

Request for Comments

Proposed Issuance of WPCF Permit for Boise Cascade Wood Product's Elgin Plywood and Stud Mill

The purpose of this notice is to invite you to provide written comments on this proposed Water Pollution Control Facilities (WPCF) 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 wastewater discharged at a regulated facility.

Comments due:

Written comments due: 5 p.m., Feb. 17, 2012

Where can I send my comments?

Jackie Ray, Permit Coordinator
541-278-4605 or 800-304-3513
Department of Environmental Quality
Eastern Region - Pendleton Office
700 SE Emigrant, Suite 330
Pendleton, OR 97801
FAX No. 541-278-0168
ray.jackie@deq.state.or.us

Where can I get technical information?

Carl Nadler, Permit Writer
541-298-7255, ext.227 or 800-452-4011
Department of Environmental Quality
Eastern Region – The Dalles Office
400 E. Scenic Drive, Suite 307
The Dalles, OR 97058
FAX No. 541-298-7330
nadler.carl@deq.state.or.us

Where can I get background information?

Information about this project is viewable online:

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

You can review hard copies of the draft permit and related documents at the DEQ office in Pendleton. For a review appointment, call Jackie Ray at 541-278-4605.

What is proposed?

DEQ proposes to issue a WPCF permit for Boise Cascade Wood Products' (Boise's) Elgin Plywood and Stud Mill 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.

Boise currently holds an expiring National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for discharge of wastewater to surface waters. However, the company has eliminated all surface water discharges and has applied for a WPCF permit for land disposal activities only. When the WPCF permit is issued, the NPDES permit will be terminated.

Since the last NPDES permit was issued, the Permittee constructed a Storm Water and Tile Drain (SWTD) wastewater management system for treatment and disposal of industrial storm water, non-process wastewater, and tile drain wastewater (groundwater collected from beneath the log yard). However, the tile drain was subsequently plugged, eliminating the need to manage and dispose of tile drain wastewater, and the SWTD was renamed the Storm Water Treatment and Disposal facility. Currently, industrial storm water is discharged to the SWTD only during periods that the log deck is not sprinkled.

Permit expiration

Oregon law requires facilities with a WPCF permit to renew that permit every ten years. Upon issuance, this permit will be effective for ten years.

Who is the applicant?

Boise Cascade Wood Products, LLC
1917 Jackson Street
La Grande, OR 97850

Where is the facility located?

90 S. 21st Street
Elgin, OR 97827

Who might have an interest?

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

What does Boise do that affects water quality?

Boise disposes of various process and non-process wastewaters and storm water by land application, evaporation and seepage.

What legal requirements apply?

Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 468B and Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Chapter



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

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400 E. Scenic Dr. Suite 307
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Please include your full name, e-mail address and mailing address so that we can purge you from our mailing list, thus saving trees and taxpayer dollars.

Notice Issued: 1-13-12
By: Jackie Ray

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 pollutants discharged and the location of the facility. All applicable regulations must be contained in the permit, including the appropriate recordkeeping, monitoring, and reporting requirements to ensure compliance with these rules.

DEQ used discretion in developing limitations and monitoring requirements.

What are the known health effects or environmental impacts of the permitted substances disposed of or discharged by Boise?

Groundwater beneath Boise's log yard contains iron and zinc at concentrations that exceed water quality standards for protection of fresh water aquatic species.

How are the permitted substances measured?

The proposed permit requires self-monitoring. Monitoring must be conducted according to test procedures approved under 40 CFR Part 136, unless other test procedures have been specified in this permit.

Compliance history:

The facility was inspected on April 3, 2001, June 25, 2002 and August 19, 2002. No violations were noted during the inspections.

On May 4, 2005, DEQ inspected the facility and documented four violations. On May 27, 2005, DEQ issued NON ERP-05-030 for three violations of a Special Permit (issued September 3, 2004) and one violation of the individual permit. The Special Permit violations were: land application of unauthorized wastewater (Class II), exceedance of a potential evapotranspiration rate (Class II) and creation of ponding conditions during land application (Class II). Class I violations are considered to be the most serious violations; Class III violations are the least serious. The individual permit violation was failure to submit a Water Quality Analysis Report in violation of a compliance schedule (Class I). The violations have been addressed.

The facility was inspected on July 7, 2005 and June 28, 2006. No violations were noted during the inspections.

On July 13, 2010, DEQ issued Pre-Enforcement Notice (PEN) ERP-10-057 for an unpermitted

discharge of wastewater to waters of the State. A pipe bridge across Phillips Creek failed and an unmeasured amount of wastewater was released to the creek. It was a Class I violation for which Boise paid an \$1800 civil penalty.

DEQ inspected the facility on Sept. 13, 2011. No violations were documented during the inspection.

What are the special conditions of this permit?

The proposed permit has special conditions pertaining to land application of wastewater.

What other DEQ permits are required?

The facility has an Air Quality permit and an industrial waste landfill permit.

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

None.

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

Boise operates a lumber mill in La Grande and a particleboard manufacturing plant in Island City.

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 WPCF 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 800-452-4011; fax 503-229-6762; or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.

People with hearing impairments may call 711.