

# Request for Comments

## Proposed Water Quality Permit for Port of Portland's Living Machine Treatment System Located at Building HQP2, File # 119561



State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality

### Northwest Region Water Quality Program

2020 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite  
400, Portland, OR 97201

Phone: (503) 229-5690

(800) 452-4011

Fax: (503) 229-6957

Contact: Garry Sage

E-mail:

Sage.Garry@deq.state.or.us

The purpose of this notice is to invite you to provide written comments on this proposed permit.

### 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 water-borne pollutants produced at a regulated facility.

### Comments due:

Written comments are due:  
5 p.m., April 2, 2010

### Where can I send my comments?

Nancy Stellmach, Northwest Region  
Water Quality Permit Coordinator  
(503) 229-5438 or (toll free) 1(800) 452-4011  
Department of Environmental Quality  
2020 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 400  
Portland, OR 97201  
Fax: (503) 229-6957  
E-mail: [Stellmach.nancy@deq.state.or.us](mailto:Stellmach.nancy@deq.state.or.us)

### Where can I get technical information?

Garry Sage, EIT, Senior Engineering Technician  
(503) 229-5690 or (toll free) (800) 452-4011  
E-mail: [Sage.garry@deq.state.or.us](mailto:Sage.garry@deq.state.or.us)

### How can I review documents?

You can review electronic versions of the draft permit and review report at the following links:

[Draft Permit](#)

[Draft Fact Sheet/Evaluation Report](#)

You can review hard copies of the draft permit and related documents at DEQ's Northwest Regional Office located in Portland, Oregon. For a review appointment please call Ms. Marjorie Holland at (503) 229-6826.

### What is proposed?

DEQ proposes to issue a new Water Quality permit for the Port of Portland's (POP) Living Machine Treatment System located at the Portland International Airport in POP Building HQP2. DEQ and POP are 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 permit contains effluent limits to control harmful bacteria in recycled water. Building HQP2 sewage will be treated in a Living Machine Treatment System (artificial wetlands) to remove nutrients and kill harmful bacteria. After treatment and ultraviolet (UV) disinfection, the recycled water will be further disinfected with chlorine. Final disinfected effluent will be used for toilet flushing and evaporative cooling inside Building HQP2. Final wastewater is classified as Class-B recycled water.

### Permit expiration

Oregon law requires facilities with a Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) permit to renew that permit every 10 years. Upon renewal, this permit will be effective for 10 years, expiring on February 25, 2020.

### Who is the applicant?

Port of Portland  
PO Box 3529  
Portland, OR 97208

### Where is the facility located?

The facility is located in Building HQP2 at the Portland International Airport:  
7200 NE Airport Way  
Portland, OR 97218

### Who might have an interest?

People who work, live, and recreate in the area.

Notice Issued:  
February 26, 2010  
By: Garry Sage

**What does POP do that affects Water Quality?**

POP treats sanitary waste generated within Building HQP2. The treated effluent (Class-B recycled water) is piped through the building and used for toilet flushing and evaporative cooling. Excess Class-B recycled water and building sewage are discharged to a City of Portland sanitary sewer.

**What legal requirements apply?**

DEQ is issuing this permit pursuant to Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 468B.050; the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, PL 92-500; and Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Chapter 340 Division 041.

**How does DEQ determine the requirements listed in the permit?**

Various federal and state regulations apply to the POP facility. Permit requirements are based on the amount and type of recycled water that will be used within the HQP2 Building. All applicable regulations must be contained in the permit, including the appropriate recordkeeping, monitoring, and reporting requirements to ensure compliance with these rules.

**What are the known health effects or environmental impacts of the permitted substances used at POP's HQP2 Building?**

Building wastewater must be treated to meet Class-B recycled water criteria to reduce bacteria and protect human health.

**How are the permitted substances measured?**

Permitted substances are sampled, measured, and tested according to State approved standard methods.

**Compliance history:**

POP's Living Machine Treatment System is a new facility that is being permitted for the first time. Permit limits ensure that this facility will meet all applicable water quality standards and criteria.

**What are the special conditions of this permit?**

Conditions in this permit are standard requirements for facilities of this type.

**What other DEQ permits are required?**

No other permits are required by this facility.

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

There are no similar activities in the immediate POP Building HQP2 area.

**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 Water Quality permit.

**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 1(800) 452-4011; fax to (503) 229-6762; or e-mail to [deqinfo@deq.state.or.us](mailto:deqinfo@deq.state.or.us).

People with hearing impairments may call DEQ's Telecommunications Relay Service, 1(800) 735-2900 or 711.