making

**Agency:** Department of Ecology AO# 15-09

**Subject of possible rule making:**

The purpose of this rulemaking is to update and modernize SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act) rules.

- Chapter 197-11 WAC: amend as directed by Chapter 144, Laws of 2015 Regular Session (SHB 1851).
- Review and update other transportation related exemptions as needed.
- Make technical clarifications, correct errors, and improve readability.

**Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject:** RCW 43.21C.110

**Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish:** Chapter 144, Laws of 2015 Regular Session (SHB 1851) directed Ecology to update SEPA rules by creating a categorical exemption for replacement of structurally deficient bridges owned by local government. The other changes as described above are intended to modernize and update the SEPA rules.

**Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies:** Washington’s State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requires all state and local agencies to implement SEPA review and disclose the likely environmental consequences, to both the natural and the built environment, of a proposed action.

**Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):**

- Negotiated rule making
- Pilot rule making
- Agency study

Other (describe) Ecology has an existing SEPA advisory committee we plan to engage with during this rulemaking. We will post information on the agency web site; hold advisory committee meetings, share information with interested parties via our listserv and email. We will hold at least one public hearing on the rule proposal.

**How interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication:**

Interested parties can access more information on this rulemaking by contacting the Ecology staff member listed below or accessing the Ecology website: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/rules/1509time.html>

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Interested parties can subscribe for email updates at:  
<http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?A0=ECOLOGY-SEPA-UPDATES>

**DATE**  
August 17, 2015

**NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)**  
Gordon White

**SIGNATURE**

**TITLE**  
Program Manager, Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

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**WSR 15-17-083**