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CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

(RCW 34.05.325 Public participation—Concise explanatory statement)

Adoption of permanent rules to amend the bean seed quarantine rules

Reasons for Adopting the Rule:

In 2014 Halo blight was identified in a bean seed crop in Washington. Halo blight is a quarantine disease with economic and export significance. An industry meeting was held in November 2014 and it was the consensus of this group that the current bean seed quarantine needed strengthened to provide greater protection for the bean seed and edible bean industries. In specific the changes to the quarantine will require either a third growing season inspection or a laboratory test for bean seed that is produced under sprinkler irrigation. Additionally, reporting requirements were changed to make it easier for industry.

Summary of the Public Comment Process:

RCW 34.05.325(1) requires the department to accept written comments on the proposed amendments to chapter 16-301 WAC if they are received no later than the time and date specified in the department's notice of proposed rule making (CR-102). The public comment period for the proposed amendments ran from May 29, 2015 through July 7, 2015 during that time no written comments were received.

RCW 34.05.325(2) requires the department to provide interested parties an opportunity to present oral comments on the proposed amendments to chapter 16-302 WAC in a rule-making hearing. The department held an 11:00 a.m. public hearing on July 7, 2015 in Yakima. Four industry representatives were in attendance and all were in favor of the proposed changes to the quarantine rules with no specific comments made.

Differences Between the Proposed and Adopted Rule:

None.