

WAC 173-401-500 Permit applications. (1) Source identification. Within 90 days after the date that a permitting authority submits for EPA approval a permit program or partial permit program, the permitting authority shall notify each potential chapter 401 source within its jurisdiction that the source may be required to obtain a permit. Failure of the permitting authority to notify a source shall not relieve that source from the obligation to file a timely and complete application.

(2) Application distribution. No later than 30 days after EPA grants final or interim, full or partial, approval to the state program, the responsible permitting authority shall send an application to each potential chapter 401 source within its jurisdiction, and a notice stating a deadline by which an application must be filed. Failure of the permitting authority to distribute permit or renewal applications to an individual source shall not relieve that source from the obligation to file a timely and complete application. Renewal applications shall be sent to the source as specified in WAC 173-401-710.

(3) Duty to apply. For each chapter 401 source, the owner or operator shall submit a timely and complete permit application in accordance with this section. Whenever practicable, the applicant shall utilize methods provided by the permitting authority for electronic transmission of the completed application.

(a) Existing chapter 401 sources. Chapter 401 sources in existence on the date of EPA approval of the state permit program shall submit permit applications no later than 180 days after EPA approval of the state permitting program.

(b) Existing sources becoming chapter 401 sources due to future regulations. An existing source may become subject to the operating permit program as a result of regulations promulgated after EPA approval of the state permit program. For those sources, a complete application must be submitted within 12 months from the time that the source becomes subject to the permit program.

(c) New or modified sources. New or modified chapter 401 sources which commence operation after EPA approval of the state operating program shall file a complete application to obtain the chapter 401 permit or permit revision within 12 months after commencing operation. Where an existing chapter 401 permit would prohibit such construction or change in operation, the source must obtain a permit revision before commencing operation. The applicant may elect to integrate procedures for new source review and operating permit issuance as described in subsection (10) of this section.

(d) Permit renewal. For purposes of permit renewal, a timely application is one that is submitted at the time specified in WAC 173-401-710.

(e) Applications for initial phase II acid rain permits shall be submitted to the permitting authority by January 1, 1996, for sulfur dioxide, and by January 1, 1998, for nitrogen oxides.

(4) Complete application. To be deemed complete, an application must provide all information required pursuant to WAC 173-401-510, except that applications for permit revision need supply such information only if it is related to the proposed change. Information submitted under WAC 173-401-510 must be sufficient to evaluate the subject source and its application and to determine all applicable requirements. A responsible official shall certify the submitted information consistent with WAC 173-401-520. Unless the permitting authority determines in writing that an application is not complete within 60 days of receipt of the application, such application shall be deemed to be

complete, except as otherwise provided in WAC 173-401-700(6). Any notification of incompleteness shall specify the information needed to make the application complete and prescribe a reasonable time frame for response from the applicant. Unless the permitting authority requests additional information or otherwise notifies the applicant of incompleteness within 60 days of receipt of the supplemental information, the application shall be deemed complete. If, while processing an application that has been determined or deemed to be complete, the permitting authority determines that additional information is necessary to evaluate or take final action on that application, it may request such information in writing and set a reasonable deadline for a response. The source's ability to operate without a permit, as set forth in WAC 173-401-705(2), shall be in effect from the date the application is determined or deemed to be complete until the final permit is issued, provided that the applicant submits any requested additional information by the deadline specified by the permitting authority.

(5) Confidential information. In the case where a source has submitted information to the permitting authority under a claim of confidentiality, the permitting authority may also require the source to submit a copy of such information directly to the administrator.

(6) Duty to supplement or correct application. Any applicant who fails to submit any relevant facts or who has submitted incorrect information in a permit application shall, upon becoming aware of such failure or incorrect submittal, promptly submit such supplementary facts or corrected information. In addition, an applicant shall provide additional information as necessary to address any requirements that become applicable to the source after the date it filed a complete application but prior to release of a draft permit.

(7) Completeness criteria. An application is complete when it contains the following information:

(a) All of the data described in WAC 173-401-510(2), including the required information for each emission unit (other than insignificant emission units) at the facility, along with any necessary supporting data and calculations. The use of a standard application is not required if all of the data elements required in WAC 173-401-510(2) are provided;

(b) A compliance plan that meets the criteria of WAC 173-401-630; and

(c) Certification by a responsible official of the chapter 401 source of the truth, accuracy, and completeness of the application, as provided in WAC 173-401-520.

(8) EPA notification. The permitting authority shall provide EPA with a copy of all complete permit applications and compliance plans for chapter 401 sources unless EPA waives or modifies this requirement.

(9) Public notice. Ecology shall publish a notice of all applications received under this section in the permit register as required under WAC 173-401-805.

(10) Operating permits for new sources. At the time of filing a notice of construction application under RCW 70A.15.2210 for the construction of a new source or modification of an existing source, the owner or operator may elect in writing to integrate new source review and operating permit issuance. Procedures for integration of these two processes are as follows:

(a) Modification of existing source. The owner or operator of an existing permitted source applying to modify the source within the

meaning of RCW 70A.15.1030(14) may select integrated review by so indicating on its notice of construction application. The permitting authority shall process the notice of construction application in accordance with the procedures set forth in WAC 173-401-700. The permitting authority shall process the two applications in parallel, and consolidate all required public hearings, comment periods and EPA review periods. A proposed order of approval for the modification shall be provided to EPA for review as provided in WAC 173-401-810, along with a proposed administrative permit amendment to the source's operating permit. The administrative permit amendment shall incorporate into the operating permit the requirements contained in the order of approval. The order of approval shall include compliance requirements for the new or modified emissions units that meet the requirements of WAC 173-401-600 through 173-401-650. The permitting authority shall issue the final permit amendment and order of approval promptly upon conclusion of the EPA review period, unless EPA files a timely objection as provided in 40 C.F.R. 70.8.

(b) Construction of new source. Any person who proposes to construct a new source, within the meaning of RCW 70A.15.1030(16), may select integrated review by concurrently filing with the permitting authority a notice of construction application and an operating permit application. The permitting authority shall process both applications in accordance with the procedures set forth in WAC 173-401-700. The permitting authority shall process the two applications in parallel, and consolidate all required public hearings, comment periods, and EPA review periods. A proposed order of approval for the new source shall be provided to EPA for review as provided in WAC 173-401-810, along with the proposed operating permit. The permitting authority shall issue the final operating permit and order of approval promptly upon conclusion of the EPA review period, unless EPA files a timely objection as provided in 40 C.F.R. 70.8.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 70A.15 RCW and RCW 70A.02.060. WSR 25-05-042 (Order 23-08), s 173-401-500, filed 2/12/25, effective 3/15/25. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.94.161(2). WSR 02-19-078 (Order 02-02), § 173-401-500, filed 9/16/02, effective 10/17/02. Statutory Authority: Chapter 70.94 RCW. WSR 93-20-075 (Order 91-68), § 173-401-500, filed 10/4/93, effective 11/4/93.]