



REVISION OF WAC 246-272-3000  
LARGE ON-SITE SEWAGE SYSTEMS FEES

**Public Workshops**

Webinar 2/12/2020

Southwest 2/14/2020

Northwest 2/19/2020

Southeast 2/20/2020

Northeast 2/21/2020



## Today's presenters

---

### ● Dotti Ramey

Supervisor  
Large On-site Sewage System Program



### ● Jeremy Simmons

Manager  
Wastewater Management Section



# LOSS fee increase - Today's topics

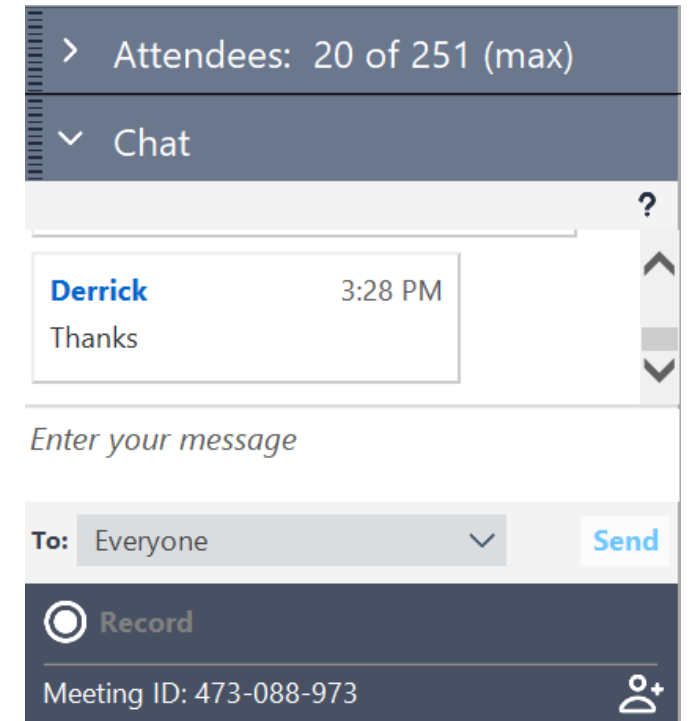
---

## **Large On-site Sewage Systems - LOSS**

1. Introductions
2. Background – Why regulate LOSS, and who uses LOSS
3. Existing and future rates
4. Impacts of increased rates to owners/users
5. Why a fee increase is necessary
6. Questions & next steps

## Webinar specifics

- If you have questions or comments please enter them in the chat box
- Put a slide reference with your comment if you want to refer to it
- We will answer questions at the end of the presentation
- Questions/comments from today are **informal**; we will provide info to submit formal comments at the end of the webinar





# Regulatory overview

Chapter 246-272 WAC (Washington Administrative Code)  
Fees for wastewater  
Rule being amended

Menu

WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE

WACs > Title 246 > Chapter 246-272B

HTML has links - PDF has Authentication

Complete Chapter [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Including dispositions

Chapter 246-272B WAC | [Show Dispositions](#)

**LARGE ON-SITE SEWAGE SYSTEM REGULATIONS**

WAC Sections

PART 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

[HTML](#) [PDF](#) **246-272B-01000** Purpose and objectives.

## Chapter 246-272B WAC

Large On-site Sewage System (LOSS)

This rule is NOT being amended

Menu

WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE

WACs > Title 246 > Chapter 246-272

HTML has links - PDF has Authentication

Complete Chapter [HTML](#) [PDF](#)

Including dispositions

Chapter 246-272 WAC | [Show Dispositions](#)

**WASTEWATER AND RECLAIMED WATER USE FEES**

WAC Sections

<a href="#">HTML</a>	<a href="#">PDF</a>	<b>246-272-1000</b>	Public sewage fees.
<a href="#">HTML</a>	<a href="#">PDF</a>	<b>246-272-2000</b>	On-site sewage system fees.
<a href="#">HTML</a>	<a href="#">PDF</a>	<b>246-272-3000</b>	Large on-site sewage system fees.

# BACKGROUND LARGE ON-SITE SEWAGE SYSTEM PROGRAM

- Statutes
- Why do we have a Large On-site Sewage System program?
- Who is Served by Large On-site Sewage Systems?



## What is a LOSS?

---

### **By Statute (Chapter 70.118B RCW):**

- On-site Sewage Systems with Design Flows 3,500 – 100,000 gallons per day (gpd)
- Non-industrial flows
- Soil treatment component

*The overarching goal of the statute and regulation is to protect public health and the environment from wastewater treated in on-site systems using consistent standards applied across the state.*

By law – we are required to:

---

**70.118B RCW (LOSS statute)**

- Provide comprehensive regulation of LOSS including siting, design, construction, installation, operation, maintenance, and repair
- Issue annual operating permits for LOSS
- Impose permit conditions to ensure that the system will be operated and maintained properly
- Control and prevent pollution to waters of state



By law – we are *also* required to:

---

**RCW 43.05.020:** (Agency Technical Assistance Programs)

- All regulatory agencies shall develop programs to encourage voluntary compliance by providing technical assistance consistent with statutory requirements.

Why do we have a Large On-site Sewage System program?

# OSS compared to LOSS: 25-home subdivision

---



## 25-home subdivision

- 3 BR each lot
- 9,000 gpd wastewater
- Type 4 soil
- Minimum lot size: 18,000 sf
- Overall land requirements: 10 acres

9,000 gpd wastewater  
dispersed over **10 acres**

## If we use a centralized drainfield area (LOSS)

### 25-home subdivision

- 3 bedroom home on each lot
- 9,000 gpd wastewater
- Type 4 soil
- Minimum lot size: 18,000 sf
- Overall land requirements: 10 acres
- **Gross estimate drainfield size: 0.75 acre**

