

Draft Agenda for AC Meeting #6

Wednesday, September 30, 2020 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Digital Platform login <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/686521341> and phone (872) 240-3212; Access Code: 686-521-341

ROLE OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

To advise Ecology's permit writer as to which **conceptual approaches** are preferred for reducing nutrient loads from WWTPs discharging directly to Puget Sound through a general permit, and the reasons why.

- This committee will not be drafting permit language; that is the job of the permit writer.
- Ecology envisions a continuing role for this committee in providing a venue and voice for input during the active permit term.

THE MEETING'S GOALS:

1. Share feedback on monitoring requirements that members gathered from their constituents
2. Share feedback on draft recommendations for PSNGP conceptual approaches that members gathered from their constituents
3. Identify and confirm areas where the AC is in agreement
4. Work towards additional areas where the AC can come to agreement
5. Ensure that areas of continuing disagreement are documented to all AC members' satisfaction
6. Discuss next steps to successfully finalize recommendations at our next meeting

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9:20 Log onto meeting platform and troubleshoot any technical issues

9:30 Welcome and AC member introductions; review the meeting's agenda, goals (chair)

- During today's meeting we will finish our discussion about monitoring requirements and have our first in-depth discussion of the "evolving recommendations" in preparation for our last final meeting to approve the package of final recommendations to Ecology for writing the PSNGP.

9:35 Share caucus feedback on monitoring and wrap up discussion about monitoring (permit writer)

- Each PSNGP AC caucus lead will share an overview of the feedback gathered in discussions with constituents since our last AC meeting.
- How should the permit best/most accurately calculate and track loadings?
- What size categories of plants should have what frequency of sampling required?
- How should cost play into the monitoring requirements?
- Do you agree with this set of parameters, and if not, what should be added or removed?
 - Influent: frequent ammonia and BOD, monthly TKN
 - Effluent: TIN, TKN, DOC, and BOD
- Do AC members have questions regarding caucus discussions about monitoring? Caucus members please email your report out notes to our facilitator if you discussed monitoring.
- Review context for PSNGP monitoring requirements:
 - Monitoring, recording, and reporting helps verify treatment process function and compliance with permit conditions.
 - Current monitoring frequencies vary from facility to facility.
 - Monitoring results should be used to evaluate optimization efforts and drive adaptive management.

- Data will be reported to Ecology on a monthly basis through the electronic discharge monitoring report within the Water Quality Permitting Portal.
- Individual permits will be modified to remove nutrient monitoring so that the requirements are in one permit only.
- Review key themes from August's PSNGP monitoring requirement discussion:
 - Monitoring requirements should capture the variability in a plant's loadings. Consider getting the best possible assessment of each plant's actual loads by using instantaneous flow measurements, not just monthly average flows for loading calculations.
 - Monitoring frequencies should be based on the plant's size (more frequent testing for larger facilities). Current design flows listed in S4 of the current permit should be used as the basis for determining the appropriate size category.
 - Reduced sampling frequency should be allowed once loading variability is documented. Plant still need to maintain a baseline monitoring frequency that supports plant operations, nutrient load tracking and other compliance determinations. Some influent monitoring should be required.
 - Monitoring requirements must ensure standard methods are followed.
 - There is value in tracking TKN; however, it could be sampled less frequently than inorganic nitrogen species and BOD, especially in the influent.
 - There's a need to track organic carbon in the effluent both for the impact on ocean acidification and its relationship with BOD.

10:15 Share feedback gathered from PSNGP AC caucus groups on the Evolving Recommendations document (facilitator)

- Each PSNGP AC caucus lead will share an overview of the feedback gathered in discussions with constituents since our last AC meeting.
- Caucuses were asked to discuss the evolving recommendations document. Do caucus report outs on this document necessitate changes to the recommendations?
- Do AC members have questions about other caucuses' reports? Caucus members please email your report out notes to our facilitator.
- Where do we have emerging consensus on the recommendations document?

10:50 Break

11:00 Begin discussion of evolving recommendations document (chair and facilitator)

- Questions for AC members to gather feedback from constituents on the evolving recommendation document:
 - What recommendations do you agree with? Why?
 - What recommendations do you disagree with? Why?
 - What planning requirements could apply to all dischargers (except those that already have nutrient reduction technologies)?

12:00 Break for lunch

1:00 Continue our discussion of the Evolving Recommendations document (chair and facilitator)

1:55 Break

2:05 Continue our discussion of the Evolving Recommendations document (chair and facilitator)

2:30 Open Public Comment (facilitator)

- People will be called upon in the order in which we received your request to comment as indicated upon registration for today's virtual meeting platform.
- Please limit your comment/question to about 30 seconds

2:45 Future AC meetings and expected discussion topics (chair and facilitator)

- Caucuses are asked to discuss the next version of the “evolving recommendations” document so that we all come to the October meeting prepared to make decisions about the committee’s package of recommendations to Ecology.
- Our final meeting is on October 21. Please mark your calendars!
 - This meeting will be held from 9:30am-3:00pm with a one-hour lunch break.
- Here are the proposed discussion topics for future meetings:
 - Wednesday, October 21: review and adopt final recommendations. This will be our last meeting prior to Ecology issuing draft permit language for an informal public review. We will discuss plans for future meetings.
- *Process reminder: We have discussed each topic during at least two meetings, so that we can discuss evolving recommendations with our colleagues before finalizing our draft recommendations. Please take some time to read the updated “evolving recommendations” document after each meeting. Look for instructions from the facilitator to participate in shared editing/commenting of the next version.*

2:50 Recap of today’s meeting (chair and facilitator)

- Summarize emerging agreements, decisions, action items, and next steps from today’s meeting.
- Caucus leads are reminded to send the facilitator their written reports from discussions with constituents.

3:00 Adjourn