

# Meeting Information

- Meeting is being recorded
- Slides and recording will be posted to [Oil Spill Contingency Plans rulemaking webpage](#)
- All attendees are muted upon entry. Please keep your microphone muted when not speaking to minimize background noise.
- Please use the chat box for general comments
- Use the "Raise Hand" feature if you wish to speak
- If you have technical issues, please private message the host in the chat.



# Oil Spill Contingency Plans Rulemaking

Rule Development Kickoff Meeting

Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Program

February 18, 2026

# Meeting Agenda

- Welcome
- What are we amending and why?
- Rulemaking timeline and process
- Engagement opportunities
- Questions and discussion
- Next steps and close

# Rulemaking Team

Darcy Bird – Lead Rule Writer

Sean Orr – Lead Rule Writer

Megan Hillyard – Rulemaking Coordinator

Wendy Buffett – Technical Lead/SME

Nora Haider – Technical Lead/SME

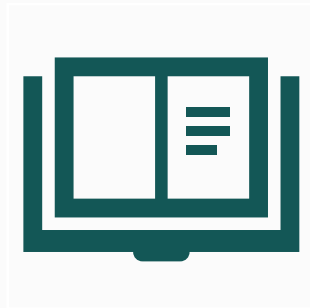
David Prater – Technical Lead/SME

Angela Deardorff-Zeigenfuse – Process Support



# Meeting Purpose

Today's goal is to have a shared understanding of



**What** we're amending



**Why** the rulemaking is  
needed



**How** we'll work together  
throughout the process

## Chapter 173-182 WAC Oil Spill Contingency Plan

## Chapter 173-186 WAC Oil Spill Contingency Plan – Railroad

- Vessels, pipelines, facilities, & railroads storing and transporting oil
- Response contractors
- Oil spill contingency plans establish **how** industry will respond - includes notifications, response procedures, access to equipment and personnel, and cites area/regional policies



# Best Achievable Protection (BAP)

- Every 5 years, Ecology is required to assess planning standards and best practices.
- In 2025, we identified four priority areas and invited industry, experts, and NGOs to provide recommendations for improvement.
- This rulemaking considers workgroup recommendations to improve preparedness & protection.



# Why are we amending these rules?

## Goal 1

- Strengthen existing rule language with clarity, consistency, and modernization updates

## Goal 2

- Promote continuous improvement by considering recommendations from 2025 BAP review

## Goal 3

- Address emerging risks and consider new planning standards for middle Columbia River

# Goal 1 – Clarity, consistency, & modernization

- Incorporate updates to align with modern agency practices and recent updates to related rules.
- Clarify existing requirements to eliminate ambiguity and improve consistent application of the rule.
- Make minor administrative updates to correct grammatical issues, outdated references, and improve readability of rule language.



## Goal 2 – Best Achievable Protection (BAP)

Promote continuous improvement by incorporating the latest best practices, technology, and lessons learned from the 2025 BAP review cycle.



