



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT
DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Date of Issuance: 11/12/2025

Lead Agency: Department of Ecology, Solid Waste Management Program, Industrial Section

Agency Contact: Emily Toffol, 360-790-8363, emily.toffol@ecy.wa.gov

Permit Number: Proposed Modification of Order No. DE 02AQIS-3588

Description of proposal:

Ecology is proposing to modify Packaging Corporation of America's (PCA) Order No. DE 02AQIS-3588, which was originally issued in 2002 and approved changes to PCA's (formerly Boise Cascade Corporation and Boise White Paper, LLC) No.3 Recovery Furnace and Hogged Fuel Boiler. The proposed modification of Order No. DE 02AQIS-3588 does not permit any additional construction or increases in emissions.

Ecology proposes to modify monitoring requirements for SO₂ emissions from the Hogged Fuel Boiler while burning noncondensable gases. The 2002 issuance limited SO₂ emissions based on noncondensable gas generation associated with an assumed pulping rate and emission factor. The proposed modification would limit SO₂ emissions based on actual pulping rates and a site-specific emission factor. Using actual pulping rates and a site-specific emission factor is more representative of mill operations and would more accurately measure the emissions.

Ecology is also proposing to reduce stack testing frequency of particulate matter in Order No. DE 02AQIS-3588. The 2002 issuance of Order No. DE 02AQIS-3588 required monthly or quarterly stack testing for particulate matter at the No.3 Recovery Furnace. The 2002 issuance of Order No. DE 02AQIS-3588 required quarterly testing for particulate matter at the Hogged Fuel Boiler. Ecology proposes to reduce stack testing frequency to annually for both the No.3 Recovery Furnace and the Hogged Fuel Boiler.

Ecology has provided more information regarding other proposed administrative changes in the technical support document associated with the proposed modification of Order DE 02AQIS-3588.

Location of proposal: Packaging Corporation of America , 31833 W Highway 12, Wallula, WA 99363

Applicant/Proponent: Brian Wilhelm, Mill Manager

Ecology has determined that this proposal will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). We have reviewed the attached Environmental Checklist, Historical Stack Test Results, and Notice of Construction Modification Application. These documents, along with the draft proposed modification of Order No. DE 02AQIS-3588 and a technical support document supported with the proposed modification are available at:
<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/industrial/UIPermit/DraftPermits.aspx>

This determination is based on the following findings and conclusions:

The proposed modification of Order No. DE 02AQIS-3588 does not approve the construction of any new emission units. The proposed modification of Order No. DE 02AQIS-3588 does not increase permitted emission limits.

Maintaining original stack testing frequencies at the No.3 Recovery Furnace and the Hogged Fuel Boiler is not necessary as PCA's measured actual emissions measured in 2021, 2022, and 2023 have not exceeded 40% of permitted limits. Ecology may prescribe more frequent stack testing in PCA's air operating permit, as appropriate.

This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340. The comment period for this DNS corresponds with the comment period on the proposed modification of Order No. DE 02AQIS-3588. All comments received prior to 11:59 pm, January 6, 2026 will be considered.

Please send written comments to: <https://swm.ecology.commentinput.com?id=x25H8NBtsZ>

Responsible Official:

James DeMay, P.E.
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Solid Waste Management Program
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Signature  _____ Date November 7, 2025

This SEPA decision may be appealed in conjunction with an appeal on the underlying agency action. In this case, the proposed modification of Order No. DE 02AQIS-3588 may be appealed by appealing Order No. DE 02AQIS-3588. Instructions for appealing Order No. DE 02AQIS-3588 will be included in the final modified Order No. DE 02AQIS-3588.