

FROM: WASHINGTON STATE DATA PROCESSING AUTHORITY
(Name of Agency)

TO: CODE REVISER
LEGISLATIVE BLDG. (Southwest Corner, Ground Floor)
OLYMPIA 98504

The enclosed rules Permanent rules ☐ , being Order No. _____
Emergency rules ☒

relating to (Name of rules or description of subject matter)

New WAC

State Environmental Policy Act Guidelines

(ALTERNATIVE A. Use only for adoption of permanent rules)

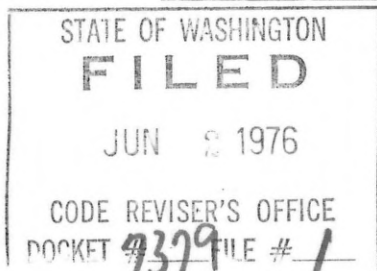
pursuant to Notice No. _____ ① filed with the code reviser
on _____ ② were regularly adopted as permanent rules of
(date)
this agency at _____ on _____ and are herewith
(place) (date)
filed in the office of the code reviser pursuant to chapter 34.04
RCW. The effective date of such rules shall be _____ ③

(ALTERNATIVE B. Use only for adoption of emergency rules)

pursuant to its finding in the attached administrative order,
that the immediate adoption of these rules is necessary for the
preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare and
that observance of the requirements of notice and opportunity to
present views on the proposed action would be contrary to the
public interest, were regularly adopted as emergency rules of this
agency at _____ Olympia, Washington _____ on June 2, 1976 and
(place) (date)
are herewith filed in the office of the code reviser pursuant to
chapter 34.04 RCW.

The undersigned hereby certifies that the requirements of chapter
34.04 RCW and of the Open Public Meetings Act of 1971, chapter
42.30 RCW have been fulfilled.

Dated this 1st day of June 1976



Data Processing Authority
(AGENCY)
Clinton DeGabrielle
By *Clinton DeGabrielle*
Executive Director
Title

- ① Notice number as appears on the copy of notice returned to you by
reviser's office (if proceedings were continued, use no. of last notice)
② Stamped date as appears on the copy of notice returned to you by
reviser's office (if proceedings were continued, use date of last notice)
③ Unless a later date is specified in this order or is prescribed in
another statute, rules are effective 30 days after filing:
RCW 34.04.040. Leave this space blank except in such special cases.
[Order 9, filed 9/25/74, eff. 10/25/74] [Form CR-2: Rev. 9/21/74]

DATA PROCESSING AUTHORITY

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER No. 06

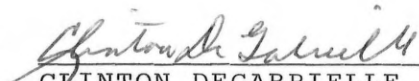
(1) The Washington State Data Processing Authority, by virtue of the authority vested in it by chapter 34.04 RCW., Chap. 43.105 RCW and RCW 43.21C.120 does promulgate and adopt the annexed regulation as an emergency rule of this agency.

(2) RCW 43.21C.120 requires all state agencies to adopt rules pertaining to the integration of the policies and procedures of Chap. 43.21C RCW into the various programs under their jurisdiction for implementation. These rules were to have been adopted by May 15, 1976; consequently, the adoption of these rules is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare and observance of the requirements of notice and opportunity to present views on the proposed action would be contrary to the public interest.

(3) This order after being first recorded in the order register of this agency, shall be forwarded to the Code Reviser for filing pursuant to chapter 34.04 RCW and chapter 1-12 WAC.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED June 2, 1966.

BY:


CLINTON DEGABRIELLE,
Executive Director
Washington State Data
Processing Authority

PRELIMINARY SECTIONS AND DEFINITIONS

WAC 197-10-010 AUTHORITY. This chapter is promulgated pursuant to the authority granted in RCW 43.21C.110.

WAC 197-10-020 PURPOSE. (1) The purpose of this chapter is to establish statewide guidelines interpreting and implementing the state environmental policy act of 1971 (SEPA). Each state and local agency of government must adopt its own rules, ordinances or resolutions governing the implementation of SEPA consistent with the provisions of this chapter.

(2) These guidelines were developed to establish methods and means of implementing SEPA "in a manner which reduces duplicative and wasteful practices, establishes effective and uniform procedures, encourages public involvement, and promotes certainty with respect to the requirements of the act."

(3) These guidelines are not intended to govern compliance by state or local agencies with respect to the national environmental policy act of 1969 (NEPA). In those situations where state or local agencies are required by federal law or regulations to perform some element of compliance with NEPA, such agency compliance will be governed by the applicable federal statute and regulations and not by these guidelines.

