

# WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

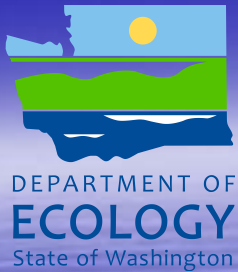
## WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

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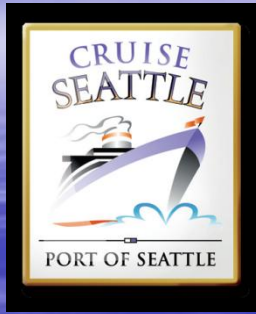
- Ecology Website: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/ecyhome.html>
- Cruise Ship Website:  
[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/wastewater/cruise\\_mou/index.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/wastewater/cruise_mou/index.html)



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington



NORTH WEST  
CRUISESHIP  
ASSOCIATION



# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CRUISE OPERATIONS IN WASHINGTON STATE



- Covers
  - vessels within the NorthWest CruiseShip Association
- Does not Cover
  - smaller cruiseships, AK Marine Hwy vessels, Ferries or other vessels

# MOU

## Major components

- Defines “Waters Subject to this MOU”
- Black water / Gray water / residual solids
  - Limits, monitoring, stop discharge for upset or disinfection problems, no discharges ½ mile from shellfish beds
- Hazardous waste, solid waste, oily bilge water...

## Amendments

- Clarification changes, covers other ports in WA, Added annual compliance report, Expands residual solids discharge ban to entire OCNMS, DOH virus report recommendations incorporated (2009)

# MOU

## Approvals to Discharge:

- 2009: two (2) vessels approved to discharge – both continuously
- 2008 four (4) vessels approved to discharge – all continuously
- 2007: five (5) approved continuously, one (1) at >1nm
- 2006: four (4) approved continuously, seven (7) at >1nm
- 2005: four (4) approved continuously, four (4) at >1nm
- 2004: two (2) approved continuously, two (2) at >1nm

# MOU Compliance

## Compliance Evaluation

- Discharge Approval Process
- Inspections
- Sampling Data
- Annual Report/Records Review

## Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing

- Purpose – to evaluate whether there are potential toxicity issues from vessel discharges
- Required for vessels approved for discharge continuously - once every 2 years for homeported vessels or 1/40 port calls.
- Results – toxicity from ammonia and possibly from surfactants and detergents

# MOU – Compliance History

- 2004 – Discharges of both untreated graywater and AWTs effluent without approval
- 2005 – Missed Sampling
- 2006 – Missed Sampling; discharges of untreated gray/treated black water discovered during inspection. False report submitted. \$100,000 fine issued/paid.
- 2007- Discharges of AWTs effluent without approval
- 2008 – Missed WET testing

# The MOU Overall

## ■ Benefits

- Without state regulation specific to cruise ships, at least have agreement in place to protect water quality
- Learning more about the vessels and equipment and getting data
- Procedure for notification of noncompliance
- Still have enforcement capabilities for WQ violations and press coverage if violate MOU

