

Proposed Renewal of NPDES Permit for Lowell Wastewater Treatment Plant



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

The purpose of this notice is to invite you to provide written comments on this proposed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit renewal.

DEQ's Role:

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is responsible for protecting and enhancing Oregon's water and air quality, for cleaning up spills and releases of hazardous materials, and for managing the proper disposal of hazardous and solid wastes. One way DEQ does this is by requiring permits for certain activities. DEQ issues permits to regulate the type and amount of discharge produced at a regulated facility.

Comments due:

Written comments due: 5 p.m.,
February 10, 2010

Where can I send my comments?

Carrie Everett, Permit Coordinator
(503) 378-5055 or (800) 349-7677
DEQ - Salem Office
750 Front Street NE, Suite 120
Salem, OR 97301-1039
FAX: (503) 373-7944
Email: everett.carrie@deq.state.or.us

Where can I get technical information?

Mary Pfauth, Water Quality Specialist
(503) 378-4978 or (800) 349-7677
750 Front St. NE #120
Fax: (503) 373-7944
Email: pfauth.mary@deq.state.or.us

Where can I get background information?

Information about this project is viewable online by clicking the following link(s):

- [Permit](#)
- [Evaluation Report](#)

You can review hard copies of the draft and related documents at the nearest DEQ office in Salem or in the Eugene Office. For a review appointment in Salem, call Carrie Everett at (503) 378-5055. For a review appointment in Eugene, call Dan Wiltse at (541) 687-7436. The Eugene office is located at 165 East 7th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97401.

What is proposed?

DEQ proposes to renew a NPDES permit for the Lowell Wastewater Treatment Plant and is inviting public comment on the proposed permitting action. During the comment period the public is invited to make comments related to specific conditions within the proposed permit.

The Department proposes to redefine the permittee's mixing zone to one based on percentage of receiving stream flow rather than on a defined distance downstream of the discharge.

Permit expiration

Oregon law requires facilities with a NPDES permit to renew that permit every 5 years. This permit will expire on June 30, 2014.

Who is the applicant?

City of Lowell

Where is the facility located?

240 S. Moss St. in Lowell

Who might have an interest?

Property owners, ratepayers, and residents in the vicinity of the facility; recreational users of the Dexter Reservoir and Middle Fork Willamette River

What does the Lowell Wastewater Treatment Plant do that affects water quality?

The City of Lowell owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant in Lowell. The plant treats sewage collected from the City and discharges treated disinfected wastewater into the Middle Fork Willamette River at the Dexter Dam penstock intake.

What legal requirements apply?

Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 468B and Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Chapter 340 Division 45 give DEQ the authority to issue permits.

How does DEQ determine what requirements go in the permit?

Various federal and state regulations apply to a facility depending on the type of industry, the type and amount of wastewater discharged and the location of the facility. All applicable regulations must be contained in the permit, including the appropriate recordkeeping,

Western Region Water Quality Program

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If you received a hard copy of this notice in the mail, please consider receiving updates via e-mail instead. Send your request to:
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By: Carrie Everett



monitoring, and reporting requirements to ensure compliance with these rules.

What are the known health effects or environmental impacts of the wastewater discharged by the Lowell Wastewater Treatment Plant?

The impacts to the environment are likely minor due to the size of the receiving stream and the efficiency of the treatment facility.

How are the permitted substances measured?

Schedule B of the permit requires monitoring of various influent and effluent parameters at specified minimum frequencies. Sampling and measurement procedures must be done according to EPA requirements.

Compliance history:

The Department and the City entered into a Mutual Agreement and Order (MAO) on November 8, 2001. A major facility upgrade was completed in March 2004 and the MAO was terminated in June 2004. The Department issued one Notice of Non-compliance to the permittee on November 21, 2007 for exceeding BOD and pH permit limits.

What are the special conditions of this permit?

The proposed permit includes special conditions requiring the permittee to manage biosolids in accordance with a Department approved Biosolids Management Plan, to retain Department certified staff to supervise the treatment and collection systems, and to notify the Department of malfunctions. In addition, it contains a condition that addresses hydrogeology and groundwater monitoring at the facility.

What other DEQ permits are required?

None

What similar activities take place in the vicinity of the facility?

The Dexter Water Pollution Control Facility, a non-discharging sewage treatment plant, is downstream from Lowell, Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation has a WPCF permit for a single cell aerated lagoon with summer land application.

What other information about this company is related to this permit?

None.

What happens next?

DEQ will schedule a public hearing if one is requested by 10 or more people, or by an authorized person representing an organization of at least 10 people. An additional public notice will be published to advertise the public hearing.

If a public hearing is not requested, DEQ will consider and provide responses to all comments received at the close of the comment period. DEQ may modify provisions in the proposed permit, but the permit writers can only modify conditions of the permit in accordance with the rules and statutes under the authority of DEQ. Participation in the rulemaking or the legislative process is the only way to change the rules or statutes. Ultimately, if a facility meets all legal requirements, DEQ will issue the facility's NPDES permit following EPA review.

Accessibility information

DEQ is committed to accommodating people with disabilities. Please notify DEQ of any special physical or language accommodations or if you need information in large print, Braille or another format. To make these arrangements, contact DEQ Communications & Outreach (503) 229-5696 or toll free in Oregon at (800) 452-4011; fax to 503-229-6762; or e-mail to deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.

People with hearing impairments may call DEQ's TTY number, (503) 378-3684.