WAC 197-10-025 SCOPE AND COVERAGE OF THIS CHAPTER.

(1) It is the intent of the council on environmental policy (CEP) that compliance with the guidelines of this chapter, and agency guidelines consistent therewith, shall constitute complete procedural compliance with SEPA for any "action" as defined in WAC 197-10-040(2).

(2) The guidelines of this chapter do not address the issue of the substantive effect that the enactment of SEPA has upon agency decision-making.

(3) The guidelines of this chapter contain no sections relating to the notice/statute of limitations provisions of RCW 43.21C.080, .085 and .087. Persons and agencies wishing to utilize these provisions shall follow the statutory language and any applicable regulations of the department of ecology.

WAC 197-10-030 INTEGRATION OF SEPA PROCEDURES WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS. To the fullest extent possible, the procedures required by these guidelines shall be integrated with existing planning and licensing procedures utilized by governmental agencies in the state. These procedures should be initiated early, and undertaken in conjunction with other governmental operations to avoid lengthy time delays and unnecessary duplication of effort.

WAC 197-10-040 DEFINITIONS. The following words and terms have the following meanings for the purposes of this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise:

(1) Acting Agency. Acting agency means an agency with jurisdiction which has received an application for a license, or which is the initiator of a proposed action.

(2) Action. Action means an activity potentially subject to the environmental impact statement requirements of

ROW 43.21C.030(2)(c) and (2)(d). [See the provisions of WAC 197-10-170, -175 and -180 for activities that are exempted from the threshold determination and environmental impact statement requirements of SEPA and these guidelines, due to CEP's determination that such activities are minor, not "major," actions even though such activities are within one of the subcategories below.] All actions fall within one of the following subcategories:

(a) Governmental licensing.

(b) Governmental action of a project nature. This includes and is limited to:

(i) the decision by an agency to undertake any activity which will directly modify the physical environment, whether such activity will be undertaken directly by the agency or through contract with another, and

(ii) the decision to purchase, sell, lease, transfer or exchange natural resources, including publicly owned land, whether or not it directly modifies the environment.

(c) Governmental action of a non-project nature. This includes and is limited to:

(i) the adoption or amendment of legislation, ordinances, rules or regulations which contain standards controlling use or modification of the physical environment;

(ii) the adoption or amendment of comprehensive land use plans or zoning ordinances;

(iii) the adoption of any policy, plan or program which will govern the development of a series of functionally related major actions, but not including any policy, plan or program for which approval must be obtained from any federal agency prior to implementation;

(iv) creation of, or annexations to, any city, town or district;

(v) adoptions or approvals of utility, transportation and solid waste disposal rates;

(vi) capital budgets; and

(vii) road, street and highway plans.

(3) Agencies with Expertise. Agencies with expertise means those agencies to which a draft environmental impact statement shall be sent pursuant to WAC 197-10-465, unless they are also agencies with jurisdiction.

(4) Agencies with Jurisdiction. Agencies with jurisdiction means those agencies from which a non-exempt license is required for a proposal or any part thereof, or which will act upon an application for a grant or loan for a proposal, or agencies which are proposing or initiating any governmental action of a project or non-project nature. The term does not include those agencies authorized to adopt rules or standards of general applicability which govern the proposal in question, when no license or approval is required for specific proposals; nor does the term include agencies, involved in approving grants or loans, which serve only as conduits between the primary administering agency and the recipient of the grant or loan. Federal agencies with jurisdiction are instrumentalities of the federal government from which a license is required, or which will receive an application for a grant or loan for a proposal.

(5) Agency or Agencies. Agency or agencies mean all state agencies and local agencies as defined in this section. The term does not include any agency or division of the federal government. Whenever a specific agency has been named in these guidelines and the functions of that agency have been transferred to another agency, then the term shall mean such successor agency.

(6) CEP. CEP means the council on environmental policy.

posed amendment, and the approximate number of actions within any stated time period of the class proposed for exemption or deletion which come before the agency. CEP shall consider and make a determination upon any such petition within thirty days of receipt, and if the determination is favorable, shall initiate the rule-making procedures of Chapter 34.04, RCW, to amend these guidelines. Amendments to these guidelines will apply either generally or to specified classes of agencies. Affected agencies shall amend their guidelines accordingly after the amendments to the CEP guidelines become effective.

(3) An agency may also petition CEP for an immediate ruling upon any request to add or delete an exemption. If such a petition is granted, CEP will so notify the petitioning agency, which may immediately thereafter include the modification approved by CEP in its own guidelines. CEP may thereafter initiate procedures to amend these guidelines to incorporate the approved modification. Until the CEP guidelines are amended, any modification granted under this subsection shall apply only to the petitioning agency or agencies.