# BAP objectives

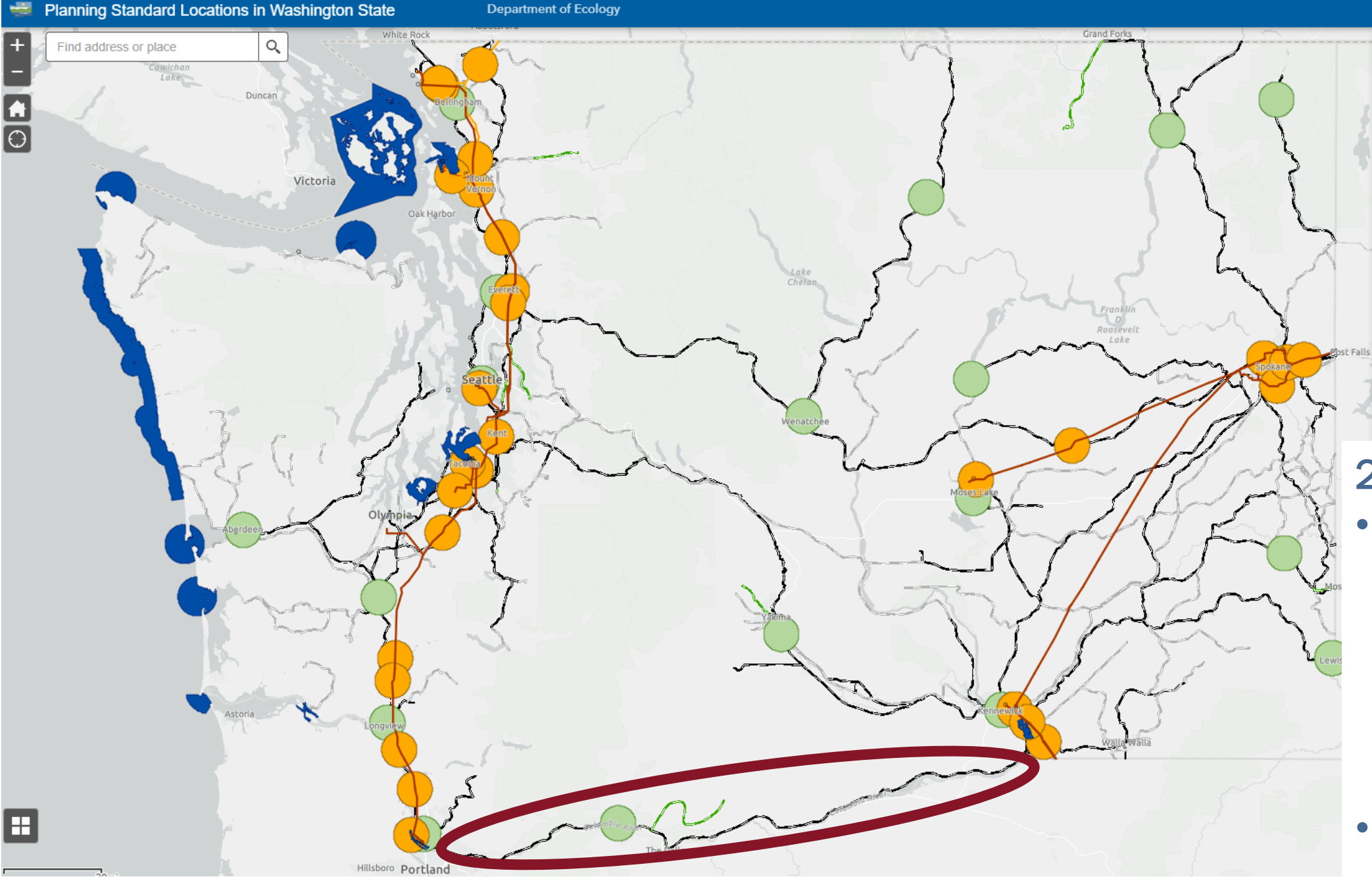
- Include equipment & tactics for non-floating oil (NFO) response in existing requirements for technical manuals and require safety data sheets.
- Strengthen existing drill requirements for NFO and Southern Resident killer Whale (SRKW) responses.
- Incorporate Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) into current planning standards.
- Update aerial surveillance requirements to include uncrewed aerial systems (UAS) where appropriate.



# Goal 3 – New equipment planning standard

Address emerging risks by considering new equipment planning standards for vessels operating in the Middle Columbia River.