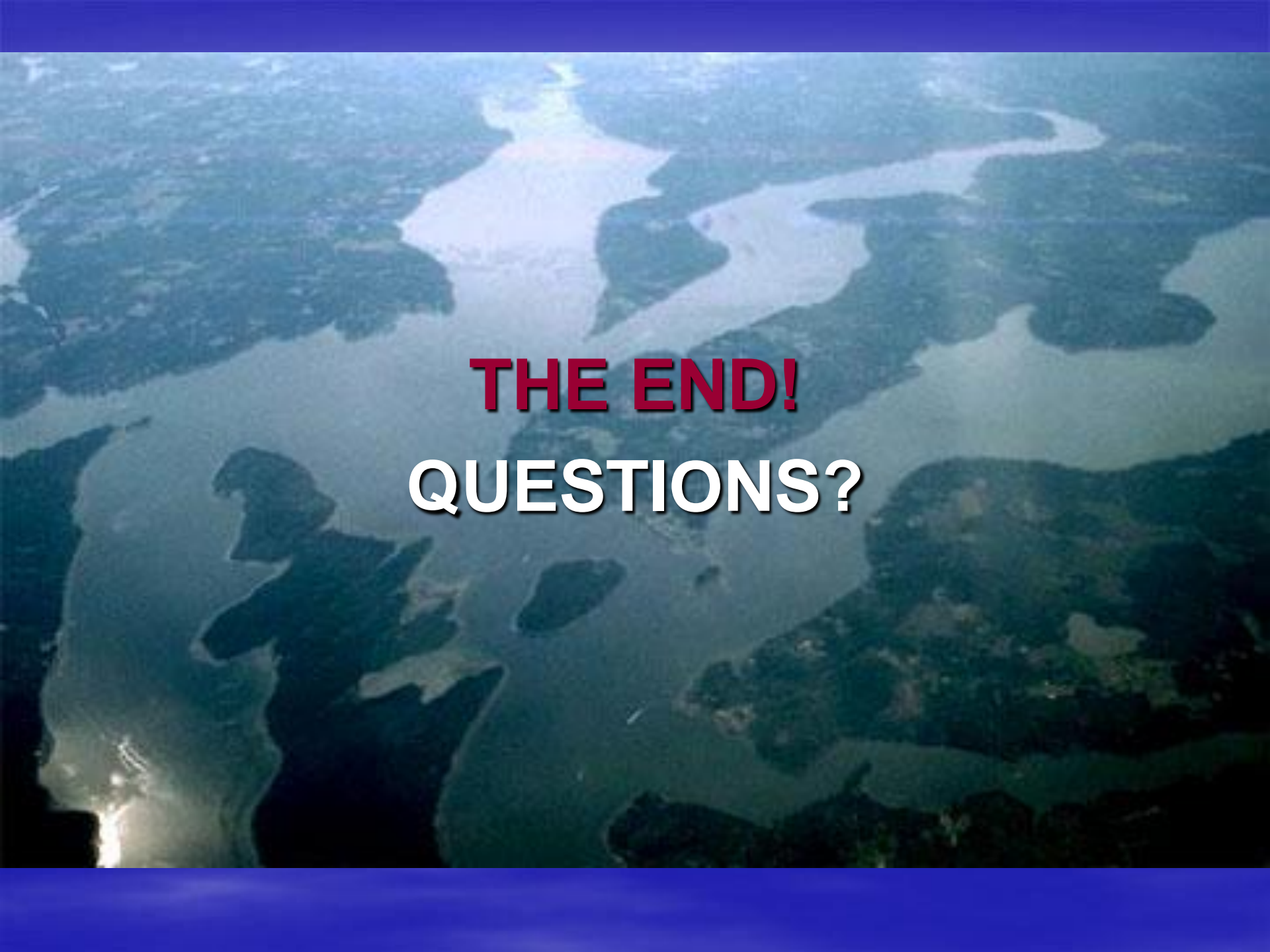
## ■ Issues

- Inability to enforce on the agreement itself
- Lack of coverage of MOU for other vessels
- Air quality issues not currently covered by the MOU

# Broader Issues

- **State Legislative Action**
  - History of bills being introduced to codify MOU
- **EPA Permit**
  - Issued February 2009
  - Covers most commercial vessels >79 feet
  - 26 discharge types covered (not black water)
  - Annual MOU meeting – agreed to continue with MOU, MOU more stringent for certain requirements
- **Virus Protection**
  - DOH virus study completed end of 2007, recommendations incorporated into MOU
- **MOU Funding**



An aerial photograph of a large reservoir with a winding river. The water is a light blue-grey color, and the surrounding land is covered in dense green vegetation. The text "THE END!" is written in red, and "QUESTIONS?" is written in white with a black outline, centered over the image.

**THE END!**  
**QUESTIONS?**