

JAY INSLEE  
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
Office of the Governor

March 31, 2020

Derek Sandison  
Director  
Washington State Department of Agriculture  
1111 Washington Street SE, 2nd Floor  
PO Box 42560  
Olympia, WA 98504-2560

Dear Director Sandison:

On March 27, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in consultation with the U.S. Department of Energy, issued a waiver of certain fuel volatility standards and State Implementation Plans to address oversupply issues for winter high volatility fuels (40 C.F.R sec. 80.27). The federal agencies determined that, as a result of states' measures to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, fuel demand has decreased substantially across the nation, and suppliers are currently storing more of the winter blend high volatility fuels than anticipated. This situation is preventing fuel suppliers from being able to turn over the supply to summer lower volatility fuels on the timeline required by the standards.

The Department of Agriculture's fuel volatility standards under WAC 16-662 for gasoline currently require a transition to lower volatility fuels beginning April 1, with another step down scheduled for May 1.

My Emergency Proclamation 20-05, and its subsequent amendments, require state agencies and departments to continue utilizing state resources to do everything reasonably possible to support implementation of the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and to assist affected political subdivisions in an effort to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes ensuring adequate fuel supply and avoiding potential fuel supply disruptions.

In order to avoid potential fuel supply disruptions, I request that the Department of Agriculture take into consideration the EPA's March 27 waiver, and adjust its enforcement of WAC 16-662



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and the volatility classes for gasoline from April 1 through May 31, to meet Washington's needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please coordinate with the Department of Ecology and Department of Commerce's Energy Emergency Management Director to ensure that impacts to air quality are minimized and that the transition of the fuel supply is implemented consistent with the needs of the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (ESF-12).

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Very truly yours,



Jay Inslee  
Governor