

Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas

Chapter 30.62C

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2 **PART 000 - GENERAL**

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4 **30.62C.010 Purpose and applicability.**

5 (1) The purpose of this chapter is to designate and protect critical aquifer recharge areas
6 pursuant to the Growth Management Act (chapter 36.70A RCW) in order to safeguard the public
7 health, safety, and welfare and to protect groundwater resources. Critical aquifer recharge areas
8 include: sole source aquifers, Group A wellhead protection areas and areas sensitive to
9 groundwater contamination.

10 (2) This chapter applies to:

11 (a) development activities and actions requiring projects permits;

12 (b) agricultural activities as defined in SCC 30.91A.090 where critical aquifer recharge
13 areas are present on the site; except that certain agricultural activities as defined in SCC
14 30.64.010 occurring on rural and agricultural resource lands are exempt from this chapter and are
15 subject only to chapter 30.64 SCC; and

16 (c) other activities or uses that have the potential to harm water quality or quantity within
17 critical aquifers recharge areas.

18 **30.62C.015 Intent.**

19 It is the intent of this chapter to provide the protection required by chapter 36.70A RCW for
20 wetlands and for fish & wildlife habitat conservation areas while simultaneously protecting
21 property rights. The county council nevertheless recognizes that implementation of some
22 provisions of this chapter 30.62C SCC will inevitably entail some restriction of property rights.
23 It is the intent of the county council that this chapter be always construed and interpreted so that
24 property rights be restricted no further than strictly necessary for the critical area protection
25 required under chapter 36.70A RCW.

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1 **30.62C.020 Relationship to Snohomish County Shoreline Master Program.**

2 Protection of critical aquifer recharge areas located within shorelines of the state, as defined in
3 chapter 90.58 RCW, shall be accomplished through compliance with the provisions of this
4 chapter. Nothing in this section shall be construed to be inconsistent with RCW 36.70A.480.

6 **30.62C.030 Relationship to 30.61 SCC - environmental impacts.**

7 Critical aquifer recharge area protective measures required by this chapter shall also constitute
8 adequate mitigation of adverse or significant adverse environmental impacts pursuant to chapter
9 30.61 SCC, to the extent permitted by RCW 43.21C.240.

10

11 **30.62C.040 Rulemaking authority.**

12 The director shall have the authority to adopt administrative rules to implement the provisions of
13 this chapter. Rulemaking authority shall include, but is not limited to, the adoption of best
14 management practices for the protection of critical aquifer recharge areas.

15

16 **PART 100 – PROCESS REQUIREMENTS**

17 **30.62C.110 Permit pre-applications.**

18 Project proponents may request a pre-application meeting pursuant to SCC 30.70.020 to obtain a
19 preliminary analysis of how the requirements of this chapter apply to the proposed project.

20 **30.62C.120 Critical area services provided by the department.**

21 The department may provide the following services to applicants upon submittal of the
22 application and the payment of fees as required by chapter 30.86 SCC:

- 23 (1) Review geotechnical, geologic, hydraulic, or groundwater reports; and
24 (2) Designate critical aquifer recharge areas on site for single family residential (SFR)
25 dwellings, duplexes, and accessory structures, and commercial structures of 8,000 square feet or
26 less.

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1 **30.62C.130 Submittal requirements.**

2 (1) When a project permit is required for any development activity or action subject to
3 this chapter, the applicant shall submit a site development plan drawn to a standard engineering
4 scale which includes:

5 (a) Boundary lines and dimensions of the subject property;

6 (b) Boundary lines and dimensions of the site;

7 (c) Topography at contour intervals of five feet unless the underlying project
8 permit requires a lesser interval;

9 (d) Location, size, and type of any existing structures and other existing developed
10 areas;

11 (e) Location, size and type of all proposed structures and development activity on
12 the site;

13 (f) Location, size and type of all critical aquifer recharge areas on the subject
14 property;

15 (g) Location of all other critical areas regulated pursuant to chapters 30.62A,
16 30.62B and 30.65 SCC on and within 200 feet of the site; and

17 (h) Location of structure setbacks as required in SCC 30.62A.320(1)(d), SCC
18 30.62B.340(2) and chapter 30.23 SCC; and

19 (2) A hydrogeologic report as required pursuant to SCC 30.62C.140.

20

21 **30.62C.140 Hydrogeologic report.**

22 (1) A hydrogeologic report is required for any activity or use requiring a project permit
23 regulated in Part 300, and proposed within a sole source aquifer, Group A wellhead protection
24 area or critical aquifer recharge area with high or moderate groundwater sensitivity.