9,000 gpd wastewater  
is dispersed over **<1 acre**



## Comparing the two wastewater options

---



### [small] On-site Sewage Systems

# homes: 25

Flow: 9,000 gallons per day

Total land required: 10 acres

Area used for dispersal: **10 acres**



### Large On-site Sewage Systems

# homes: 25

Flow: 9,000 gallons per day

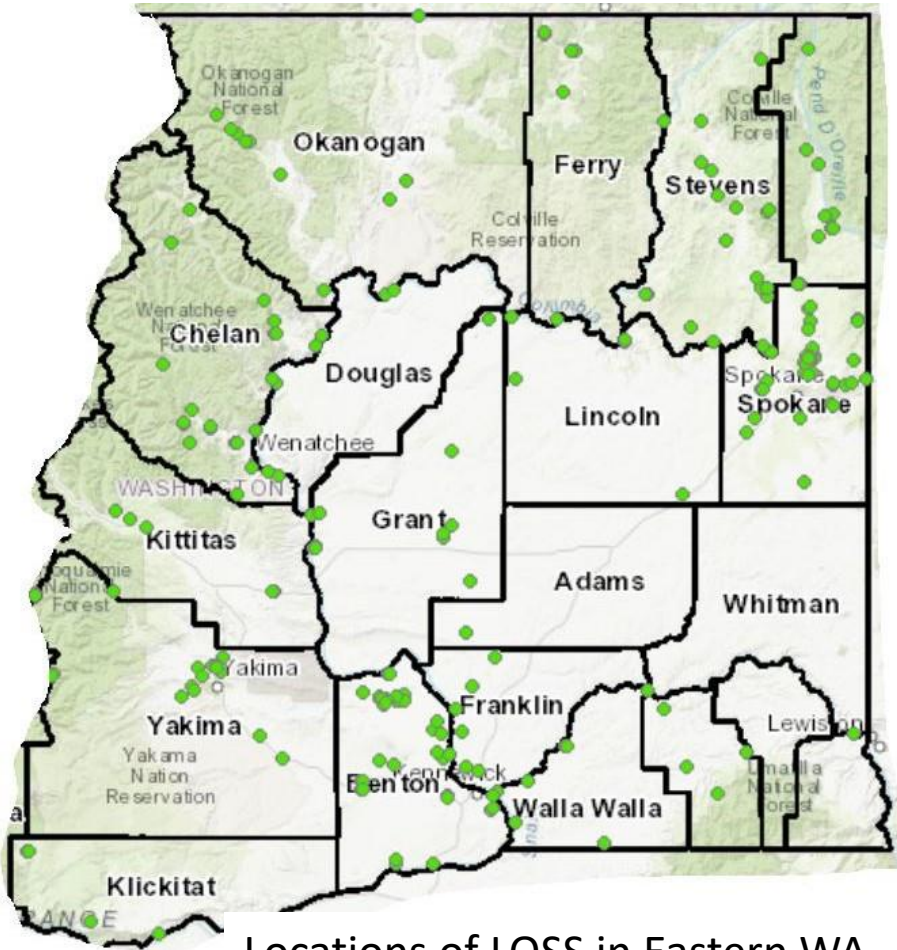
Total land required: 10 acres

Area used for dispersal: **<1 acre**

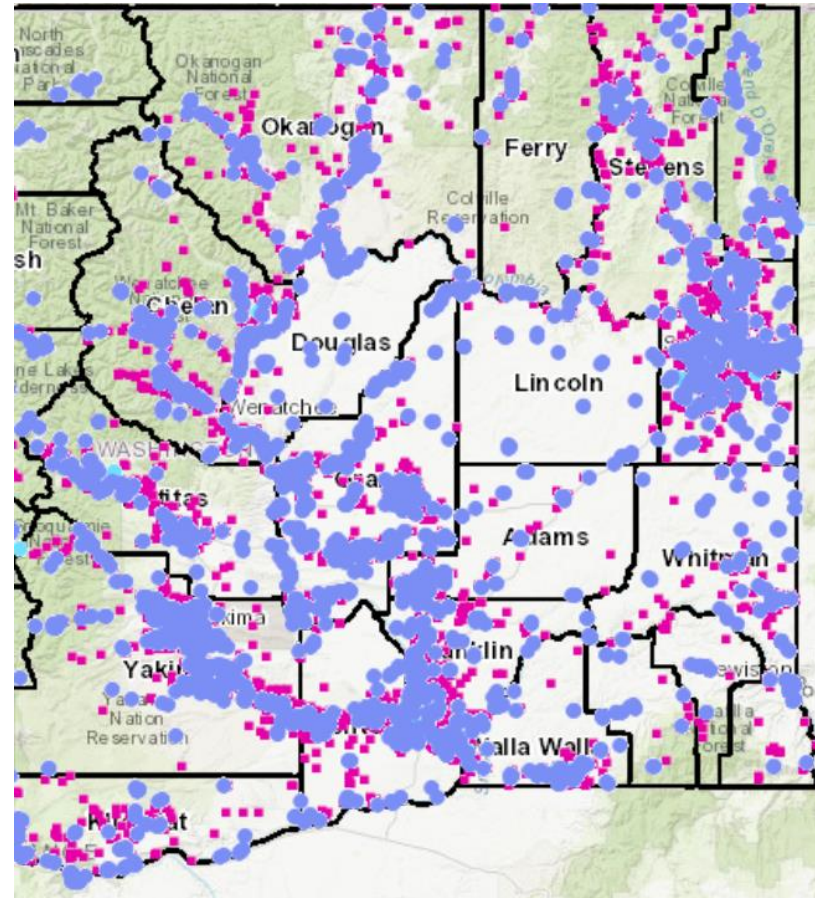
***The potential for a plume of partially treated wastewater to travel offsite is greater for a LOSS***



# Why do we regulate LOSS? Protect public's water supply



Locations of LOSS in Eastern WA



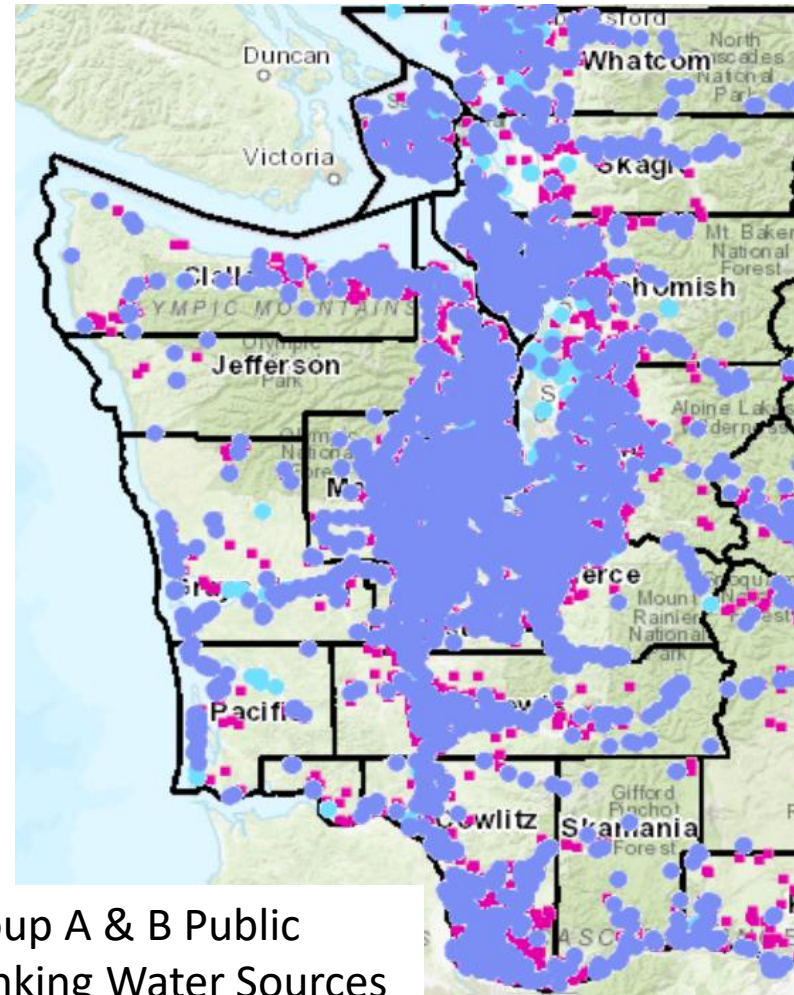
Group A & B Public Drinking Water Sources



