Community Development Department
315 Kennel Avenue, PO Box 248, Molalla, Oregon 97038
Phone: (503) 759-0205

Website Posting

Jan 3, 2024

Based on information at the time of required posting, the City experienced no violation of the NPDES Permit conditions (as modified by the March 2021 MAO) for the month of December 2023.

Effluent did exceed unmodified NPDES limits as follow:

Monthly Average BOD5 concentration (limit 10 mg/L): 11 mg/L
Monthly Average BOD5 Loading (limit 160 lbs): 192 lbs
Weekly Average BOD5 concentration (limit 15 mg/L): 17 mg/L on 12/3-12/9
Weekly Average BOD5 Loading (limit 240 lbs): 272lbs on 12/3-12/9

Decembers DEQ Correspondence attached below:

RE: Additional Testing

SK

Seth Kelly
To 'CANNON George * DEQ'
Cc 'Mike.PINNEY@deq.oregon.gov'; 'YELTON-BRAM Tiffany * DEQ'

Reply | Reply All | Forward

Tue 12/5/2023 1:50 PM

Hi Seth,

I am gotten some feedback from my support team about your facility. I have a couple of questions and I can get the response sent out.

You're working towards constructing a new facility. Is that facility also going to be a lagoon system? Is your new facility being proposed as a continuous discharge system, as in year round discharging?

My apologies for the delay, this time of year things tend to slow down with people on holidays and such.

Best,
George

George Cannon, EIT
Permit Developer
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Permitting and Program Development
700 NE Multnomah St., Suite #600 Portland, OR 97232
Phone: 503.734.9843
Email: George.CANNON@deq.oregon.gov

From: Seth Kelly <skelly@cityofmolalla.com>
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 3:31 PM
To: CANNON George * DEQ <George.CANNON@deq.oregon.gov>
Subject: Additional Testing

Hi George,

I just wanted to check in and see if there was an update on the additional testing requested for Molalla's new NPDES Permit work.

Respectfully,

Seth Kelly, Molalla WWTP Manager

RE: Additional Testing

CG

CANNON George * DEQ <George.CANNON@deq.oregon.gov>
To Seth Kelly
Cc PINNEY Mike * DEQ; YELTON-BRAM Tiffany * DEQ

Reply | Reply All | Forward | ...

Tue 12/5/2023 1:58 PM

Follow up. Start by Tuesday, December 5, 2023. Due by Tuesday, December 5, 2023.

Hi Seth,

Thanks for providing this additional information. I will work this into my response email to you regarding the additional monitoring from the facility. You should be seeing that email soon.

Best,
George

George Cannon, EIT
Permit Developer
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Permitting and Program Development
700 NE Multnomah St., Suite #600 Portland, OR 97232
Phone: 503.734.9843
Email: George.CANNON@deq.oregon.gov

From: Seth Kelly <skelly@cityofmolalla.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 1:50 PM
To: CANNON George * DEQ <George.CANNON@deq.oregon.gov>
Cc: PINNEY Mike * DEQ <Mike.PINNEY@deq.oregon.gov>; YELTON-BRAM Tiffany * DEQ <Tiffany.YELTON-BRAM@deq.oregon.gov>
Subject: RE: Additional Testing

Hi George,

No, the new Wastewater Treatment Plant Will be an Sequencing Batch Reactor w/ Final Effluent Storage Pond. I have CC'd Mike Pinney and Tiffany Yelton-Bram in the email as well because I know that they are familiar with what we are going to be building and what we are looking for in our new Permit. We would love a year-round allocation to the Molalla River, But we are mostly concerned to have a May, June, and October allocation to Discharge effluent waters to the Molalla River.

Respectfully,

Seth Kelly, Molalla WWTP Manager
12424 S Toliver Rd. |Molalla, OR 97038

RE: Monitoring Request: Molalla STP PN 101514

CG

CANNON George * DEQ <George.CANNON@deq.oregon.gov>
To Seth Kelly; Mac Corthell
Cc YELTON-BRAM Tiffany * DEQ; PINNEY Mike * DEQ; NAVARRO Jeffrey * DEQ; BODNAR Rebecca * DEQ; BAILEY Randall * DEQ

Reply | Reply All | Forward

Tue 12/5/2023 2:41 PM

This message is part of a tracked conversation. Click here to find all related messages or to open the original flagged message.

PDF 101514-LTR-MonitoringLetterMolallaRevisedSigned-20231205.pdf
422 KB

Action Items

Hi Seth,

This email is in response to our phone call on Thursday November 30th.

The request for additional monitoring was derived from a draft analysis of the facility's effluent which showed reasonable potential (RP) for exceeding the water quality standards of the parameters listed in the letter. The analysis was performed using the 4 Tier I toxics sample data that the facility had provided to us. When reviewing a permittee's facility, if a water quality parameter shows RP at end of pipe Tier II toxics monitoring is triggered for the specific parameters. This is beneficial to the facility because it allows time for more samples to be taken and submitted to DEQ for analysis. When a smaller sample pool (4 samples) is used for permit renewal, conservative multipliers are used which could cause a new effluent limit to be imposed.

The CopperBLM data that the facility has been submitting will be used in the permit renewal process. In fact, many of the parameters collected during the CopperBLM sampling are used in many different analyses within the permit renewal process.

One question you had asked me during our call on the 30th was if you needed to collect any Toxics samples that are related to the Monitoring Request Letter during your facility's special discharge times (May, June, October). I have consulted with my team, and we have determined that this requested sampling would be applicable to your special discharge situation and should be taken during these special discharge months. If you do collect samples during these special summertime discharge months, please submit the data with the January 2025-TX due date.

