

**WAC 173-200-070 Early warning value.** (1) The purpose of an early warning value is to provide early detection of increasing contaminant concentrations that may approach or exceed enforcement limits.

(2) Whenever an enforcement limit is established above background groundwater quality, an early warning value may be established, as appropriate.

(3) An early warning value shall be required when an alternative point of compliance is established unless technical constraints would prohibit establishment of an early warning value.

(4) An early warning value shall be established as a percentage of the enforcement limit upon consideration by the department of factors including, but not limited to, the following:

(a) The enforcement limit relative to background groundwater quality;

(b) The availability, reliability, and reasonableness of analytical methods;

(c) The chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of the contaminants;

(d) The reliability of all known, available, and reasonable methods of prevention, control, and treatment;

(e) The anticipated increases in contaminant levels at the point of compliance; and

(f) The potential harm to existing and future beneficial uses.

(5) It shall not be considered a violation of these rules when contaminants are detected in concentrations exceeding an early warning value, but not exceeding an enforcement limit, unless there is failure to notify the department or respond as required in accordance with subsection (6) of this section.

(6) The following procedures apply when a contaminant is detected at a point of compliance or an alternative point of compliance and an early warning value is attained or exceeded.

(a) The permit holder or responsible person shall notify the department, in writing, within ten calendar days from detection of the early warning value, that the early warning value has been attained or exceeded. The notification shall contain, at a minimum, the following information:

(i) The concentrations of contaminants that attained or exceeded early warning values;

(ii) Concentrations of other contaminants monitored;

(iii) The location(s) and date(s) sampled; and

(iv) Concentrations of contaminants determined during previous sampling events.

(b) When notification is received, the department may require the permit holder or responsible person to perform one or more of the following:

(i) Take no action.

(ii) Resample to verify results.

(iii) Increase monitoring or modify the monitoring plan or evaluation procedures.

(iv) Develop and implement a trend analysis to determine the likelihood of exceeding the enforcement limit.

(v) Prepare and submit a report documenting the changes in groundwater quality and discuss and propose alternative methods of operation that will reduce impacts to groundwater.

(vi) Take such actions as the department deems necessary, if the department determines that there is a likelihood of exceeding an enforcement limit at the point of compliance.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 90.48.035. WSR 90-22-023, § 173-200-070,  
filed 10/31/90, effective 12/1/90.]