(4) CEP will provide public notice of all proposed amendments to these guidelines in the manner required by the Washington Administrative Procedures Act (Chapter 34.04., RCW). A copy of all CEP approvals under subsection (3) of this section will be given to all persons who have made request to CEP for advance notice of its rule-making proceedings.

(5) This section shall not be construed to limit the right of any interested person to petition CEP for the promulgation, amendment or repeal of any rule, including rules establishing categorical exemptions, in accordance with RCW 34.04.060.

WAC 197-10-160 NO PRESUMPTION OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR NON-EXEMPT ACTIONS. No presumption as to the significance of the impacts upon the environment shall be given to any proposed action merely because it was not exempted.

WAC 197-10-170 CATEGORICAL EXEMPTIONS. Governmental activities or approvals of activities of the types listed herein are not major actions, and proposals for such activities are exempted from the threshold determination and EIS requirements of SEPA and these guidelines:

(1) Minor new construction. The following types of construction shall be exempt except when undertaken wholly or in part on lands covered by water; the exemptions provided by this subsection apply to all governmental licenses required to undertake the construction in question, except rezones or any license governing emissions to the air or water:

(a) The construction of any residential structure of four dwelling units or less

(b) The construction of a barn, loafing shed, farm equipment storage building, produce storage or packing structure, or similar agricultural structure, covering less than 10,000 square feet and to be used only by the property owner or his or her agent in the conduct of farming the property. This exemption shall not apply to feedlots.

(c) The construction of an office, school, commercial, recreational, service or storage building with less than 4,000 square feet of floor area, and with associated parking facilities designed for twenty automobiles or less.

(d) The construction or designation of bus stops, loading zones, shelters, access facilities and pull-out lanes for taxicabs, transit and school vehicles.

(e) The construction and/or installation of commercial on-premise signs, and public signs and signals.

(f) The construction or installation of minor road and street improvements such as pavement marking, freeway surveillance and control systems, railroad protective devices (not including grade separated crossings), grooving, glare screen, safety barriers, energy attenuators, highway landscaping (including the application of Washington state department of agriculture approved herbicides by licensed personnel for right-of-way weed control), temporary traffic controls and detours, correction of substandard curves and intersections within existing rights-of-way, channelization and elimination of sight restrictions at intersections, street lighting, guard-rail and barricade installation, installation of catch basins and culverts, and reconstruction of existing road bed (existing curb to curb in urban locations), including minor widening of shoulders, addition of bicycle lanes, paths and facilities, and pedestrian walks and paths, but not including additional automobile lanes.

(g) The installation of hydrological measuring devices, regardless of whether or not on lands covered by water.

(h) The installation of any property, boundary or survey marker, other than fences, regardless of whether or not on lands covered by water.

(i) The construction of a parking lot designed for twenty automobiles or less.

(j) Any landfill or excavation of 500 cubic yards or less throughout the total lifetime of the fill or excavation; and any fill or excavation classified as a Class I, II, III and IV forest practice under Chapter 200, Laws of 1975, Ex. Sess., or regulations promulgated thereunder, except those forest practices designated by the forest practices board as being subject to SEPA evaluation.

(k) The repair, maintenance or minor alteration of existing private or public structures, facilities or equipment, including utilities, involving no material expansions or changes in use beyond that previously existing.

(l) Grading, excavating, filling, septic tank installation, and landscaping necessary for any building or facility exempted by this subsection, as well as fencing and the construction of small structures and minor facilities accessory thereto.

(m) Additions or modifications to or replacement of any building or facility exempted by this subsection when such addition, modification or replacement will not change the character of the building or facility in a way which would remove it from an exempt class.

(n) The demolition of any structure or facility, the construction of which would be exempted by this subsection, except for structures or facilities with recognized historical significance.

(2) Water rights. The following appropriations of water shall be exempt, the exemption covering not only the permit to appropriate water, but also any hydraulics permit, shoreline permit or building permit required for a normal diversion or intake structure, well and pumphouse reasonably necessary to accomplish the exempted appropriation, and including any activities relating to construction of a distribution system solely for any exempted appropriation:

(a) Appropriations of fifty cubic feet per second or less of surface water for irrigation purposes, when done without a government subsidy.

(b) Appropriations of one cubic foot per second or less of surface water, or of ten cubic feet per second or less of ground water, for any purpose.