# Why do we regulate LOSS? Protect public's water supply



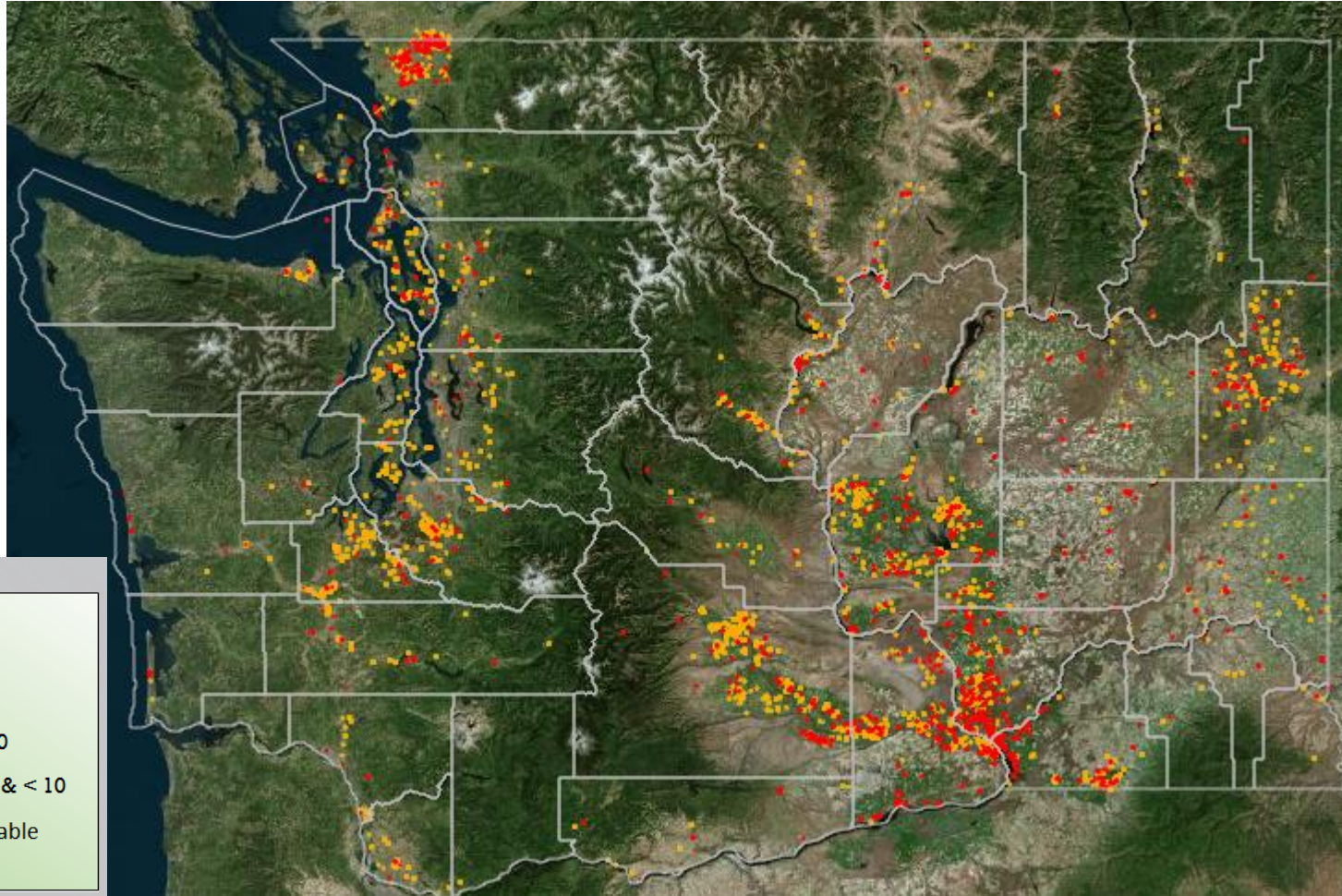
Location of LOSS is Western WA



Group A & B Public Drinking Water Sources



# Why do we regulate LOSS? Nitrate in wells

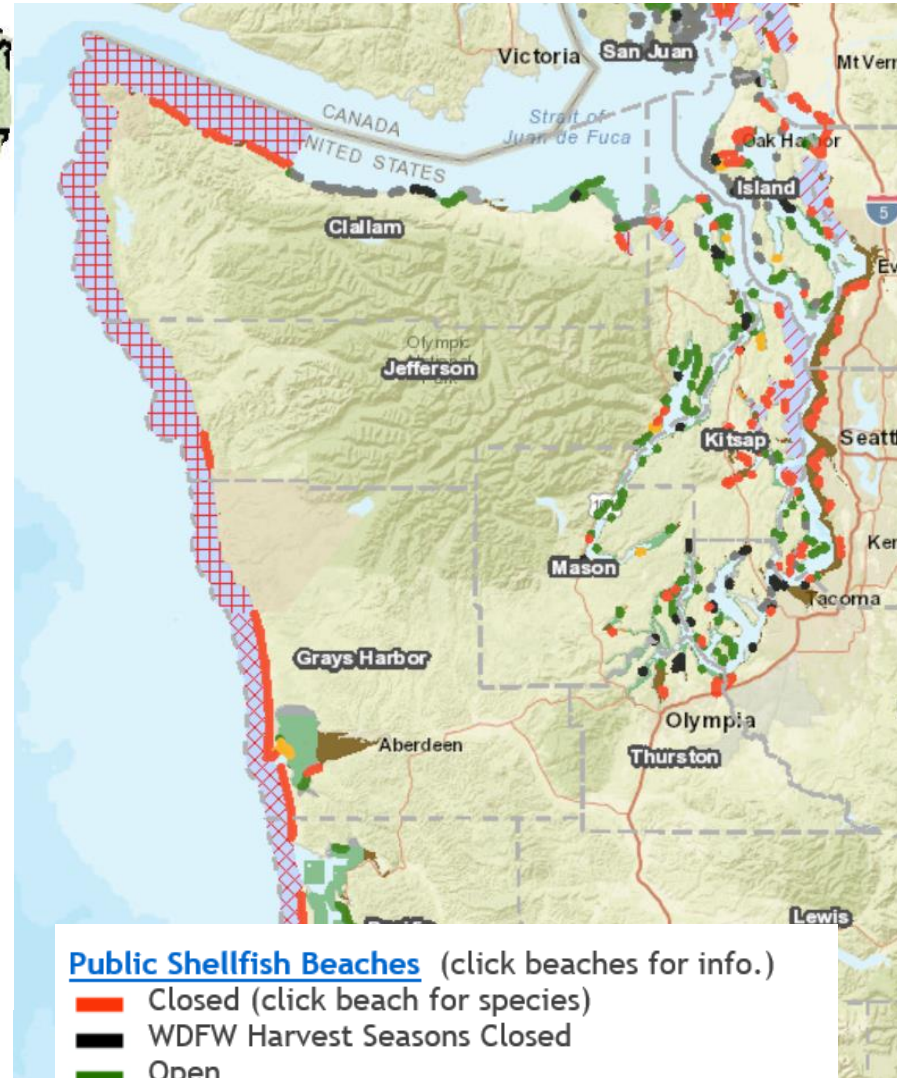




# Why do we regulate LOSS? Protect Environment



LOSS in western WA



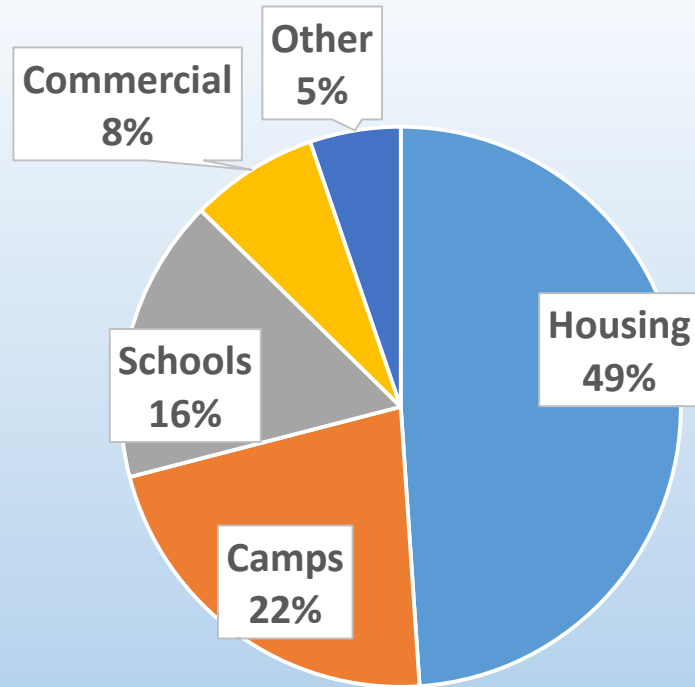
