

Packaging Corporation of America Air Quality Permit Modifications and SEPA Determination of Non-Significance



Comments accepted:

12:01 am, November 12, 2025
to 11:59 pm, January 6, 2026

Submit comments:

Online at:

<https://swm.ecology.commentinput.com?id=x25H8NBtsZ>



Or by mail to:

Emily Toffol
Department of Ecology
Industrial Section
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

At the tentative virtual Hearing:
6:00 pm on December 16, 2025.

Registration required:

<https://waecy-wa.gov.zoom.us/meeting/register/iSUxEc5mTQqKDSb-U06PeA>

Site Information:

www.ecology.wa.gov/pca-wallula

General Information

Ecology is proposing to modify Packaging Corporation of America's (PCA's) Air Operating Permit and Notice of Construction Order 02AQIS-3588. Ecology has issued a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) associated with the modification of the Notice of Construction Order. The documents are available for public comment.

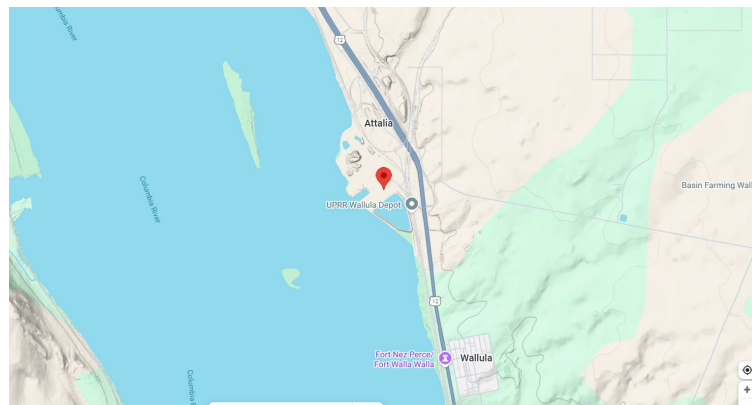
PCA is a kraft and recycled pulp and paper mill and corrugated container plant.

- With around 400 employees, the pulp and paper mill makes about 1,800 tons of unbleached paper and corrugated cardboard each day.
- The container plant has about 155 employees and makes approximately 5 million square feet of corrugated boxes each day.

This facility is classified as a major source of air pollution.

Location

PCA is located at 31827 US-12, Wallula, Washington, in Walla Walla County.



Modification to the permits

The proposed modifications do not allow for an increase in emissions or construction of new equipment.

Proposed modifications to the Notice of Construction Order 02AQIS-3588 include:

- The requirement to monitor sulfur dioxide emissions from the hogged fuel boiler more accurately, using site-specific information rather than assumed operating conditions.
- A reduction in the stack testing frequency of particulate matter at the no. 3 recovery furnace and hogged fuel boiler based on a history of measured emissions being well below the limit.

Proposed modifications to the air operating permit include:

- The incorporation of the changes to Notice of Construction Order 02AQIS-3588 described above.
- The incorporation of new or modified requirements from Notice of Construction Orders previously issued or modified in 2018 and 2020.
- More accurately capturing existing requirements that the Permittee is subject to for their operation of the no.2 recovery furnace, and the collection and treatment of regulated condensates.

SEPA Determination of Non-Significance

We have reviewed the Environmental Checklist for the proposed Notice of Construction Modification and determined that this proposed modification 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).

Where to find the documents

Read the proposed permit modifications at the following locations:

Department of Ecology
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA, 98503
564-669-4474

Online at <https://ecology.wa.gov/pca-wallula>

Walla Walla County Rural Library
Burbank Branch
875 Lake Rd
Burbank WA 99323

Public hearing

A tentative virtual public meeting followed by a hearing to provide information on the modifications and receive comments from the public is scheduled for December 16, 2025, on ZOOM at 6:00 p.m. Register online at <https://waecy-wa.gov.zoom.us/meeting/register/iSUxEc5mTQqKDsb-U06PeA>. Registration is required. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the hearing. The public hearing will be held if Ecology receives significant public interest. Ecology will notify interested parties prior to cancelling the tentative public hearing if we have not received significant interest by December 15, 2025.

What happens next?

When the comment period ends, we will review all comments received and make appropriate changes to the permits before finalizing the permits.

If you would like to be added to the list of interested parties for Packaging Corporation of America and receive updates on Ecology's Industrial Section actions at the site, contact Tara Roberts at tara.roberts@ecy.wa.gov.

You can also register to receive updates on air quality actions by signing up for the Air permit register by [submitting a request](#)¹ to Ecology.

ADA Accommodations

To request an ADA accommodation, email tara.roberts@ecy.wa.gov, call (360) 280-4325, or dial 711 to call through the Washington Telecommunications Relay for services like text telephone (TTY). Visit [Ecology.wa.gov/ADA](https://ecology.wa.gov/ADA) for more accessibility information

en Español

Se está llevando a cabo un periodo de comentario. Usted puede revisar y comentar sobre los borradores de los documentos del permiso. Estos describen los requisitos ambientales con los que debe cumplir una instalación industrial. Comuníquese con Tara Roberts al 360-280-4325 o tara.roberts@ecy.wa.gov para obtener más información.

Accesibilidad ADA

El Departamento de Ecología se compromete a proporcionar a las personas con discapacidades acceso a información y servicios al cumplir o exceder los requisitos de la Ley para Estadounidenses con Discapacidades (ADA), Secciones 504 y 508 del Acto de Rehabilitación, y la Política del Estado de Washington #188.

Para solicitar acomodación ADA, comuníquese con Ecología por teléfono al 360-280-4325 o por correo electrónico tara.roberts@ecy.wa.gov. Para Servicio de Retransmisión de Washington o TTY llame al 711 o 877-833-6341. Visite el sitio web de Ecología <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Accountability-transparency/Accessibility> (en inglés) para más información.

¹ Email tina.maurer@ecy.wa.gov with subject line: "Please add me to the air permit register email list."