



# RULE-MAKING ORDER PERMANENT RULE ONLY

**CR-103P (December 2017)  
(Implements RCW 34.05.360)**

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

DATE: July 01, 2025

TIME: 9:57 AM

WSR 25-14-101

**Agency:** Department of Ecology AO 24 - 05

**Effective date of rule:**

**Permanent Rules**

☒ 31 days after filing.

☐ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_ (If less than 31 days after filing, a specific finding under RCW 34.05.380(3) is required and should be stated below)

**Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?**

☐ Yes ☒ No If Yes, explain:

**Purpose:** Chapter 173-224 WAC Water Quality Permit Fees implements RCW 90.48.465 which requires Ecology to establish, by rule, annual fees to recover the cost of administering the wastewater and stormwater permit programs. This proposed rule amendment considers the economic impact on small dischargers and public entities and provides appropriate adjustments where applicable.

Below is a brief explanation of the specific sections in Chapter 173-224 WAC that will be updated for this rulemaking:

WAC 173-224-015 Purpose. Updated to reflect Fiscal Year 2026 and Fiscal Year 2027 fee periods.

WAC 173-224-030 Definitions. Definitions are updated to align with current water quality permit terminology and to reflect changes in the permit fee schedule.

WAC 173-224-040 Permit fee schedule. Adjusts fees to reflect an increase in fees for most fee categories and changes to certain fee subcategories. Increases minimum permit fees. Replaces existing inactive fee rate with new reduced permit fee rate. Technical corrections.

**Citation of rules affected by this order:**

New:

Repealed:

Amended: Chapter 173-224 WAC

Suspended:

**Statutory authority for adoption:** RCW 90.48.465

**Other authority:** Ecology has completed an Environmental Justice Assessment in accordance with RCW 70A.02.060 as a part of this rulemaking.

**PERMANENT RULE (Including Expedited Rule Making)**

Adopted under notice filed as WSR 25-08-037 on March 27, 2025 (date).

Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version: There were no changes, other than editing, made between the proposed rule and the adopted rule

During the rulemaking, Ecology found several technical editing changes were needed to correct clerical errors and to ensure clarity. These minor changes do not require a description of the differences between the text of the proposed rule filed on March 27, 2025, and the text of the adopted rule filed on July 1, 2025. Ecology made these changes to ensure clarity and meet the intent of the authorizing statutes.

If a preliminary cost-benefit analysis was prepared under RCW 34.05.328, a final cost-benefit analysis is available by contacting:

Name: Matthew Tietjen

Address: Department of Ecology, Water Quality Permit Program, PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 985004-7600

Phone: (360)-280-3697

Fax: N/A

TTY: For Washington Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.

Email: [wqfeeunit@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:wqfeeunit@ecy.wa.gov)

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.  
No descriptive text.**

**Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.  
A section may be counted in more than one category.**

**The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:**

Federal statute:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Federal rules or standards:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____

**The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:**

New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
-----	-------	---------	-------	----------	-------

**The number of sections adopted on the agency's own initiative:**

New	_____	Amended	<u>4</u>	Repealed	_____
-----	-------	---------	----------	----------	-------

**The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:**

New	_____	Amended	<u>4</u>	Repealed	_____
-----	-------	---------	----------	----------	-------

**The number of sections adopted using:**

Negotiated rule making:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Pilot rule making:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Other alternative rule making:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____

**Date Adopted:** July 1, 2025

**Name:** Casey D. Sixkiller

**Title:** Director

**Signature:**

