PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

CR-101 (June 2004)
(Implements RCW 34.05.310)
Do **NOT** use for expedited rule making

Agency: Agriculture

Subject of possible rule making: Chapter 16-157 WAC

Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject: RCW 15.86.070

Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish: 1.Processor and handler applications are received in March of each year. The applications are difficult to process in a timely manner due to the number of producer applications received at the same time. The program is proposing to move the application deadline to August 1 to enable more time for processing applications and enable better preparation for the fall/winter field season.
2. Revenue received from organic certification fees is not currently covering the cost of the program. A fee increase is needed to provide for the full cost of the program.

Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies: The WSDA Organic Certification Program is accredited by the USDA National Organic Program. The subject of the rule will not affect the status of WSDA's accreditation. WSDA will provide the amended rules to USDA when the rule making process is finalized.

Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):

- ☐ Negotiated rule making
- ☐ Pilot rule making
- ☐ Agency study
- ☒ Other (describe) . The agency is developing the proposal in coordination with the WSDA Organic Advisory Board. The Organic Advisory Board meetings are open to the public.

How interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication:
(List names, addresses, telephone, fax numbers, and e-mail of persons to contact; describe meetings, other exchanges of information, etc.)

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DATE
February 15, 2006

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

FEB 15 2006

TIME 1034 AM PM
WSR 06-05-112