**Legend**

**Pipeline**

- Crude oil
- Refined products

**Facilities**

- 

**Vessel Transit Area Standards**

- 

**Pipeline Planning Standard Areas**

- 

**Railroad Planning Standard Areas**

- 

- 2019 - 2025**
- 284,000,000 gallons transferred in Pasco 2025 (+35,000,000 gallons)
  - 507 transfers 2025 (+100)

# Rulemaking timeline

(Anticipated dates in red)



# Rule development

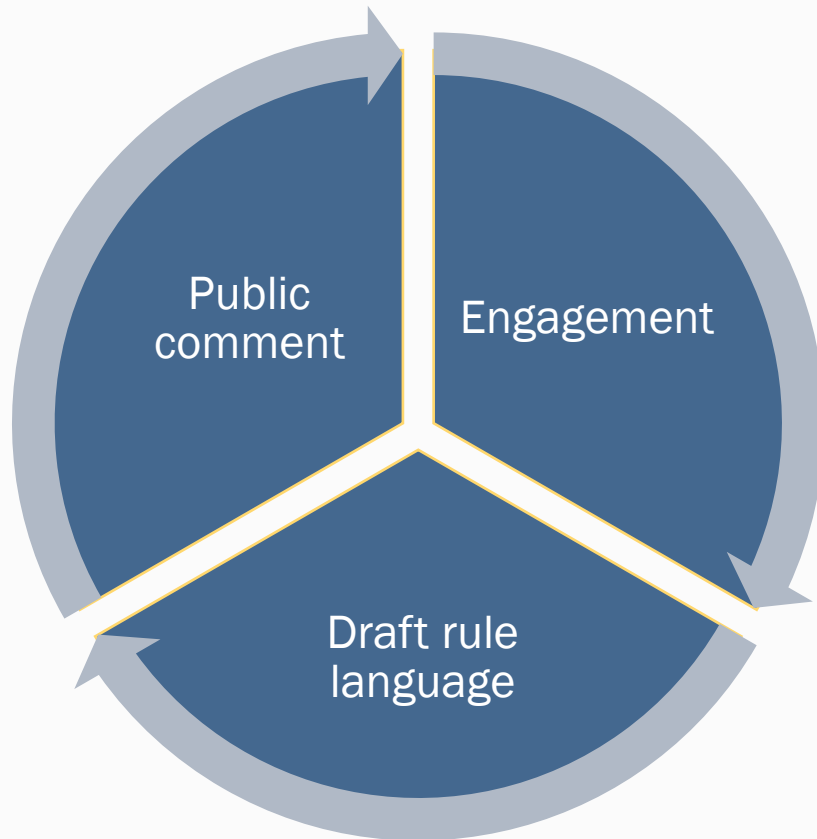
## During

- **Informal** comment period to gather early input
- Opportunities to engage and help inform draft rule language
- Rule language is not final at the end of this process

## After

- **Formal** public comment period
- Draft materials published include:
  - Proposed rule language
  - Preliminary Regulatory Analyses
  - SEPA materials

# Rule development process



## Topic focus areas:

- BAP updates
- Middle Columbia River planning standard
- Clarity, Consistency, and Modernization

Environmental Justice Assessment: ongoing until rule adoption

# How to participate in rule development



Attend workshops,  
meetings, listening  
sessions, etc.



Provide written  
comments using online  
comment form



Reach out to team via  
email

## Tentative workshop dates



Details shared at least two weeks in advance!

Workshop Topic	Date	Format
BAP: Drills	Thurs, Mar 5	Zoom
BAP: SCAT/UAS	Wed, Mar 18	Zoom
BAP: Technical Manuals	Thurs, Mar 26	Zoom
Clarity, Consistency, Modernization	Wed, May 20	Zoom



# Questions?

- Raise hand before speaking
- Type in the chat
- Email us at [spillsrulemaking@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:spillsrulemaking@ecy.wa.gov)

# Stay informed!

- **Subscribe to our listserv:**  
[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=WAECY\\_381](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic_id=WAECY_381)
- **Check webpage for updates:** <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/laws-rules-rulemaking/rulemaking/wac-173-182-186-oil-spill-contingency-plans>
- **Email** [spillsrulemaking@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:spillsrulemaking@ecy.wa.gov) with questions

**We want to hear from you!**

Help us shape how we engage by completing this short survey.

Your input will help us tailor future outreach and participation opportunities.

Engagement Survey

