

Controlling Runoff from New development, Redevelopment, and Construction Sites

Phase I and Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permits

*Proposed approach to update the **Site and subdivision scale requirements** for the 2019 permit reissuance.*

I. Introduction

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is working on reissuing the Phase I and Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permits. Ecology prepared preliminary draft permit language or narrative descriptions of specific permit sections and is accepting informal comments until 11:59 p.m., January 19, 2018. Send your comments to: <http://ws.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=tkx29>

Or mail hard copies to:

Municipal Stormwater Comments
WA Department of Ecology
Water Quality Program
PO Box 47696
Olympia, WA 98504-7696

II. Manual adoption

The updates to the Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington (SWMMWW) will focus on enhancing the usability of the manual. Ecology does not plan to introduce any major new topics to the manual with this update. The planned effort is to clarify existing language, make corrections, and provide minor updates. This will result in a SWMMWW that is organized significantly differently from previous versions of the SWMMWW. The minor updates, corrections and clarifications will also result in limited substantive content changes.

Previous permits have required Phase I and Phase II permittees to adopt an updated SWMMWW or equivalent manual. Phase I Permittees were required to submit to Ecology, for review and approval, their local codes and manual for an “equivalency review.” The Phase I local programs are determined to be equivalent through a permit modification and are reflected in Appendix 10 of the Phase I Permit. Ecology acknowledges the significant resources required from local governments and Ecology staff associated with the adoption of an updated SWMMWW or equivalent. These resources, coupled with the planned minor content updates and major reorganization of the SWMMWW, have led Ecology to propose the following approach for the 2019-2024 Phase I and Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permits:

- The permits will reference and Ecology will fully support the 2019 SWMMWW.

- The permits will include an appendix that describes the substantive corrections and updates that are reflected in the 2019 SWMMWW. An example of what might be on this list is replacing guidance for WWHM3 with guidance for the current version of WWHM.
- The permits will allow Permittees to select from the following approaches to meet the applicable site and subdivision scale requirements for controlling runoff from new development, redevelopment, and construction sites (PH I: S5.C.5.a; PH II: S5.C.4.a):
 1. Adopt Ecology's 2019 SWMMWW, or
 2. Continue to use Ecology's 2012 SWMMWW as amended in 2014 and adopt or otherwise implement an amendment that lists the substantive corrections and updates from the 2019 SWMMWW, or
 3. Continue to use a Phase I Permittee's program that has been approved as equivalent to the 2012 SWMMWW as amended in 2014, and adopt or otherwise implement an amendment that lists the substantive corrections and updates from the 2019 SWMMWW.
- For Phase I Permittees, the proposed deadline is December 31, 2020 to review the local program and make effective one of the options listed above.
- For WWA Phase II Permittees, the proposed deadline is August 31, 2021 to make effective one of the options listed above.
- **Ecology does not anticipate requiring or providing an equivalency review of Permittee's stormwater manuals.**

III. Timing requirements

Both Permits will include clarifying language (i.e. specific dates) to address when projects which haven't started construction by a date certain would need to be reviewed under updated or amended manual standards. The proposed dates will follow the framework provided in the current permit.

Ecology is interested in your feedback on the approach and schedule described above.