WATER QUALITY STANDARDS: ADDRESSING TEMPERATURE EXCEEDENCE IN AUGUST:

1. **10-year Water Quality Attainment plan:**
   This is an option provided for in WAC 173-201A-510 (5)

   (5) **Compliance schedules for dams:**
   
   (a) All dams in the state of Washington must comply with the provisions of this chapter.

   (b) For dams that cause or contribute to a violation of the water quality standards, the dam owner must develop a water quality attainment plan that provides a detailed strategy for achieving compliance. The plan must include:

   (i) A compliance schedule that does not exceed ten years;

   (ii) Identification of all reasonable and feasible improvements that could be used to meet standards, or if meeting the standards is not attainable, then to achieve the highest attainable level of improvement;

   (iii) Any department-approved gas abatement plan as described in WAC 173-201A-200 (1)(f)(ii);

   (iv) Analytical methods that will be used to evaluate all reasonable and feasible improvements;

   (v) Water quality monitoring, which will be used by the department to track the progress in achieving compliance with the state water quality standards; and

   (vi) Benchmarks and reporting sufficient for the department to track the applicant's progress toward implementing the plan within the designated time period.

   (c) The plan must ensure compliance with all applicable water quality criteria, as well as any other requirements established by the department (such as through a total maximum daily load, or TMDL, analysis).

   (d) If the department is acting on an application for a water quality certification, the approved water quality attainment plan may be used by the department in its determination that there is reasonable assurance that the dam will not cause or contribute to a violation of the water quality standards.

   (e) When evaluating compliance with the plan, the department will allow the use of models and engineering estimates to approximate design success in meeting the standards.
(f) If reasonable progress toward implementing the plan is not occurring in accordance with the designated time frame, the department may declare the project in violation of the water quality standards and any associated water quality certification.

(g) If an applicable water quality standard is not met by the end of the time provided in the attainment plan, or after completion of all reasonable and feasible improvements, the owner must take the following steps:

(i) Evaluate any new reasonable and feasible technologies that have been developed (such as new operational or structural modifications) to achieve compliance with the standards, and develop a new compliance schedule to evaluate and incorporate the new technology;

(ii) After this evaluation, if no new reasonable and feasible improvements have been identified, then propose an alternative to achieve compliance with the standards, such as site specific criteria (WAC 173-201A-430), a use attainment analysis (WAC 173-201A-440), or a water quality offset (WAC 173-201A-450).

(h) New dams, and any modifications to existing facilities that do not comply with a gas abatement or other pollution control plan established to meet criteria for the water body, must comply with the water quality standards at the time of project completion.

(i) Structural changes made as a part of a department approved gas abatement plan to aid fish passage, described in WAC 173-201A-200 (1)(f)(ii), may result in system performance limitations in meeting water quality criteria for that parameter at other times of the year.

2. AKART: WAC 173-201A: Definitions

"AKART" is an acronym for "all known, available, and reasonable methods of prevention, control, and treatment." AKART shall represent the most current methodology that can be reasonably required for preventing, controlling, or abating the pollutants associated with a discharge. The concept of AKART applies to both point and nonpoint sources of pollution. The term "best management practices," typically applied to nonpoint source pollution controls is considered a subset of the AKART requirement.
WATER QUALITY STANDARDS: ADDRESSING TEMPERATURE EXCEEDENCE IN AUGUST: MIXING ZONES

WAC 173-201A-400: Mixing zones.
(1) The allowable size and location of a mixing zone and the associated effluent limits shall be established in discharge permits, general permits, or orders, as appropriate.

(2) A discharger shall be required to fully apply AKART prior to being authorized a mixing zone.

(3) Mixing zone determinations shall consider critical discharge conditions.

(4) No mixing zone shall be granted unless the supporting information clearly indicates the mixing zone would not have a reasonable potential to cause a loss of sensitive or important habitat, substantially interfere with the existing or characteristic uses of the water body, result in damage to the ecosystem, or adversely affect public health as determined by the department.

(5) Water quality criteria shall not be violated outside of the boundary of a mixing zone as a result of the discharge for which the mixing zone was authorized.

(6) The size of a mixing zone and the concentrations of pollutants present shall be minimized.

(7) The maximum size of a mixing zone shall comply with the following:

(a) In rivers and streams, mixing zones, singularly or in combination with other mixing zones, shall comply with the most restrictive combination of the following (this size limitation may be applied to estuaries having flow characteristics that resemble rivers):

(i) Not extend in a downstream direction for a distance from the discharge port(s) greater than three hundred feet plus the depth of water over the discharge port(s), or extend upstream for a distance of over one hundred feet;

(ii) Not utilize greater than twenty-five percent of the flow; and

(iii) Not occupy greater than twenty-five percent of the width of the water body.

