

Notice to Interested Parties

Proposed Updates to Wastewater Operator Certification Rule

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) is proposing changes to chapter 173-230 WAC, Certification of Operators of Wastewater Treatment Plants (Rule). This Rule establishes the classifications for wastewater treatment plants and the requirements for certification of wastewater treatment plant operators.

As part of this rulemaking we have focused on the following:

- Establishing a new fee schedule as directed by the Legislature in 2018.
- Providing for an Operator in Training and respective education and experience qualifications for Groups II-IV.
- Updating Rule language to acknowledge new technologies in wastewater treatment.
- Reorganizing the Rule to create standalone sections where more information and clarity are needed.
- Clarifying Rule language to codify existing program practices.

Public Comment Period ends: May 1, 2019.

Submit comments online at <http://ws.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=gPMjY> or at one of the following:

In-Person Public Meetings & Hearings

April 23, 2019
1:30 PM

Dept. of Ecology
300 Desmond Dr.
Lacey, WA 98503

April 25, 2019
10:00 AM

Moses Lake Civic Center
401 South Balsam St.
Moses Lake, WA 98837

Webinar Public Meeting & Hearing

April 23, 2019
6:00 PM

<https://bit.ly/2IUseDo>

Please note, any information (e.g., personal or contact) you provide in a comment or in an attachment may be publicly disclosed and posted on the Internet.

Documents available for review:

- CR 102 Form: <https://ecology.wa.gov/Rulemaking/OpCertDraft102>
- Proposed Rule language <https://ecology.wa.gov/Rulemaking/OpCertDraft>
- Regulatory Analyses: <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/1910016.html>
- Other documents, including a Summary of Changes Addendum and SEPA, can be found online <https://go.usa.gov/xE8jP>.

Ecology expects to adopt this Rule on or after July 10, 2019. If you would prefer to review hard copies of any of these documents please contact Jocelyn W. Jones at jocelyn.jones@ecy.wa.gov or at 360-407-6321.

Fee Changes

By law, Ecology must fund the Wastewater Operator Certification Program with fees; however, the law has capped the fees since the 1980s. Rising costs over almost 40 years have meant that we've been unable to keep up with this obligation. The Legislature recognized this and removed the fee cap from the law and directed Ecology to establish a new fee schedule in the Rule.

Ecology formed and worked with a Rule Advisory Committee (RAC)—made up of certified operators from around the state and from each Group level—to advise us on the proposed changes. The RAC suggested we invert the historic fee structure, placing more of the burden to fund the program on renewal fees instead of application fees.

This change in the structure allowed us to reduce the overall proposed fee increases for both the application and the renewal fees. It also allowed us to keep Group I and Group I Operator in Training application fees unchanged.

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At a time when the profession is losing its most experienced operators to retirement, we hope keeping entry-level application fees more affordable will incentivize entry into the profession. This was a key concern expressed by the RAC and we worked hard to address it. Table 1 shows the proposed fees for Fiscal Year 2020 & 2021.

Table 1: Fiscal Year 2020 and 2021 Fee Schedule

Category	Amount for Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020)	Amount for Fiscal Year 2021 (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021)
Group I and Group I OIT (Operator in Training) Applications	\$50.00	\$50.00
Groups II through IV Applications and Groups II through IV OIT Applications	\$59.00	\$67.00
Renewals	\$64.00	\$98.00

New Operator in Training (OIT) Group II – IV

Ecology is also proposing another update to the Rule to incentivize and encourage entry into and growth within the profession—new OIT Group levels II-IV. These new Group levels are for those that can pass the next Group level exam, but don’t have the operating experience to qualify for a full certification at that higher Group level.

Applicants who already hold a full certification may apply for an OIT certification one level above their full certification level. If they pass the exam for that level, they will hold an OIT certification for that level as well as their full certification.

Group II - IV OIT certifications can be held for two exam cycles, up to 10 years, while gaining the necessary experience to upgrade to the next Group level for full certification. While holding an OIT II-IV certification, operators are only required to meet the professional growth requirements for their full certification and will pay only one renewal fee.

How can I find out more about the Operator Certification Rulemaking?

For more information on the rulemaking, please visit: <https://go.usa.gov/xE8jP> or contact Jocelyn Jones at jocelyn.jones@ecy.wa.gov or at 360-407-6321 or 360-522-0335.