[Public Shellfish Beaches](#) (click beaches for info.)

- Red: Closed (click beach for species)
- Black: WDFW Harvest Seasons Closed
- Green: Open
- Yellow: Conditionally Open
- Grey: Unclassified

*Ref: Status of Shellfish Beaches in western WA*

*Source: WA State Source Water Assessment Program*

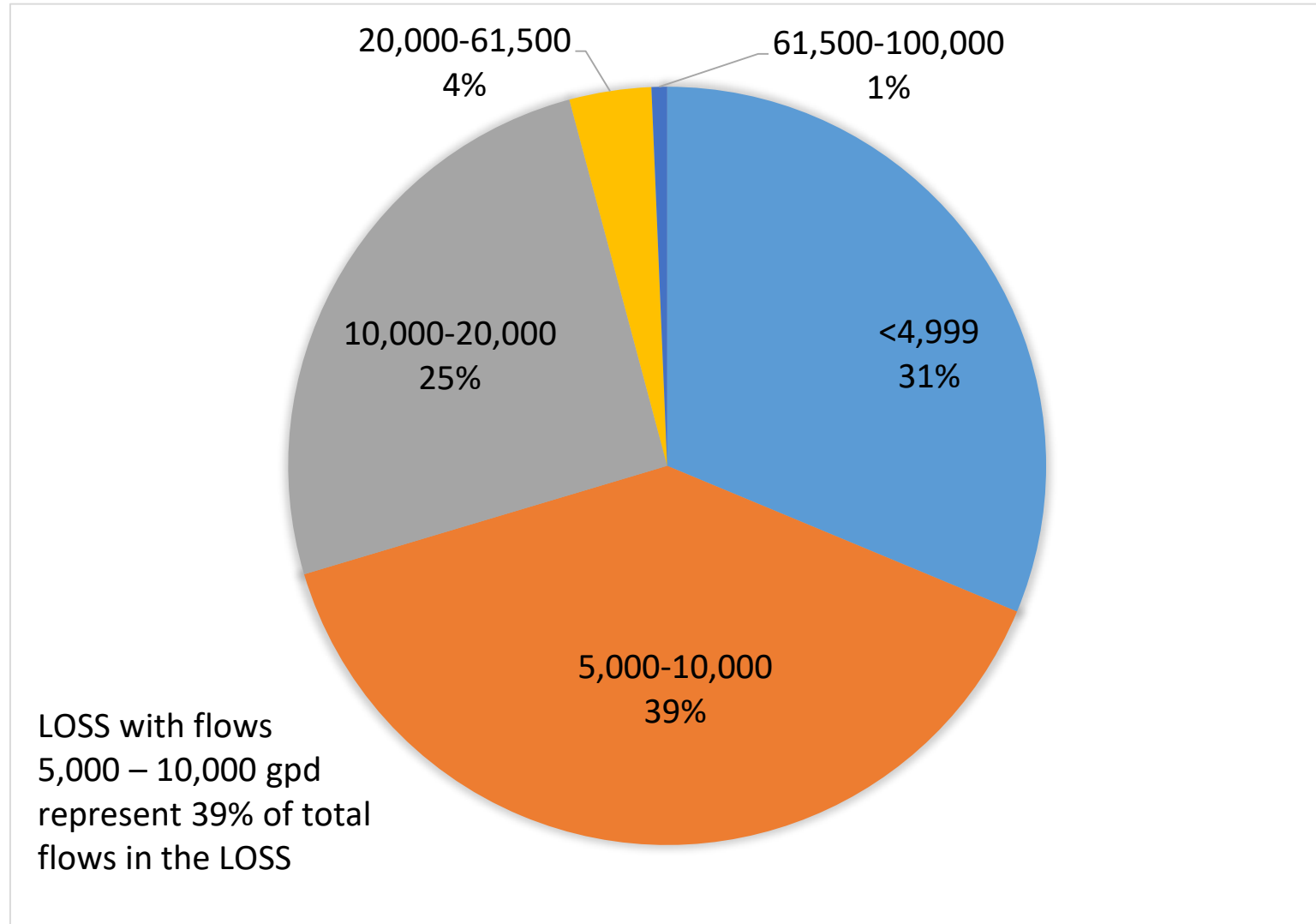
## Percent of LOSS program flow represented by LOSS Use



