

Public Notice - Request for Comments

Proposed Renewal of NPDES Permit for the Rockaway Beach Sewage Treatment Plant, Rockaway Beach, OR

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 wastewater for discharge to surface waters or for land application produced at a regulated facility.

Written Comments due:

5 p.m., March 13, 2012

Where can I send my comments?

Nancy Stellmach, Permit Coordinator
(503) 229-5438 or 800-452-4011 (toll free)
Fax: (503) 229-6957
DEQ NW Region
2020 SW 4th Ave, Suite 400
Portland, OR 97201
stellmach.nancy@deq.state.or.us

Where can I get technical information?

Michael Pinney, Senior Environmental Engineer
(503) 229-5310 or 800-452-4011 (toll free)
Fax: (503) 229-6957
DEQ NW Region
2020 SW 4th Ave, Suite 400
Portland, OR 97201
pinney.mike@deq.state.or.us

Where can I get background information?

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

[Draft Permit](#)

[Draft Evaluation Report/Fact Sheet](#)

You can review hard copies of the draft permit and related documents at the nearest DEQ office in Portland. For a review appointment, call Paula Carson at (503) 229-5161.

What is proposed?

DEQ proposes to renew an NPDES permit for the Rockaway Beach Sewage Treatment Plant to discharge to the Pacific Ocean 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 is not proposing changes to the concentrations or loadings of parameters subject to limits in the renewal permit.

Permit expiration

Oregon law requires facilities with a NPDES permit to renew that permit every five years. Upon renewal, this permit will be effective for five years, expiring in 2016.

Who is the applicant?

The City of Rockaway Beach
PO Box 5
Rockaway Beach, OR 97136

Where is the facility located?

Rockaway Beach STP
401 S 3rd Ave
Rockaway Beach, OR 97136

Who might have an interest?

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

What does the Rockaway Beach Sewage Treatment Plant do that affects water quality?

The Rockaway Beach Sewage Treatment Plant collects and treats municipal wastewater from residents and businesses in the area of Rockaway Beach. The wastewater is treated and discharged via pipeline 3,200 feet offshore into the Pacific Ocean.

What legal requirements apply?

Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 468B and Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Chapter 340 Division 45 gives 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 facility, the type and amount of wastewater produced, 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.



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Northwest Region Water Quality

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Contact: Michael Pinney
E-mail:
pinney.mike@deq.state.or.us

www.oregon.gov/DEQ

If you received a hard copy of this notice in the mail, please consider receiving updates via e-mail instead. Send your request to:
subscriptions@deq.state.or.us

Please include your full name, e-mail address and mailing address so that we can purge you from our print mailing list, thus saving trees and taxpayer dollars.

Notice Issued: February 7, 2012
By: Mike Pinney

What are the known health effects or environmental impacts of the treated effluent discharged by Rockaway Beach Sewage Treatment Plant into the Pacific Ocean

Within the permitted amounts in the permitted discharge area, there should be no negative effects of the effluent discharge.

How are the permitted substances measured?

Permitted substances are sampled and measured at predetermined frequencies in an accredited laboratory. Should a measurement exceed a permitted amount, a protocol is followed to determine the cause of the violation and action to correct the fault. DEQ is notified and involved in all permit violations.

Compliance history:

There were no violations during the past permit cycle.

What are the special conditions of this permit?

There are no extraordinary special conditions required of this permittee.

What other DEQ permits are required?

none

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

none

What other information about this Sewage Treatment Plant is related to this permit?

See Evaluation Report for details.

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 Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service at (800) 735-2900.

