



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE

**DIRECTIVE OF THE GOVERNOR
19-18.2**

December 20, 2021

To: Washington State Department of Ecology

From: Jay Inslee, Governor

Subject: Environmental Assessment of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Directive 19-18 - originally issued December 19, 2019.
- Version 19-18.1 amended the deadline for agency rule adoption, from September 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.
- Version 19-18.2 amends the deadline for agency rule adoption from December 31, 2021 to no later than December 31, 2022.

The most recent international and global assessments show that if greenhouse gases continue to increase at the current rate, global temperatures are likely to reach 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels by as early as 2030. And, the effects of climate change—sea level rise, ecosystem decline, and intensifying droughts and wildfires—will occur sooner than previously known. Limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius will require rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land, urban and rural infrastructure, and industrial systems around the world.

Future risks of climate change depend on decisions made today. As scientific understanding of the pace, scale, and drivers of climate change improves, governmental decision-making must adapt to new information. In the case of long-lived infrastructure and industrial projects, siting decisions must be informed by a comprehensive understanding of a project's statewide and global impact, including its impact on climate change. It is essential that the assessments of environmental and climate impacts for such projects be based on the most current climate change science available.

I hereby direct the Department of Ecology to adopt rules when ready, but no later than **December 31, 2022**, to strengthen and standardize the consideration of climate change risks, vulnerability, and impacts in environmental assessments for major projects with significant environmental impacts. I initially directed the Department to adopt these rules by September 1, 2021, but the COVID-19 pandemic created delays. Additionally, with the passage of the new climate legislation earlier this year, the regulatory landscape has also changed significantly. The agency is working to sequence and align multiple climate

rulemakings. Delaying the greenhouse gas assessment rules will improve the process and opportunity for stakeholder engagement, and it will assist in aligning our climate policies. Earlier, I postponed the agency's deadline to adopt these rules, to December 31, 2021, and now today I am further postponing that deadline to December 31, 2022. These rules should be based on the most current climate change science, consistent with the findings of recent international and national assessments and the Department's recommendations under RCW 70.235.040.

The rules should be uniform and apply to all branches of government, including state agencies, political subdivisions, public and municipal corporations and counties. The rules should cover major industrial projects and major fossil fuel projects; and establish uniform methods, processes, procedures, protocols or criteria that ensure a comprehensive assessment and quantification of direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the project.

Rules for cumulative environmental assessments and reporting should include:

- 20-year and 100-year global warming potentials for all greenhouse gases attributable to the project, as provided by the most recent international assessment;
- An assessment of any induced load or growth in fuel or energy consumption or electricity generation from the project;
- Criteria for assessing upstream and likely downstream lifecycle emissions attributable to the project, including transportation, leakage, and market and indirect effects; and
- Methods, procedures, protocols, criteria or standards for mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, as necessary to achieve a goal of no net increase in greenhouse gas emissions attributable to the project.

To ensure that such rules remain consistent with the latest climate change science, the Department must develop the rules in a manner that allows for key inputs to be updated, upon the adoption of the next and each successive national or international climate assessment.