- ~573 LOSS permits
- Housing represent ~48% of total LOSS program flows
- Camps represent ~22% of total LOSS program flows
- Schools represent 16% of total LOSS program flows

## Percent of total flows represented by each flow range

- ~573 LOSS permits
- ~ 5 million gallons of sewage per day from LOSS
- 70% of LOSS program flows come from systems with permit flows below 10,000 gpd
- 95% of LOSS program flows come from systems with permit flows below below 20,000 gpd



## EXISTING AND FUTURE PROGRAM FEES IMPACT ON OWNERS & USERS

- Fees
- Fee calculator
- Cost to permit holders and per-connection costs





## LOSS program fee increase

---

Chapter 246-272 WAC sets fees for LOSS

Section 3000 addresses

- LOSS Annual permit fees
- LOSS Project review fees
- LOSS Inspection & environmental site work fees



## Annual Permit & Project Fees

Description of Fee	Existing Fee	Fee July 1, 2020	Fee July 1, 2021
<b>Annual Permit Fees</b>			
Base fee	\$150	\$450	\$608
Volume Fee based on Design Flow	\$.01 per gallon	\$.03 per gallon	\$.0405 per gallon
<b>Project Fees</b>			
Review - Up to 8 hours	\$800	\$848	\$848
Reduced Review up to 4 hours	\$800	\$424	\$424
Site inspection	\$500	\$1000	\$1000
Final inspection –new projects	\$500	\$500	\$500

## New Fees

Description of Fee	Existing Fee	Fee July 1, 2020	Fee July 1, 2021
<b>New Fees</b>			
1. Review of LOSS documents in response to permit conditions	\$0	\$106/hr	\$106/hr
2. Other LOSS review	\$0	\$106/hr	\$106/hr
3. Inspection for an enforcement event	\$0	\$1000	\$1000
4. Late application processing fee	\$0	\$94	\$94

## Calculating your Permit Fees – download from the website

		<b>Large On-site Sewage System Annual Operating Permit Fee Calculator</b>		
<u>Instructions</u>				
<i>Input permitted design operating volume in gallons per day and press Enter.</i>		14,000		
		Current Fee	Effective July 2020	Effective July 2021
<i>See Your Annual Operating Permit Fee</i>		\$ 290.00	\$ 870.00	\$ 1,175.00



**Available on the Rule Revision Website search “LOSS Fee Rule Change 246-272”**

## Impact to homeowners/renters

---

- Calculating the annual permit cost for the LOSS
- Calculate the associated per-connection cost (if each home has 3 bedrooms)



For small LOSS: 10 home @ 3,600 gal/day design flow

<u>Instructions</u>		<b>Large On-site Sewage System Annual Operating Permit Fee Calculator</b>		
<i>Input permitted design operating volume in gallons per day and press Enter.</i>		<b>3,600</b>		
		Current Fee	Effective July 2020	Effective July 2021
<i>See Your Annual Operating Permit Fee</i>		\$ 186.00	\$ 558.00	\$ 753.80
<b>Number of connections</b>	<b>10</b>			
<b>Monthly cost per connection</b>		\$ 1.55	\$ 4.65	\$ 6.28

**Total monthly cost increase for each connection will be \$4.73/month; \$56.76/year**





For Medium size LOSS: 14,400 gal/day @ 40 homes

		Large On-site Sewage System Annual Operating Permit Fee Calculator		
<u>Instructions</u>				
<i>Input permitted design operating volume in gallons per day and press Enter.</i>		14,400		
		Current Fee	Effective July 2020	Effective July 2021
<i>See Your Annual Operating Permit Fee</i>		\$ 294.00	\$ 882.00	\$ 1,191.20
<b>Number of connections</b>	<b>40</b>			
<b>Monthly cost per connection</b>		\$ 0.61	\$ 1.84	\$ 2.48

