



Snohomish County Council

NEWS RELEASE

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Council Acts on Emergency Wastewater Ordinance

The Snohomish County Council took unanimous action today to require that all wastewater facilities built or upgraded in the county meet strict odor control standards and are seismically safe. The council adopted two emergency ordinances today to protect the public health and safety of its citizens.

The ordinance relating to odor relies on recent standards suggested by King County in its environmental impact statement for use in the design and construction of its Brightwater wastewater treatment plant. Those standards include removing 99.9 percent of odorous compounds at peak load on a 24-hour per day basis, seven-days per week. It includes six specific requirements that must be met before a permit is issued and provides that the controls will remain effective during operation of the plant. It also requires an odor reserve fund be established and long-term monitoring of odor conditions on site.

The second emergency ordinance deals with developments in seismic hazard areas where the facility or operation poses a serious risk of harm to the public or the environment from seismic activity due to the type of hazardous materials, liquids or gases used on the site. Today's action gives the County Council additional authority to require reasonable mitigation to protect the community before an earthquake happens. It applies to a number of different types of facilities, including wastewater treatment plants.

A public hearing has been set for June 8, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. for the council to accept public testimony on the ordinances. By law the emergency ordinances become effective immediately and are not subject to the executive's veto authority. The emergency regulations remain in effect for six-months unless amended or affirmed at the public hearing, after which the regulations would become permanent.

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