(3) Judicial activity. The following shall be exempt:

(a) All adjudicatory actions of the judicial branch.

(b) Any quasi-judicial action of any agency if such action consists of the review of a prior administrative or legislative decision. Decisions resulting from contested cases or other hearing processes conducted prior to the first decision on a proposal, or upon any application for a rezone, conditional use permit or other similar permit not otherwise exempted by this chapter, are not exempted by this subsection.

(4) Enforcement and inspections. The following enforcement and inspection activities shall be exempt:

(a) All actions, including administrative orders and penalties, undertaken to enforce a statute, regulation, ordinance, resolution or prior decision. No license shall be considered exempt by virtue of this subsection; nor shall the adoption of any ordinance, regulation or resolution be considered exempt by virtue of this subsection.

(b) All inspections conducted by an agency of either private or public property for any purpose.

(c) Fire department, police patrol and traffic law enforcement except where such involves any physical construction activity.

(d) Any action undertaken by an agency to abate a nuisance or to abate, remove or otherwise cure any hazard to public health or safety: PROVIDED, That no open burning shall be exempted under this subsection, nor shall the application of any pesticide or chemical. No license shall be considered exempt by virtue of this subsection; nor shall the adoption of any ordinance, regulation or resolution be considered exempt by virtue of this subsection.

(e) Any suspension or revocation of a license for any purpose.

(5) Business and other regulatory licenses. The following business and other regulatory licenses are exempt:

(a) All licenses to undertake an occupation, trade or profession.

(b) All licenses required under electrical, fire, plumbing, heating and safety codes, but not including building permits.

(c) Licenses to operate amusement devices and entertainment carnivals, circuses and other traveling shows, dances, music machines and theaters, including approval of use of public facilities for temporary civic celebrations, but not including licenses required for permanent construction of any of the above.

(d) Licenses for solicitation or door to door sales, private security and detective services, and taxicabs and other vehicles for hire: PROVIDED, That regulation of common carriers by the utilities and transportation commission shall not be considered exempt under this subsection.

(e) Licenses for close-out sales.

(f) Licenses for food or drink services, sales and distribution.

(g) Licenses for the sale or display of fireworks.

(h) Animal control licenses.

(i) The renewal or reissuance of a license regulating any present activity or structure that was either exempted under this chapter, or the subject of a declaration of non-significance or an EIS, so long as no material changes have occurred since the determination of exemption, or completion of the prior declaration or EIS.

(6) Activities of the legislature. All actions of the state legislature are hereby exempted: PROVIDED, That this subsection shall not be construed to exempt the proposing of legislation by any agency.

(7) Activities of agencies. The following administrative, fiscal and personnel activities of agencies shall be exempt:

(a) The procurement and distribution of general supplies, equipment and services previously authorized, or necessitated by previously approved functions or programs.

(b) The assessment and collection of taxes.

(c) The adoption of all budgets and agency requests for appropriation: PROVIDED, That if such adoption includes a final agency decision to undertake a major action, that portion of the budget is not exempted by this subsection.

(d) The borrowing of funds, issuance of bonds, or applying for a grant and related financing agreements and approvals.

(e) The review and payment of vouchers and claims.

(f) The establishment and collection of liens and service billings.

(g) All personnel actions, including hiring, terminations, appointments, promotions, allocations of positions, and expansions or reductions in force.

(h) All agency organization, reorganization, internal operational planning or coordination of plans or functions.

(i) Adoptions or approvals of utility, transportation and solid waste disposal rates.

(8) Review and comment actions. Any activity where one agency reviews or comments upon the actions of another agency or another department within an agency shall be exempt.

(9) Purchase or sale of real property. The following real property transactions by an agency shall be exempt:

(a) The purchase or acquisition of any right to real property by an agency.

(b) The sale, transfer or exchange of any publicly owned real property by an agency to or with a private individual or governmental entity, but only if the property is not subject to an authorized public use.

(c) The lease of real property by an agency to a private individual or entity, or to an agency or federal agency, only when the use of the property for the term of the lease will remain essentially the same as the existing use, or when the use under the lease is otherwise exempted by this chapter.

(10) Minor land use decisions. The following land use decisions shall be exempt:

(a) Except upon lands covered by water, the approval of short plats or short subdivisions pursuant to the procedures required by RCW 58.17.060, but not including further short subdivision or short platting within a plat or subdivision previously exempted under this subsection.

(b) Granting of variances based on special circumstances, not including economic hardship, applicable to the subject property, such as size, slope, topography, location or surroundings and not resulting in any change in land use or density.