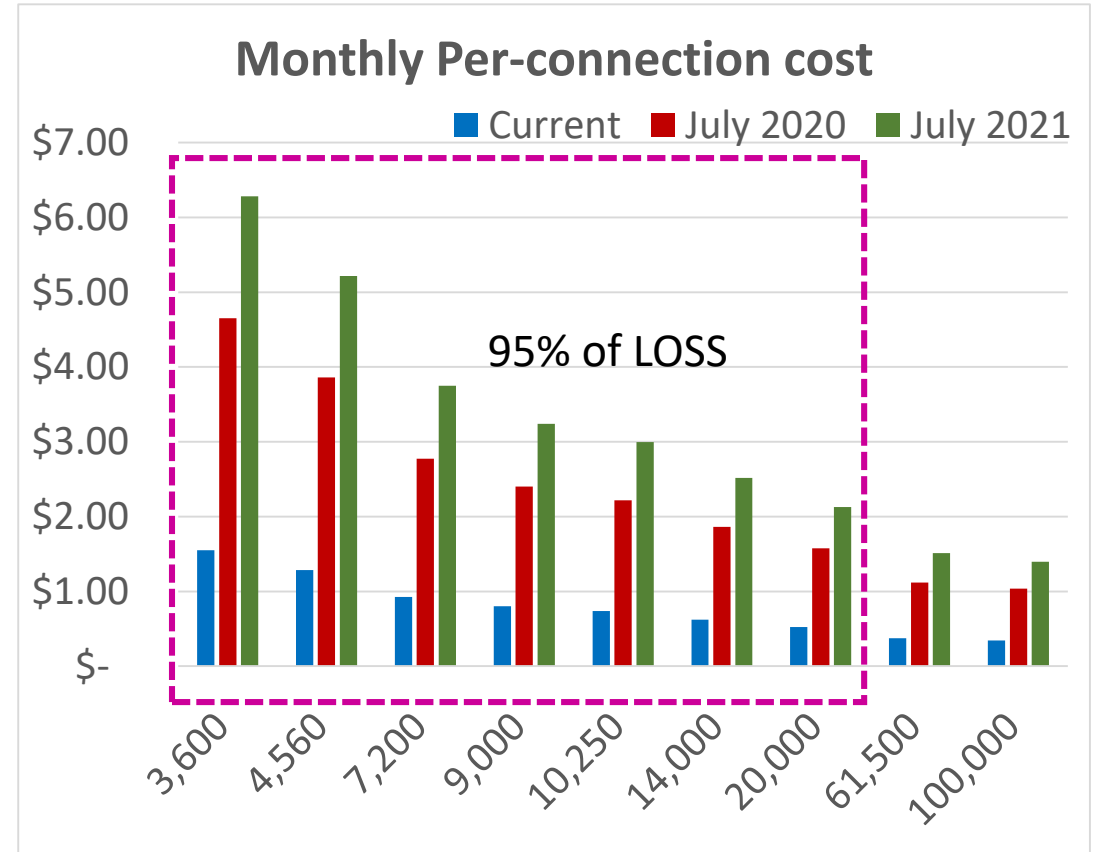
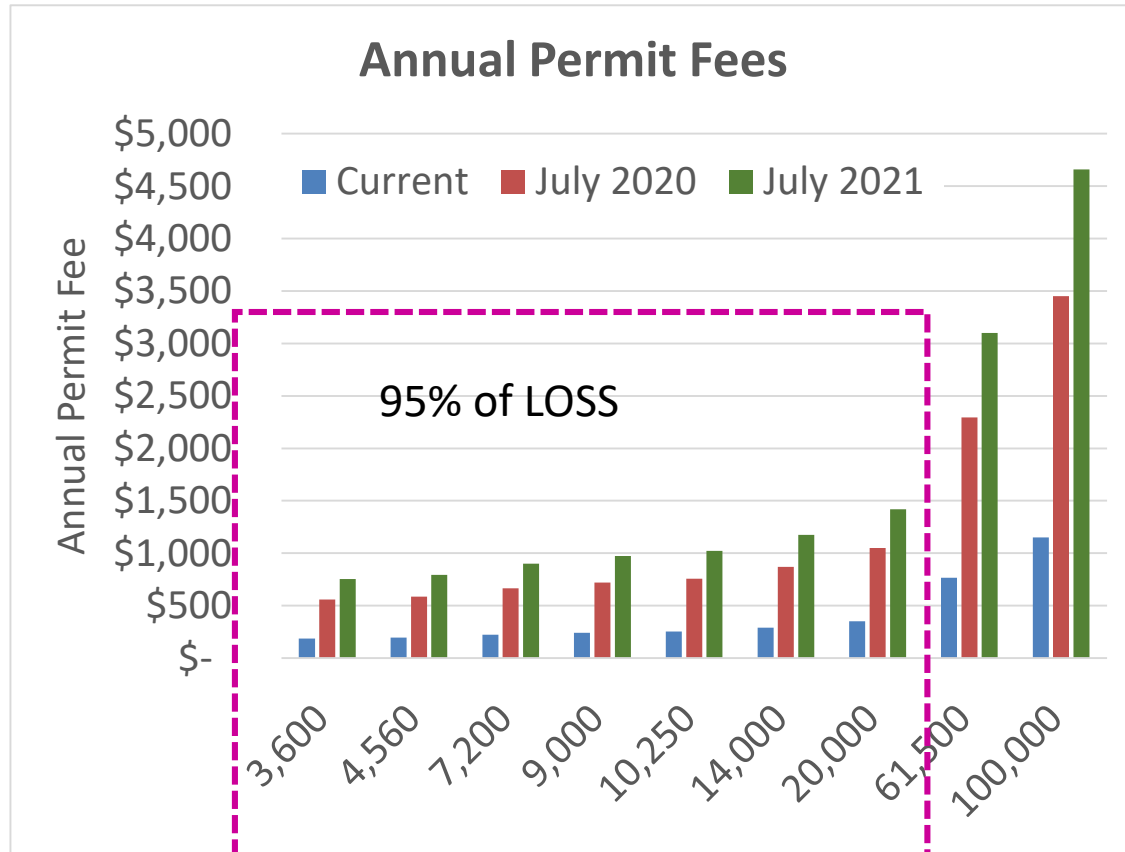
**Total monthly cost increase for each connection will be \$1.87/month; \$22.44/year**

For Large LOSS: 100 homes @ 36,000 gal/day

		Large On-site Sewage System Annual Operating Permit Fee Calculator		
<u>Instructions</u>				
<i>Input permitted design operating volume in gallons per day and press Enter.</i>		36,000		
		Current Fee	Effective July 2020	Effective July 2021
<i>See Your Annual Operating Permit Fee</i>		\$ 510.00	\$ 1,530.00	\$ 2,066.00
Number of connections	100			
Monthly cost per connection		\$ 0.43	\$ 1.28	\$ 1.72

**Total monthly cost increase for each connection will be \$1.30/month; \$15.60/year**

# Impacts on Fees: Permit Fee and monthly per-connection cost



## Comparison of LOSS Fees and WA Ecology permit fees for 800-50,000 gpd plants

Permit Flow (gpd)	Ecology Permit Fee 2020*	LOSS Permit Fee July 2020	Ecology Permit Fee 2021*	LOSS Permit Fee July 2021
3,600	\$ 5,721	\$558	\$ 6,032	\$754
14,400	\$5,721	\$882	\$ 6,032	\$ 1,191
36,000	\$ 5,721	\$1,530	\$ 6,032	\$2,066

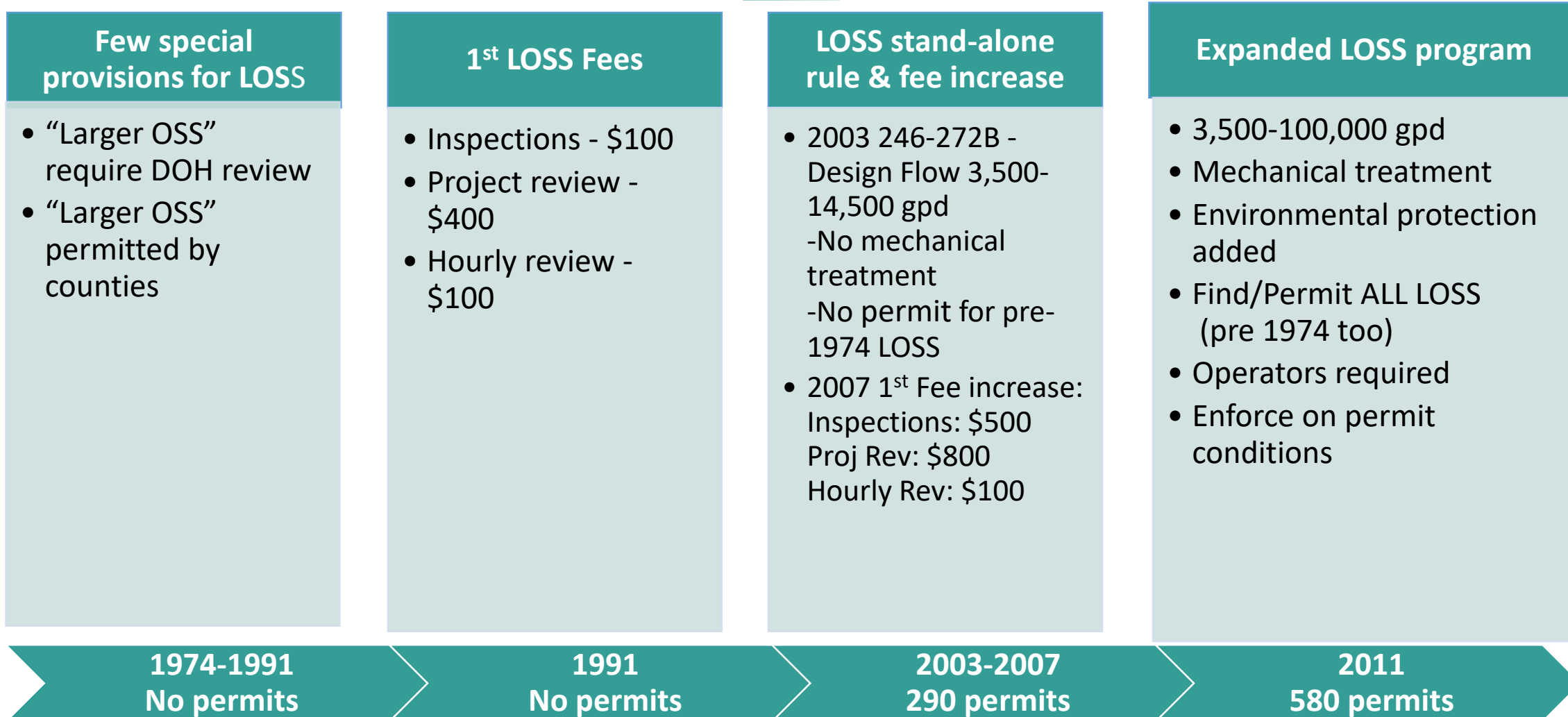
*Note: Annual permit fee for Ecology permit based on private or public-owned domestic wastewater facilities with flows 0.0008 mgd (800 gpd) - .0.5 mgd (50,000 gpd) (WAC 173-224-040 (3)(e)) .*

