



September 9, 2026

Re: Mercury Lights Program Rulemaking, Chapter 173-910 WAC

Department of Ecology,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit brief comments on the draft rule language guiding implementation of the LightRecycle Washington Program established under Chapter 70A.505 RCW. Seattle Public Utilities offers mercury light collection services to customers at our two MRW collection facilities and through our Special Item Pickup program.

We understand and appreciate Ecology's role in adopting rules on topics specifically directed under statute, as well as in clarifying requirements and expectations related to the LightRecycle WA Program. And while we further understand Ecology's intent is to have the rule be "one-stop-shopping" for the regulated community, replicating statutory language in rule--especially if any changes to the words used or to the structure or order of the language--does not clarify but rather creates confusion and potentially interferes with effective implementation and compliance. **Therefore, we encourage Ecology to limit formal rule adoption only to areas where there are clear gaps or lack of clarity in statute that impedes Ecology's ability to effectively implement, administer, or enforce the law.**

We also strongly support the proposed rule language that requires that a contingency plan be submitted with program plans starting January 1, 2029. The absence of a LightRecycle WA stewardship organization in the first half of 2026 had significant impacts statewide to consumers, collection sites and state and local government resources. A contingency plan will help ensure that statutory financial and collection requirements are met in the event the stewardship organization's plan is expired or revoked, or the stewardship organization ceases to act as an agent on behalf of producers to operate the program.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and please contact me at pam.johnson@seattle.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pam Johnson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pam Johnson
Hazardous Waste Liaison & Policy Advisor
Solid Waste Planning & Program Management Division
Seattle Public Utilities, City of Seattle