Public Notice of Draft Federal Permits for State of Washington 401 Water Quality Certification

Project Name: Nine Federal Dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers

Requestor: U.S. EPA

Project Location: Columbia and Snake Rivers

Project Description: U.S. EPA proposes to issue National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits to nine federal dams and requests state 401 water quality certification.

Public Notice Date: January 30, 2019

Comment Period Ends: February 19, 2019

Request information is available on Ecology's Federal Permit Website:
https://ecology.wa.gov/401-and-CZM-public-notices

To obtain a hard copy of the request information, please call 360-407-6433.

Ecology will review the draft permits and activities pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, and with applicable provisions of State water pollution control laws.

Ecology is requesting comments from the public, state and local agencies, tribes, and other interested parties to evaluate the impacts of each draft permit and activity.

Conventional mail or e-mail comments on this public notice will be accepted and made part of the record.

Send comments to:
Department of Ecology
Water Quality Program
Eleanor Ott, PE
Post Office Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504
- or -
Online: http://ws.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=ix2pY

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
PO Box 47600 • Olympia, WA 98504-7600 • 360-407-6000
711 for Washington Relay Service • Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341

PUBLIC NOTICE
Announcing Draft Permits for Nine Federal Dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers Request for State Certification for Review and Comment

Proposed Permits
The United States Environmental Protection Agency requested Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 certification on December 19, 2018 for the following draft permits:

- Ice Harbor Lock and Dam, NPDES Permit No. WA0026816
- Lower Monumental Lock and Dam, NPDES Permit No. WA0026808
- Little Goose Lock and Dam, NPDES Permit No. WA0026786
- Lower Granite Lock and Dam, NPDES Permit No. WA0026794
- Bonneville Project, NPDES Permit No. WA0026778
- The Dalles Lock and Dam, NPDES Permit No. WA0026701
- John Day Project, NPDES Permit No. WA0026832
- McNary Lock and Dam, NPDES Permit No. WA0026824
- Grand Coulee Dam, NPDES Permit No. WA0026867

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) operates eight of the dams and the United States Bureau of Reclamation operates the Grand Coulee Dam. State and Federal water quality statutes and regulations do not allow the discharge of pollutants to waters of the state without permit coverage.

Purpose of the Permits
The nine federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits would authorize discharges from cooling water, equipment, floor drains, sumps, facility maintenance water, and other miscellaneous discharges.

Purpose of the 401 Certifications
Section 401 of the CWA provides that the federal government may not issue a permit relating to any activity which may result in any discharge into the navigable waters until a certification is granted or waived by the state in which the discharge originates, or will originate.

The state certification evaluates whether the discharge will comply with the applicable provisions of sections 301, 302, 306, and 307 of the CWA and appropriate requirements of state law. Ecology will review the draft permits pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA, and with applicable provisions of State water pollution control laws.

Copies of the Draft Permits
You may request copies of the documents from EPA staff, Jenny Wu at Wu.Jennifer@epa.gov or (206) 553-1855.

Ecology Contact

Eleanor Ott, PE
Washington State Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
Telephone: (360) 407-6433
Email: eleanor.ott@ecy.wa.gov

Submitting Written Comments
Ecology is requesting comments from the public, state and local agencies, tribes, and other interested parties on EPA's request, in relation to water pollution control considerations. Ecology will accept written comments until 11:59 PM, February 19, 2019. Ecology prefers comments be submitted online or in a letter format mailed directly to Ecology.

Submit comments online: http://ws.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=ix2pY
(preferred method)

Submit comments by mail to: Eleanor Ott, PE
Washington State Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

You must provide comments before 11:59 PM, February 19, 2019. Written comments must be postmarked no later than 11:59 PM, February 19, 2019.