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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Environmental Services Mottman

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November 13, 2006

Mr. David Batts
Washington State Department of Transportation
Environmental Affairs Office
PO Box 47332
Olympia, WA 98504-7332

Dear Mr. Batts:

The Washington State Department of Transportation does not need to obtain approval from Ecology, written or otherwise, concerning design changes to the conveyance system below the base of the ecology embankment as long as the conveyance design does not result in drainage back-ups that restrict the amount of water able to infiltrate through the ecology embankment media.

However, conveyance design changes will have an impact on whether the designer can claim infiltration losses in the conveyance system. Ecology has provided guidance ("Using WWHM to Estimate Runoff Losses Due to Infiltration in Treatment Facilities and Trenches", April 5, 2004) on how to model a conveyance trench below the embankment in order to get credit for water loss into the ground. This guidance applies when the project must meet flow control requirements.

Contact Ed O'Brien at (360) 407-6438 or eobr461@ecy.wa.gov for information on this guidance. For other information regarding the ecology embankment, contact Mieke Hoppin at (360) 407-6435 or mhop461@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Nancy L. Winters, Section Manager
Program Development Services
Water Quality Program

cc: Mieke Hoppin
Dave Tucker
Ed O'Brien

