STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
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January 5, 2026

WITHDRAWAL OF WSR 19-13-030, CR-101 for WAC 173-201A

The Department of Ecology withdraws the Preproposal Statement of Inquiry (CR-101) to amend Chapter 173-201A Washington Administrative Code, Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington, filed on June 12, 2019, and published as WSR 19-13-030.

In April 2019, Ecology received applications for variances to the human health criterion for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) of 7 picograms/liter (pg/L) from five National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitted dischargers to the Spokane River. Ecology published WSR 19-13-930 because it determined those variance applications included the information required by WAC 173-201A-420(3). Ecology has determined those variance applications no longer include the information required by WAC 173-201A-420(3)(a)-(c), (e), and (g), and is withdrawing this CR-101, because:

- The PCB human health criterion applicable to the variance applicants is no longer 7 pg/L. On October 28, 2024, EPA issued the "Spokane and Little Spokane Rivers Polychlorinated Biphenyls Total Maximum Daily Loads," changing the human health criterion for PCBs applicable to the variance applicants from 7 pg/L to 1.3 pg/L.
- The Environmental Protection Agency has clarified that the variance applicants' compliance with numeric effluent limits derived from the applicable PCB human health criterion of 1.3 pg/L is to be evaluated using a detection method that is not sensitive enough to measure PCB concentrations below 65,000 pg/L.

Individuals wanting more information regarding the withdrawal of this CR-101 may contact Marla Koberstein, at marla.koberstein@ecy.wa.gov or 360-789-3610.

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