*(There is more information about discharges to lakes, reservoirs, estuaries and oceanic waters deleted from this information. Refer to WAC 173-201A for the full citation.)*

(8) Acute criteria are based on numeric criteria and toxicity tests approved by the department, as generally guided under WAC 173-201A-240 (1) through (5), and shall be met as near to the point of discharge as practicably attainable. Compliance shall be determined by monitoring data or calibrated models approved by the department utilizing representative dilution ratios. A zone where acute criteria may be exceeded is allowed only if it can be demonstrated to the department's satisfaction the concentration of, and duration and frequency of exposure to the discharge, will not create a barrier to the migration or translocation of indigenous organisms to a degree that has the potential to cause damage to the ecosystem. A zone of acute criteria exceedance shall singularly or
in combination with other such zones comply with the following maximum size requirements:

(a) In rivers and streams, a zone where acute criteria may be exceeded shall comply with the most restrictive combination of the following (this size limitation may also be applied to estuaries having flow characteristics resembling rivers):

(i) Not extend beyond ten percent of the distance towards the upstream and downstream boundaries of an authorized mixing zone, as measured independently from the discharge port(s);

(ii) Not utilize greater than two and one-half percent of the flow; and

(iii) Not occupy greater than twenty-five percent of the width of the wafer body.

(b) In oceanic and estuarine waters a zone where acute criteria may be exceeded shall not extend beyond ten percent of the distance established in subsection (7)(b) of this section as measured independently from the discharge port(s).

(9) Overlap of mixing zones.

(a) Where allowing the overlap of mixing zones would result in a combined area of water quality criteria nonattainment which does not exceed the numeric size limits established under subsection (7) of this section, the overlap may be permitted if:

(i) The separate and combined effects of the discharges can be reasonably determined; and

(ii) The combined effects would not create a barrier to the migration or translocation of indigenous organisms to a degree that has the potential to cause damage to the ecosystem.

(b) Where allowing the overlap of mixing zones would result in exceedance of the numeric size limits established under subsection (7) of this section, the overlap may be allowed only where:

(i) The overlap qualifies for exemption under subsections (12) and (13) of this section; and

(ii) The overlap meets the requirements established in (a) of this subsection.

*( There is more information about stormwater and combined sewer overflow discharges that I deleted from this information. Refer to WAC 173-201A for the full citation.)*

(12) Exceedances from the numeric size criteria in subsections (7) and (8) of this section and the overlap criteria in subsection (9) of this section may be considered by the department in the following cases:

(a) For discharges existing prior to November 24, 1992, (or for proposed discharges with engineering plans formally approved by the department prior to November 24, 1992).
(b) Where altering the size configuration is expected to result in greater protection to existing and characteristic uses;

(c) Where the volume of water in the effluent is providing a greater benefit to the existing or characteristic uses of the water body due to flow augmentation than the benefit of removing the discharge, if such removal is the remaining feasible option; or

(d) Where the exceedance is clearly necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the area in which the waters are located.

(13) Before an exceedance from the numeric size criteria in subsections (7) and (8) of this section and the overlap criteria in subsection (9) of this section may be allowed under subsection (12) of this section, it must clearly be demonstrated to the department's satisfaction that:

(a) AKART appropriate to the discharge is being fully applied;

(b) All siting, technological, and managerial options which would result in full or significantly closer compliance that are economically achievable are being utilized; and

(c) The proposed mixing zone complies with subsection (4) of this section.

(14) Any exemptions granted to the size criteria under subsection (12) of this section shall be reexamined during each permit renewal period for changes in compliance capability. Any significant increase in capability to comply shall be reflected in the renewed discharge permit.

(15) The department may establish permit limits and measures of compliance for human health based criteria (based on lifetime exposure levels), independent of this section.

(16) Sediment impact zones authorized by the department pursuant to chapter 173-204 WAC, Sediment management standards, do not satisfy the requirements of this section.

WAC 173-201A Definitions:
"AKART" is an acronym for "all known, available, and reasonable methods of prevention, control, and treatment." AKART shall represent the most current methodology that can be reasonably required for preventing, controlling, or abating the pollutants associated with a discharge. The concept of AKART applies to both point and nonpoint sources of pollution. The term "best management practices," typically applied to nonpoint source pollution controls is considered a subset of the AKART requirement.

"Background" means the biological, chemical, and physical conditions of a water body, outside the area of influence of the discharge under consideration. Background sampling locations in an enforcement action would be up-gradient or outside the area of influence of the discharge. If several discharges to any water body exist, and enforcement action is being taken for possible violations to the standards, background sampling would be undertaken immediately up-gradient from each discharge.