(c) Classification of land for current use taxation pursuant to Chapter 84.34, RCW, and classification and grading of forest land under Chapter 84.33, RCW.

(11) Procedural actions. The proposal or adoption of legislation, rules, regulations, resolutions or ordinances, or of any plan or program relating solely to governmental procedures, and containing no substantive standards respecting use or modification of the environment shall be exempt.

(12) Acceptance of filings. The acceptance by an agency of any document or thing required or authorized by law to be filed with the agency and for which the agency has no discretionary power to refuse acceptance shall be exempt. No license shall be considered exempt by virtue of this subsection.

(13) Variances under Clean Air Act. The granting of variances pursuant to RCW 70.94.181 extending applicable air pollution control requirements for one year or less shall be exempt.

(14) Burning permits. The issuance, revocation or suspension of permits for open burning shall be exempt. The adoption of plans, programs, objectives or regulations by any agency incorporating general standards respecting the issuance of burning permits shall not be exempt.

(15) Water quality certifications. The granting or denial of water quality certifications pursuant to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (33 USC § 1341) shall be exempt.

(16) Financial assistance grants. The approval of grants or loans by one agency to another shall be exempt, although an agency may at its option require compliance with SEPA prior to making a grant or loan for design or construction of a project.

(17) Information collection and research. Proposals for basic data collection, research, resource evaluation and the conceptual planning of proposed actions shall be exempt. These may be for strictly information-gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to a proposal which has not yet been approved, adopted or funded. This exemption does not include any agency action which commits the agency to proceed with the proposal.

(18) Utilities. The utility-related actions listed below shall be exempt: PROVIDED, That installation, construction or alteration on lands covered by water shall not be exempt for actions listed below. The exemption includes installation and construction, relocation when required by other governmental bodies, together with repair, replacement, maintenance, operation or alteration by an agency or private entity which does not change the action from an exempt class.

(a) All communications lines, including cable TV, but not including microwave towers or relay stations.

(b) All storm water, water and sewer facilities, lines, equipment, hookups or appurtenances including, utilizing or related to lines eight inches or less in diameter.

(c) All electric facilities, lines, equipment or appurtenances, not including substations, with an associated voltage of 55,000 volts or less; and the overbuilding of existing distribution lines (55,000 volts or less) with transmission lines (more than 55,000 volts); and the undergrounding of all electric facilities, lines, equipment or appurtenances.

(d) All natural gas distribution (as opposed to transmission) lines and necessary appurtenant facilities and hookups.

(e) All developments within the confines of any existing electric substation, reservoir, pump station or well: PROVIDED, That additional appropriations of water are not exempted by this subsection.

(f) Periodic use of chemical or mechanical means to maintain a utility or highway right-of-way in its design condition: PROVIDED, That chemicals used are approved by the Washington state department of agriculture and applied by licensed personnel.

(g) All grants of franchises by agencies to utilities.

(h) All disposals of rights-of-way by utilities.

(i) All grants of rights-of-way by agencies to utilities for use for distribution (as opposed to transmission) purposes.

(19) Natural resources management. In addition to the other exemptions contained in this section, the following natural resources management activities shall be exempt:

(a) All class I, II, III and IV forest practices as defined by Chapter 200, Laws of 1975, Ex. Sess., or regulations promulgated thereunder, except those forest practices designated by the forest practices board as being subject to SEPA evaluation.

(b) Issuance of new grazing leases covering a section of land or less; and issuance of all grazing leases for land which had been subject to a grazing lease within the previous ten years.

(c) Licenses or approvals to remove firewood.

(d) Issuance of agricultural leases covering one hundred sixty contiguous acres or less.

(e) Issuance of leases for Christmas tree harvesting or brush picking.

(f) Issuance of leases for school sites.

(g) Issuance of leases for, and placement of, mooring buoys designed to serve pleasure craft.

(h) Development of recreational sites not specifically designed for all-terrain vehicles and not including more than twelve campsites.

(i) Periodic use of chemical or mechanical means to maintain public park and recreational land: PROVIDED, That chemicals used are approved by the Washington state department of agriculture and applied by licensed personnel.

(j) Issuance of rights-of-way, easements and use permits to use existing public roads in nonresidential areas.

(20) Local improvement districts. The formation of local improvement districts, unless such formation constitutes a final agency decision to undertake construction of a structure or facility not exempted under WAC 197-10-170 and -180.

(21) Non-actions. Proposals for activities which are not "actions" as defined in WAC 197-10-040(2) are not subject to the threshold determination and EIS requirements of this chapter.