25 (2) The hydrogeologic report shall be prepared by a qualified professional who is a
26 geologist, hydrogeologist, engineering geologist, or engineer, who is licensed by the State of
27 Washington and who has experience preparing hydrogeologic assessments.

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1 (3) The hydrogeologic report shall contain the following information relevant to the
2 critical aquifer recharge area:

3 (a) The surface location of all critical aquifer recharge areas located on site or
4 immediately adjacent to the site, and the permeability of the unsaturated zone;

5 (b) Groundwater depth, flow direction, and gradient based on available
6 information;

7 (c) Currently available data on wells and springs within one fourth mile of the site;

8 (d) Currently available information on the location of surface waters within one
9 fourth mile of the site;

10 (e) Historic water quality data for the area to be affected by the proposed activity or
11 use compiled for at least the previous five-year period;

12 (f) Discussion of the effects of the proposed project on the groundwater quality and
13 quantity, including:

14 (i) predictive evaluation of groundwater withdrawal effects on nearby wells
15 and surface water features; and

16 (ii) Predictive evaluation of contaminant transport based on potential releases
17 to groundwater;

18 (g) Best management practices relevant to the proposed activity or use;

19 (h) Provisions to monitor the groundwater quality and quantity;

20 (i) A spill plan that identifies equipment and structures that could fail, resulting in
21 an impact to the critical aquifer recharge area. Spill plans shall include provisions for regular
22 inspection, repair, and replacement of structures and equipment with the potential to fail;

23 (j) Salt-water intrusion addendums shall be required for withdrawals of
24 groundwater or reductions in available recharge within one fourth mile of any part of Puget
25 Sound, or a greater distance inland where there is evidence that chloride (bicarbonate +
26 carbonate) ratio exceeds 1.5 equivalent parts per million at any time of the year. The addendum
27 shall include an assessment of the likelihood and extent of seawater intrusion into a critical
28 aquifer and a description of probable impact on wells on adjacent or nearby parcels;

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1 (k) An assessment of how the development activity meets the protection standards
2 established in SCC 30.62C.320;

3 (l) If the hydrogeologic report identifies impacts to critical aquifer recharge areas,
4 the project applicant will be required to:

5 (i) identify and provide an analysis of alternatives by which such impacts
6 could be avoided or prevented; and

7 (ii) provide a detailed mitigation plan for any unavoidable impacts. The
8 mitigation plan should include preventative measures, monitoring, process control and
9 remediation and a contingency plan, as appropriate;

10 (m) Recommendations for implementation and operation of activities, including
11 size limitations, monitoring, reporting and best management practices (bmp);

12 (n) An evaluation of potential nitrate impacts on the aquifer, including cumulative
13 impacts of adjacent or surrounding developments and activities, and provide recommendations for
14 monitoring and bmps of nitrate generating activities; and

15 (o) Any other information necessary to determine compliance with this chapter.

16 17 **30.62C.150 Notification to purveyors of Group A public water supply systems.**

18 The department shall provide notification as required by chapter 30.70 SCC of any proposed
19 development activity or actions requiring a project permit subject to Part 300 to purveyors of
20 Group A public water supply systems established pursuant to WAC 246-290.

21 **PART 200 – DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION**

22 **30.62C.210 Designation of critical aquifer recharge areas.**

23 The county has designated critical aquifer recharge areas pursuant to RCW 36.70A.170 by
24 defining them and providing criteria for their identification. Project proponents are responsible
25 for determining whether a critical aquifer recharge area exists and is regulated pursuant to this
26 chapter. The department will verify on a case-by-case basis the presence of critical aquifer
27 recharge areas identified by project proponents. Specific criteria for the designation of critical
28 aquifer recharge areas are contained in this chapter and Chapter 30.91 SCC. While the county

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1 maintains some maps of critical aquifer recharge areas, they are for informational purposes only
2 and may not accurately represent all such areas.

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4 **30.62C.220 Classification of critical aquifer recharge areas.**

5 The county has established the following three classifications of critical aquifer recharge areas
6 (CARAs):

7 (1) Sole source aquifers designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in
8 accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-523);

9 (2) Areas within the 10-year travel zone of Group A wellhead protection areas,
10 determined in accordance with delineation methodologies specified by the Washington
11 Department of Health under authority of chapter 246-290 WAC; and

12 (3) Areas of high, medium, and low sensitivity to groundwater contamination, based on
13 depth to groundwater and in accordance with *The Ground-Water System and Ground-Water*
14 *Quality in Western Snohomish County, Washington* (United States Geological Survey, Water
15 Resources Investigations, Report #96-4312, 1997).

