

How do SEPA requirements relate to PSD?

The SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act) process in itself is not a permit process. It is a process intended to give permitting agencies the information (the Environmental Impact Statement) necessary to make an informed determination of the potential environmental impact of the proposed project: Air, water, soils, flora, fauna, agricultural, endangered species, etc. The determination(s) may lead to specific terms and conditions in any related permits. You can learn details of the SEPA process from Ecology's "SEPA Handbook," Publication #98-114. You can get a copy by calling (360) 407-6924, or download it from <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/98114.pdf>.

The PSD process is a permit development procedure for regulatory agencies to use to approve construction and operation of relatively large projects. It is specific to air quality impact-related issues. However, as part of this permitting process, the Air Quality Program is required to consider collateral environmental impacts.

The tie between the SEPA and PSD processes is that **a PSD permit cannot be finalized until the SEPA process is complete, and the PSD permit writer has considered its conclusions.**