Water Quality Program General Permits

The months and seasons below are approximate. We will update the Water Quality Partnership on our progress in the coming months. Visit the Water quality permits web page for more information.

Important Ongoing Activity Updates

Municipal Stormwater Phase I & II General Permits

The permits expire at the end of July 2024. The Muni Phase I & II General Permits accepted informal early comments until February 25, 2022. The team is reviewing the early input and the ideas will help inform the scope of significant issues the permit writers will address in the drafting of the 2024 permits.

Informal listening sessions occurred on June 6th and 13th, and we still anticipate that a formal public comment period on the draft permit will occur in late Summer/Fall of 2023. For questions regarding this permit, please contact Abbey Stockwell at Abbey.Stockwell@ecy.wa.gov.

Planned Actions for 2022

Boatyard General Permit

The permit expired in July 2021. The study of the copper benchmark with our internal science department concluded in May. We have made changes to the benchmark in the final permit that differ from both the draft released in 2021, and the previous permit issued in July of 2016. A permit reissuance decision is anticipated for July 6, 2022, with an anticipated issuance date of September 1, 2022. For questions regarding this permit, please contact James Hovis at James. Hovis@ecy.wa.gov.

Irrigation System Aquatic Weed Control (ISAWC) General Permit

This permit expired in 2017. Our colleagues are still working on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). We anticipate a draft permit and the EIS will go out for review during a public comment period with hearings in mid-late Summer. We anticipate issuing the permit early December, with an anticipated issuance date of early January.

The Permit Writer and Unit Supervisor conducted a two-day site visit with Roza/Sunnyside Irrigation district near Yakima and had an opportunity to learn, watch a treatment in action, and spend some time with permittees. For questions about this permit, please contact Danielle Edelman at Danielle.Edelman@ecy.wa.gov.

Planned Actions for 2022, Continued

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation General Permits

The Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permit expired on March 2, 2022. The permit was remanded in June 2021 by the Washington State Court of Appeals. As a result, we conducted additional listening sessions in the fall focused on the court's decisions, which required significant changes to the permit. The permit writer is also completing the SEPA process. The formal public comment period is scheduled from June 22nd to August 3rd, and workshops and hearings on the new draft permit and SEPA Determination are scheduled for the end of July. We will provide draft permit documents on our CAFO web page for review and instructions on how to comment on Wednesday, June 22, 2022. We anticipate making a CAFO permit reissuance decision at the end of 2022. For questions regarding this permit, please contact Chelsea Morris at Chelsea. Morris@ecy.wa.gov.

Bridge & Ferry Terminal Washing General Permit

The permit expires on July 31, 2022. The current formal public comment period concluded on April 1, 2022. We conducted a workshop and hearing on March 24th. The permit writer is finalizing a response to comments, which will be included as part of the Fact Sheet. We anticipate making a permit decision at the end of June. For questions about this permit, please contact Foroozan Labib at Foroozan.Labib@ecy.wa.gov.

Aquatic & Invasive Species Control General Permit

The three permits that will make up this combined permit have expired: Fisheries Resource Management (WDFW), Aquatic Invasive Species (WDFW), and Gypsy Moth (WSDA). We aim to conduct listening sessions in Summer 2022 with a public comment period in Summer/Fall of 2022. If the schedule goes to plan, we anticipate making a permit decision in early 2023. If you have any questions regarding this permit, please reach out to Shawn Ultican at Shawn.Ultican@ecy.wa.gov.