## WHY DO WE NEED TO INCREASE PERMIT FEES? LARGE ON-SITE SEWAGE SYSTEM PROGRAM

- Brief history of LOSS program
- Fee drivers
- Impact of fee increase on program budget



# A brief history of LOSS





## Fee Increase Drivers

---

- “Seed money” made available in 2007 to allow LOSS program to determine staffing and infrastructure needs has been exhausted.
- LOSS program needs have been identified.
- State’s general fund allocations and LOSS fee revenue are insufficient to meet program needs.
- 2 staff positions temporarily left vacant since 2018.
- Lack of resources for providing education, trouble shooting support, and proactive technical assistance.

## Other Considerations

---

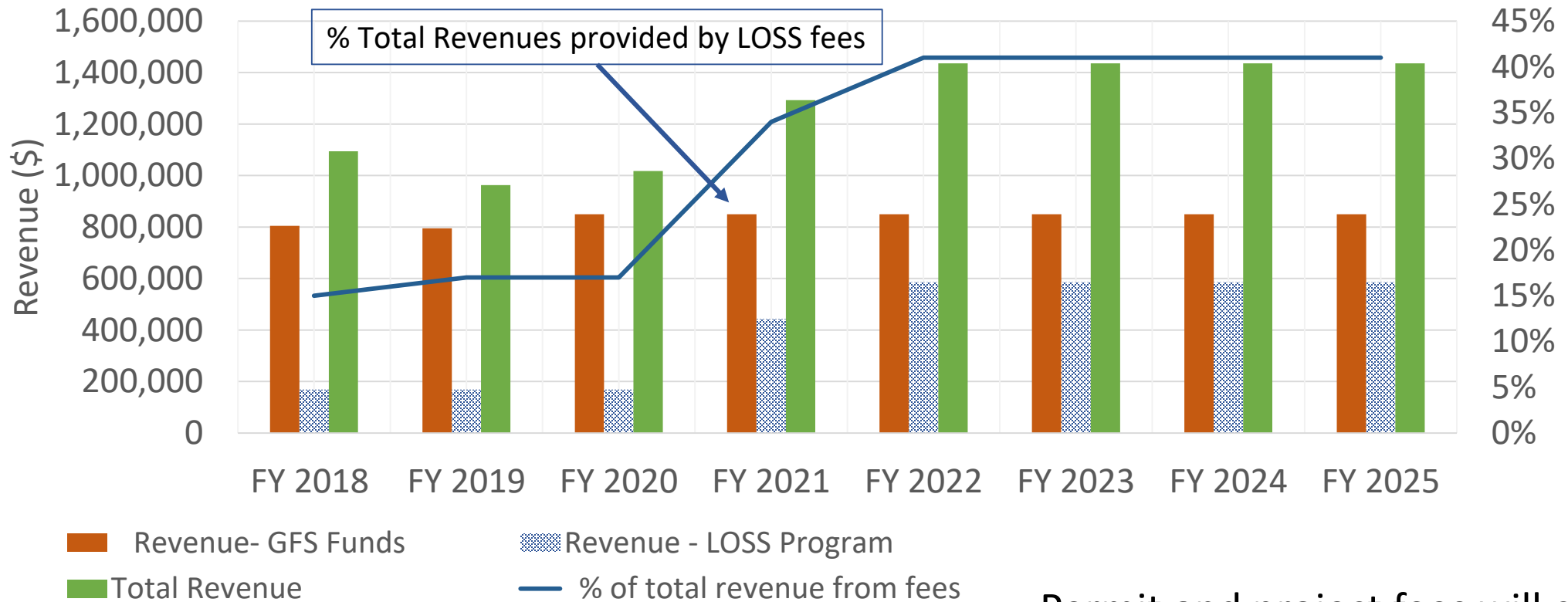
The complexity of regulating LOSS has increased since 2007

- Technology has become more complex
- Environmental pressures have increased and become more complex
- Designs have become more innovative and complex
- Sites for new LOSS have become increasingly more challenging

Older, simpler LOSS are close to or beyond their design life

- Existing LOSS have aged and require more oversight to prevent failures
- Many older LOSS have drainfield application rates that exceed design standards of today, indicating potential overloading of drainfields.

# How will the increase impact the program funding?



Permit and project fees will cover ~42% of total program costs

## NEXT STEPS

- Webpage
- Comment period



# Learn more about the fee increase

## Fee increase

- Web Search: “Washington Large On-site Rule Revision”
- Or Go to:  
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/WastewaterManagement/RulesandRegulations/LargeOnsiteRuleRevision>

## General info

- Web search “Washington large onsite sewage system”
- Or go to:  
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/WastewaterManagement/LOSSProgram/LOSSGuidance>