For information about the Wastewater Operator Certification Program, please visit: ecology.wa.gov/opcert or contact Poppy Carre at poca461@ecy.wa.gov or at 360-407-6449.

Special accommodations

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-6600 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

Notice to Interested Parties

El Departamento de Ecología propone enmiendas al Capítulo 173-230 WAC Certificación de operadores de plantas de tratamiento de aguas residuales (Certification of Operators of Wastewater Treatment Plants). Esta reglamentación establece un programa de tarifas en regla y establece otros cambios para clarificar los requisitos y procedimientos del programa.

Comentarios formales acerca de esta reglamentación se aceptarán hasta el 1 de mayo de 2019.

Audiencia pública en persona:

23 de abril de 2019 a la 1:30 PM
Departamento de Ecología Oficina Central
300 Desmond Dr. SE
Lacey, WA 98503

25 de abril de 2019
Moses Lake Centro Civico
401 South Balsam St.
Moses Lake, WA 98837

Reunión pública / audiencia a través de webinario

23 de abril de 2019 a las 6:00 PM
<https://bit.ly/2IUsodo>

Para más información favor de llamar a Jocelyn Jones al 360-407-6321 y solicitar un intérprete.

☑환경부는 폐수처리장 관리자의 자격 인증과 관련된 법규(Chapter 173-230 WAC Certification of Operators of Wastewater Treatment Plants)를 수정합니다. 이 수정 법안에는 자격 인증에 필요한 요건과 절차에 관한 내용을 보완했고, 인증에 필요한 비용이 확정 포함되었습니다.

이 수정 법안에 대한 의견은 2019년 5월1일까지 제출해주십시오.

주민 공청회:

일시: 2019년 4월23일, 오후 1시30분

일시: 2019년 4월25일 오전 10시

장소: Dept. of Ecology Headquarters
300 Desmond Dr. SE
Lacey, WA 98503

장소: Moses Lake Civic Center
401 South Balsam St.
Moses Lake, WA 98837

컴퓨터를 이용한 공청회 (Webinar):

일시: 2019년 4월 23일, 오후 6시

<https://bit.ly/2IUsodo>

보다 자세한 사항을 원하시면 Jocelyn Jones씨에게 전화해서 (360-407-6321) 통역을 요청하십시오.

Notice to Interested Parties

華盛頓州生態管理署提議進行華盛頓州行政法令173-230章漏廢水處理廠作業員證照(Certification of Operators of Wastewater Treatment Plants)修訂作業。本規章修訂明確訂定收費標準和作些更改以闡明本章規定和作業程序。

對本規章修訂提供正式建議截止日期為2019年5月1日。

公眾聽證會:

2019年4月23日下午1點30分

Dept. of Ecology Headquarters (華盛頓州生態管理署總部)
300 Desmond Dr. SE
Lacey, WA 98503

2019年4月25日早上10點

Moses Lake Civic Center (摩西湖民眾中心)
401 South Balsam St.
Moses Lake, WA 98837
網上公聽會:

2019年4月23日下午6點

<https://bit.ly/2IUsoDo>

若需更多訊息或翻譯員服務, 請聯絡 Jocelyn Jones 電話: 360-407-6321。

Bộ Môi Sinh đang đề xuất sửa đổi Chương 173-230 WAC: Chứng Chỉ Cho Người Điều Hành Nhà Máy Xử Lý Nước Thải (Certification of Operators of Wastewater Treatment Plants). Đạo luật này thiết lập một biểu phí theo quy tắc và thực hiện các thay đổi khác để làm rõ các yêu cầu và thủ tục của chương trình.

Thời hạn góp ý cho đạo luật này là ngày 1 tháng 5-2019.

Buổi điều trần cho công chúng:

Ngày 23 tháng 4-2019 vào lúc 1:30 chiều
Dept. of Ecology Headquarters
300 Desmond Dr. SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Ngày 25 tháng 4-2019 vào lúc 10:00 sáng
Moses Lake Civic Center
401 South Balsam St.
Moses Lake, WA 98837

Cuộc họp công cộng / Hội thảo qua mạng
Ngày 23 tháng 4-2019 vào lúc 6:00 chiều

<https://bit.ly/2IUsoDo>

Để biết thêm thông tin hoặc cần thông dịch viên, xin liên hệ Jocelyn Jones tại số 360-407-6321.