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# Water Quality Regulations

- Chapter 90.48 Revised Code of Washington (RCW) – Water Pollution Control
- FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.)
- Chapter 173-200 Washington Administrative Code (WAC) – Water Quality Standards for Groundwaters of the State of Washington.
- Chapter 173-216 Washington Administrative Code (WAC) – State waste discharge permit program
- Chapter 173-201A Washington Administrative Code (WAC) – Water quality standards for surface waters of the state of Washington
- Chapter 173-220 Washington Administrative Code (WAC) – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program

# RCW 90.48.010

- **Policy enunciated.**
- It is declared to be the public policy of the state of Washington to maintain the highest possible standards to insure the purity of all waters of the state consistent with public health and public enjoyment thereof, the propagation and protection of wild life, birds, game, fish and other aquatic life, and the industrial development of the state, and to that end require the use of all known available and reasonable methods by industries and others to prevent and control the pollution of the waters of the state of Washington. Consistent with this policy, the state of Washington will exercise its powers, as fully and as effectively as possible, to retain and secure high quality for all waters of the state. The state of Washington in recognition of the federal government's interest in the quality of the navigable waters of the United States, of which certain portions thereof are within the jurisdictional limits of this state, proclaims a public policy of working cooperatively with the federal government in a joint effort to extinguish the sources of water quality degradation, while at the same time preserving and vigorously exercising state powers to insure that present and future standards of water quality within the state shall be determined by the citizenry, through and by the efforts of state government, of the state of Washington.

# RCW 90.48.080

- **Discharge of polluting matter in waters prohibited.**
- It shall be unlawful for any person to throw, drain, run, or otherwise discharge into any of the waters of this state, or to cause, permit or suffer to be thrown, run, drained, allowed to seep or otherwise discharged into such waters any organic or inorganic matter that shall cause or tend to cause pollution of such waters according to the determination of the department, as provided for in this chapter.

# RCW 90.48.020

- **Definitions.**
- Whenever the word "pollution" is used in this chapter, it shall be construed to mean such contamination, or other alteration of the physical, chemical or biological properties, of any waters of the state, including change in temperature, taste, color, turbidity, or odor of the waters, or such discharge of any liquid, gaseous, solid, radioactive, or other substance into any waters of the state as will or is likely to create a nuisance or render such waters harmful, detrimental or injurious to the public health, safety or welfare, or to domestic, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational, or other legitimate beneficial uses, or to livestock, wild animals, birds, fish or other aquatic life.

# Water Quality Standards

- Chapter 173-200 Washington Administrative Code (WAC) – Water Quality Standards for Groundwaters of the State of Washington.
  - Nitrate (as N) 10 mg/L
  - Total Dissolved Solids 500 mg/L
  - pH 6.5-8.5

# WAC 173-200-030 - Antidegradation policy.

- (1) The antidegradation policy of the state of Washington, is generally guided by chapter [90.48](#) RCW, the Water Pollution Control Act, and chapter [90.54](#) RCW, the Water Resources Act of 1971. The goal of this policy is to ensure the purity of the state's groundwaters and to protect the natural environment.
- (2) The antidegradation policy is as follows:
  - (a) Existing and future beneficial uses shall be maintained and protected and degradation of groundwater quality that would interfere with or become injurious to beneficial uses shall not be allowed.
  - (b) Degradation shall not be allowed of high quality groundwaters constituting an outstanding national or state resource, such as waters of national and state parks and wildlife refuges, and waters of exceptional recreational or ecological significance.
  - (c) Whenever groundwaters are of a higher quality than the criteria assigned for said waters, the existing water quality shall be protected, and contaminants that will reduce the existing quality thereof shall not be allowed to enter such waters, except in those instances where it can be demonstrated to the department's satisfaction that:
    - (i) An overriding consideration of the public interest will be served; and
    - (ii) All contaminants proposed for entry into said groundwaters shall be provided with all known, available, and reasonable methods of prevention, control, and treatment prior to entry

# LUST Guidance

Table A. Short Term <60 day Discharge.

Discharge Location	Conditions	Permit Requirement
Surface Water	Meet Table C level 1 treatment Local approval required if discharge is to municipal stormwater system	Generally no permit required. Permit writers should make determination based on circumstances (e.g., if hydraulic capacity is a concern).
POTW	Meet Table C level 3 treatment Local approval required	Generally no permit required. Permit writers should make determination based on circumstances (e.g., if hydraulic capacity is a concern).
Ground Water by injection well or UIC, hydraulically contained* on-site	Meet Table C level 1 treatment	UIC registration only No permit required
Ground Water, but not contained on-site	Option A: If meet Table C level 2 treatment	UIC registration only (if it meets UIC well definition) No permit
	Option B: Meet Table C level 1 treatment	Permit-By-Rule Discharge to an injection well is not allowed

\*Hydraulically contained means that the aquifer is recharged in such a manner as to prevent the injected water from leaving the site.

# LUST Maximum Contaminant Levels

Table C. Discharge Quality Maximum Concentration Levels.

Parameter	Level 1 (discharge to surface water) <sup>a</sup>	Level 2 (discharge to groundwater) <sup>b</sup>	Level 3 (discharge to POTW) <sup>c</sup>
pH	6.0 -9.0	6.5 -8.5	6.0 to 9.0
TPH-G	1 ppm	1 ppm	2 ppm
TPH-D	5 ppm	1 ppm	10 ppm
Total Lead	15.0 ppb	15.0 ppb	20 ppb
BTEX	100 ppb	N/A	200 ppb
Benzene	5.0 ppb	1.0 ppb	10 ppb
Toluene	N/A (see BTEX)	40 ppb	N/A
Ethylbenzene	N/A (see BTEX)	30 ppb	N/A
Xylene	N/A (see BTEX)	20 ppb	N/A

<sup>a</sup> Level 1 limits are performance and technology based (MTCA method A for total lead and benzene).

<sup>b</sup> Level 2 limits are based on the ground water standards or MTCA method A value, whichever is more stringent.

<sup>c</sup> Level 3 limits are based on King County pretreatment levels and best professional judgment to prevent explosives in the collection system and to prevent interference or upset at the wastewater treatment plant. Permit writers should confirm that these levels meet local pre-treatment levels before using in permit.

# Process Wastewater

- *Process Wastewater* means any non-stormwater which, during manufacturing or processing, comes into direct contact or results from the production or use of any raw material, intermediate product, finished product, byproduct, or waste product. If stormwater commingles with process wastewater, the commingled water is considered process wastewater.

# Options

1. No Discharge
  1. Use it.
  2. Evaporate it.
  3. Truck to permitted site.
2. Discharge it as uncontaminated stormwater. (No process water allowed in mix).
  1. Permit
    1. Meet permit limits.
    2. Monitoring
  2. Land surface without a permit
    1. Prove it is not polluted?
      1. Testing – P, K, N
      2. Develop a simple meter testing for the future.
    2. Not leave your property.
    3. Site specific conditions
      1. Not cause leaching of pollutants in soil.
      2. Not cause hydraulic problems.
      3. Depth to groundwater.
      4. Not on frozen ground.
  4. Notification.

# Next

## We Need Data

- Where would this be used for?
- How much?
- What is in the tanks?
  - Test containment water for that – PKN?
  - Test containment water using a “meter” at the same time.
    - pH
    - Conductivity
    - Other
  - Test mixed product using the same methods and rainwater from a rain gauge
    - Will give us both ends of the clean – dirty curve.