## Rule Revision Contacts

Jeremy Simmons

- 360-236-3346

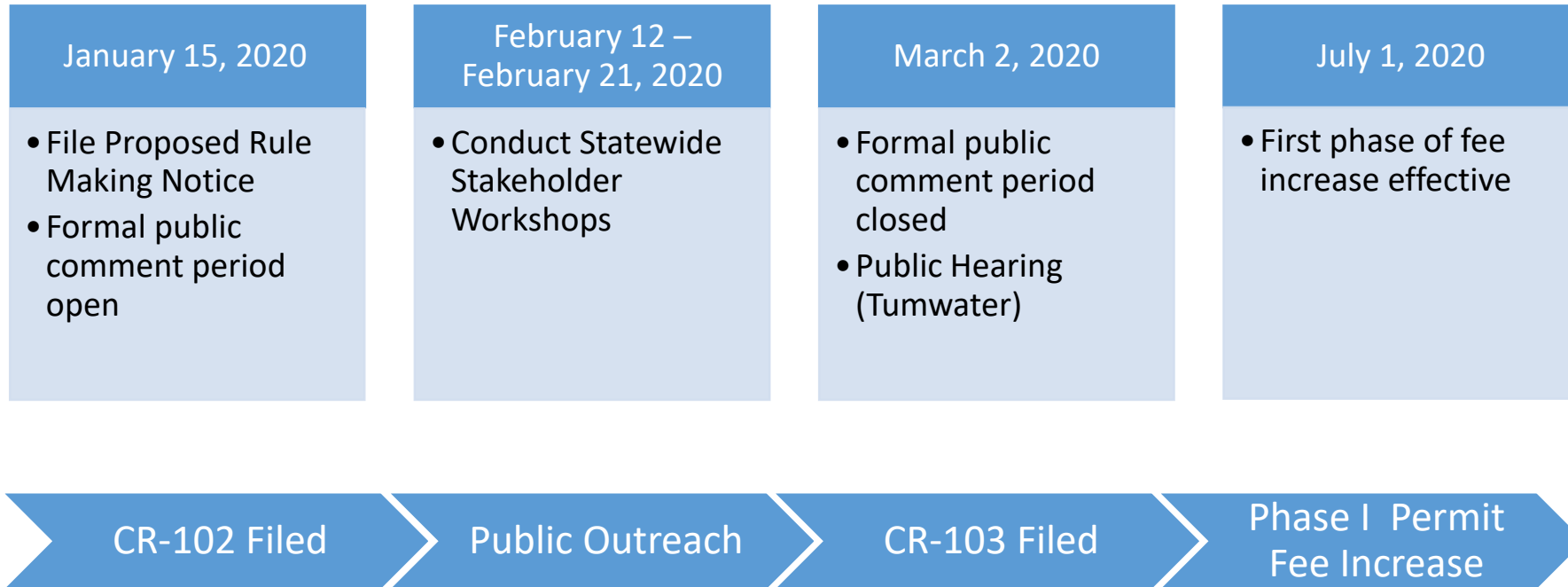
Peter Beaton

- 360-236-4031

The screenshot shows the Washington State Department of Health website. The header includes the logo and navigation links: Home | Newsroom | Publications | About Us. Below the header is a search bar and a menu with categories: You and Your Family, Community and Environment, Licenses, Permits and Certificates, Data and Statistical Reports, Emergencies, and For Public Health and Healthcare Providers. The main content area shows a breadcrumb trail: Community and Environment > Wastewater Management > Rules and Regulations > Large On-site Rule Revision. The page title is 'Large On-site Sewage System Fee Rule Revision'. The 'Purpose' section states that fees for Large On-site Sewage System operation need to be increased to continue to permit and regulate Large On-site Sewage Systems. It references 'Proposed Rule Making for WAC 246-272-3000, CR-102 (PDF)'. It also mentions that the department last increased fees in 2007 and that the program's scope has been expanded, making permitting and regulating Large On-site Sewage Systems more complex. It provides links to 'Questions and Answers About the Fee Increase (PDF)' and 'Economic Impact Analysis (PDF)'. A 'Rule Revision Timeline (PDF)' link is also present. A public workshop, hearing, and comment submission link is provided. Contact information for questions is given as [wastewatermgmt@doh.wa.gov](mailto:wastewatermgmt@doh.wa.gov) or 360-236-3330. The 'Annual Permit Fee Changes' section is partially visible at the bottom.

Annual Permit Fee Changes	Current Fee	July 1, 2020	July 1, 2021

# Rule Revision Process Timeline



# Comments

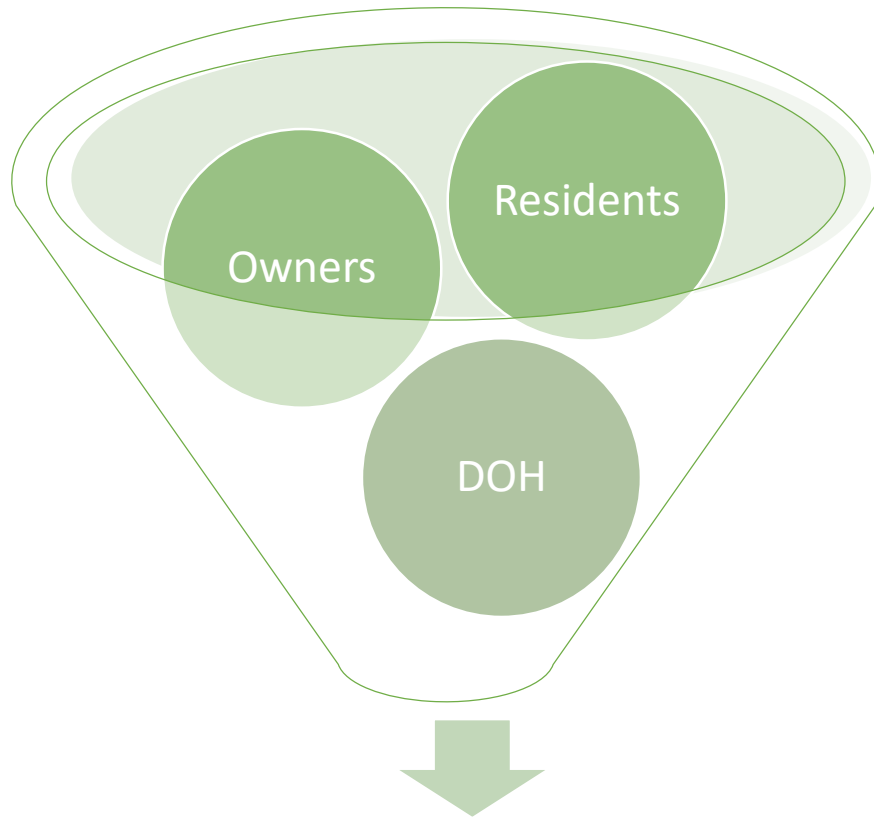
---

## Formal public comment period ends March 2, 2020

To comment:

- Add a comment on our [Rules Comment webpage](#)
- Submit comments on the rule revision to [Peter.Beaton@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Peter.Beaton@doh.wa.gov), or
- Send mail to:  
Peter Beaton  
Department of Health  
PO Box 47822  
Olympia, WA 98504-7822

## How can we help?



**Let's talk**

- Questions
- Can we help you with outreach-
  - To your neighbors and residents?
  - To your school board or community?





**Thank you!**