16

17 **PART 300 – STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS**

18 **30.62C.310 Purpose of Part 300.**

19 Part 300 of this chapter establishes specific standards and requirements for the protection of
20 critical aquifer recharge areas.

21 **30.62C.320 General requirements.**

22 (1) The project proponent shall make all reasonable efforts to avoid and minimize
23 impacts to critical aquifer recharge areas pursuant to the requirements of this section, in the
24 following sequential order of preference:

25 (a) Avoiding impacts altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action;
26 or when avoidance is not possible,

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1 (b) minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its
2 implementation, using appropriate technology, or by taking affirmative steps, such as project
3 redesign, relocation, or timing, to avoid or reduce impacts; and

4 (c) mitigation for the impacts to the critical aquifer recharge area;

5 (2) Any activity or use specifically listed in Part 300 shall comply with the best
6 management practices and mitigation plan identified in the hydrogeologic report, and any
7 additional requirements contained in SCC 30.62C.340.

8 (3) All development activities shall comply with the groundwater quality standards
9 contained in WAC Chapter 173-200 and RCW Chapter 90.48.

10 (4) Where the department determines that an activity or use not specifically listed in Part
11 300 has the potential to harm water quality or quantity within critical aquifer recharge areas, the
12 applicant shall comply with Part 100 and apply best management practices and all known and
13 available reasonable technology (AKART) appropriate to protect critical aquifer recharge areas.

14 **30.62C.330 Prohibited uses.**

15 The following activities and uses are prohibited in sole source aquifers, Group A wellhead
16 protection areas and critical aquifer recharge areas with high sensitivity:

17 (1) Landfills, including hazardous or dangerous waste, municipal solid waste, special
18 waste, woodwaste, and inert and demolition waste landfills;

19 (2) Underground injection wells;

20 (3) Mining of metals and hard rock;

21 (4) Wood treatment facilities occurring over permeable surfaces (natural or manmade);

22 and

23 (5) Facilities that store, process, or dispose of radioactive substances.
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- 1 **30.62C.340 Uses and development activities subject to special conditions.**
 2 The following activities and uses shall be conditioned as necessary to protect critical aquifer
 3 recharge areas in accordance with the applicable state and federal regulations and
 4 recommendations from an approved hydrogeologic report required pursuant to SCC 30.62C.140.
 5

Activity	Statute – Regulation – Guidance
Above Ground Storage Tanks	Chapter 173-303-640 WAC
Animal Feedlots	Chapter 173-216 WAC, Chapter 173-220 WAC
Animal feeding operations/concentrated animal feeding operations	Final Rule 40 CFR Parts 9, 122, 123, and 412]
Automobile Washing facilities	Chapter 173-216 WAC, Best Management Practices for Vehicle and Equipment Discharges (Washington Department of Ecology WQ-R-95-56)
Below Ground Storage Tanks	Chapter 173-360 WAC
Chemical Treatment Storage and Disposal Facilities	Chapter 173-303-182 WAC
Dangerous waste	Chapter 70.105 RCW, chapter 173-303 WAC, Snohomish Health District Sanitary Code chapter 3.5, and chapter 7.53.070 SCC
Injection Wells	Federal 40 CFR Parts 144 and 146, Chapter 173-218 WAC
Junk Yards and Salvage Yards	Chapter 173-304 WAC, Best Management Practices to Prevent Stormwater Pollution at Vehicles Recycler Facilities (Washington State Department of Ecology 94-146)
On-Site Sewage Systems (Large Scale > 3,500 gal/day)	Chapter 173-240 WAC, Chapter 246-272 WAC, , Chapter 246-272B WAC, Local Health Ordinances
A single or multiple small on-site sewage systems with a combined design volume of greater than 3,500 gal/day	Chapter 246-272 WAC, Chapter 246-272A WAC , Local Health Ordinances

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Activity	Statute – Regulation – Guidance
Pesticide and Fertilizer Storage and Use	Chapter 15.54 RCW, Chapter 17.21 RCW
Reclaimed water for groundwater recharge	Chapter 90.46 RCW
Sawmills	Chapter 173-303 WAC, Chapter 173-304 WAC, Best Management Practices to Prevent Stormwater Pollution at Log Yards (Washington State Department of Ecology, 95-53)
Solid Waste Handling and Recycling Facilities	Chapter 173-304 WAC
Surface Mining	Chapter 332-18 WAC
Wastewater Application to Land Surface	Chapter 173-216 WAC, Chapter 173-200 WAC, Washington State Department of Ecology Land Application Guidelines, Best Management Practices for Irrigated Agriculture

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