Ecology Department Requests Public Comment on Cosmopolis Mill Water Quality Permit

Local News

Posted by: David Haviland

Posted on : October 13, 2009 at 10:25 am

COSMOPOLIS, Wash. - The Washington Department of Ecology invites you to read and comment on the proposed amendment to Weyerhaeuser Cosmopolis’ National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

We are accepting public comments from October 12 to November 12, 2009. Citizens can request a public hearing to ask questions and submit verbal comments on this permit. If this is something you are interested in, please contact:

Angela Fritz
Department of Ecology
Industrial Section
P.O. Box 47706
Olympia, WA 98504-7706
E-mail: anfr461@ecy.wa.gov
Phone: (360) 407-7393

DATES AND LOCATIONS
October 12 to November 12, 2009

Read the proposed permit at these locations:
Aberdeen Timberland Library

121 E. Market Street
Aberdeen, WA 98520
Phone: (360) 533-2360

WA Dept of Ecology

Industrial Section
300 Desmond Way SE
Lacey, WA 98503
Phone (360) 407-6942

Online at:

http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/industrial/proposed.asp

Send written comments by 5:00 p.m. June 19, 2009 to:

Marc Crooks, P.E.
Department of Ecology
Industrial Section
P.O. Box 47706
Olympia, WA 98504-7706
Email: mcro461@ecy.wa.gov

Special accommodations:

To ask about the availability of this document in a version for the visually impaired call the Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program at 360-407-6900. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

NPDES Permits

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency designed its NPDES Permit program to improve water quality nationwide. The permit limits the kinds, amounts, and concentrations of pollutants a facility may release. It requires each facility to measure, test, and report its discharge pollution control performance. It also prescribes "best management practices" for the operations and physical plant, and defines the pollution control standards applied during each 5-year permit term.
Weyerhaeuser Cosmopolis’ current NPDES permit became effective on July 1, 2007. The permit expires on June 30, 2012. We are amending the permit to include reduced monitoring requirements due to the closure of the mill in September 2006. If the mill is sold, the monitoring requirements will go back to the full pre-closure monitoring requirements upon start-up of the mill. The permit expiration date remains June 30, 2012.

Facility Description

The mill is located in Cosmopolis, Washington, adjacent to the Chehalis River. It was built by Weyerhaeuser NR Company in 1957 as a paper grade sulfite pulp mill. In 1962, the company began converting the mill to a dissolving and specialty grade sulfite pulp mill. Production stopped in September 2006. The mill remains closed.

COMMENT PERIOD