I have attached a revised Monitoring Request Letter that contains revised submission dates based on your facility's seasonal discharge schedule. This letter supersedes the letter dated 11/28/2023.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Best,
George

George Cannon, EIT
Permit Developer
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Permitting and Program Development
700 NE Multnomah St., Suite #600 Portland, OR 97232
Phone: 503.734.9843
Email: George.CANNON@deq.oregon.gov

Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality
Agency Headquarters/Water Quality
700 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 600
Portland, OR 97232
(503) 229-5696
FAX (503) 229-6124
TTY 711

December 5, 2023

Macahan Cortell
City of Molalla
PO Box 248
Molalla, OR 97038

RE: Request for Supplemental Information/Data
Molalla STP
NPDES Permit #101514, EPA # OR0022381
File # 57613

Dear Macahan Cortell:

DEQ has scheduled the facility's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit (#101514) for renewal in 2024. DEQ has reviewed the associated information that we have in the facility's NPDES file. Based on this review, DEQ has determined that supplemental information is necessary to fully evaluate the facility's site specific conditions and proceed with the renewal of the permit. DEQ is requiring that you collect and submit this supplemental information as noted below.

This letter is an amendment to the Monitoring Request Letter dated 11/28/2023. This letter contains updated reporting dates as outlined in the Toxic Pollutants attachment.

A listing of the required information follows:

- Ambient Monitoring: Molalla River. **Beginning January 2024 and continuing until permit renewal**. To be submitted with permittee's regular monthly DMR

Parameter	Frequency	Type of Sample
Ammonia	Monthly when discharging	Grab

- Toxic Pollutants (Please see attachment for detailed information on monitoring and reporting requirements)

Ammonia must be analyzed with a quantitation limit no greater than 0.02 mg/L. All methods used must comply with 40 CFR 136. Unless otherwise approved by DEQ in writing, the requested information must be submitted in electronic format via NetDMR by 5:00PM on the dates specified in the attachment. Ammonia monitoring must be submitted as part of the regular monthly NetDMR submission. The toxic pollutants information must be submitted as noted in the attachment.

DEQ is requiring this information pursuant to Schedule F, Condition D.7 of the facility's NPDES permit and OAR 340-045-0030(5)(b). While DEQ may consider timely requests for extensions or modifications to this request, as the permit holder you may be subject to certain actions if you do not submit the requested information to DEQ. These actions may include:

- Renewal with permit effluent limits based on conservative assumptions, default values
- Effluent limits without the consideration of a mixing zone
- Civil penalties

The laboratory quantitation limits (QLs) (adjusted for any dilutions) for analyses performed must be at or below the QLs specified in DEQ's list of quantitation limits (https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/Documents/001-LIST-QL.pdf) unless one of the conditions below is met.

i. The monitoring result shows a detect above the laboratory reported QL.

ii. The monitoring result indicates non-detect at a Detection Limit which is less than the QL.

iii. The QL has the lowest sensitivity of the analytical methods specified in 40 CFR 136

iv. Matrix effects are present that prevent the attainment of QLs and these matrix effects are demonstrated according to procedures described in EPA's "Solutions to Analytical Chemistry Problems with Clean Water Act Methods", March 2007. If using alternative methods and taking appropriate steps to eliminate matrix effects does not eliminate the matrix problems, DEQ may authorize in writing re-sampling or allow a higher QL to be reported.

Please contact (George.Cannon@deq.oregon.gov (503) 734-9843) within two weeks of the date of this letter if you would like to request an extension or modifications to this request, or if you have questions regarding the information requested.

Sincerely,

Tcm: Tiffany Yelton-Bram, DEQ Portland Office
cc: Michael Pinney, DEQ Portland Office
ec: J.W. Ring JWRing@ringbenderlaw.com
cc: Mark P. Strandberg MStrandberg@ringbenderlaw.com

ATTACHMENT

Toxic Pollutant Monitoring Requirements

The permittee must collect and analyze effluent and ambient samples for the parameters listed in the tables below. The monitoring must start in **January 2024 and continue monthly while the permittee is discharging until either all prescribed sampling events have been collected or the permit is renewed**. See the tables below for the number of requested sampling events.

For Mercury (total) it is recommended that EPA Method 1631 is used in conjunction with EPA sampling method 1669 to be able to obtain the recommended QL and prevent sample contamination.

Effluent samples must be 24 hour composites collected either via autosampler or a composite of discrete grab samples, except where specified in the tables below for free cyanide, and volatile organic compounds. Ambient samples must be grab samples. Ambient samples must be taken in a location outside of the influence of the effluent using appropriate sampling techniques and procedures. It is the responsibility of the permittee to ensure safe and practical sampling techniques and procedures are used. DEQ recommends that these procedures be included in a sample and analysis plan that can be reviewed by DEQ when necessary.

Each data set must be reported to DEQ, in DEQ Electronic Data Delivery[1] format on **4/15/2024, 7/15/2024, 1/15/2025, and 4/15/2025.** The data must be submitted electronically via NetDMR.

5 Ambient Samples – Metals

(µg/L unless otherwise specified)

Pollutant **See note a.**	**CAS** **See note b.**
Thallium (total)	7440280
Mercury (total)	7439976
Mercury Equipment Blank see note c.	–

Notes:

a. The term "total" used in reference to metals is intended to cover all EPA-accepted standard digestion methods and is considered to be equivalent to the term "total recoverable".
b. Chemical Abstract Service
c. Due to known issues with sample contamination, an equipment blank must be collected with mercury samples and reported as part of the data submission.

3 Effluent Samples – Metals

(µg/L unless otherwise specified)

Pollutant **See note a.**	**CAS** **See note b.**
Thallium (total)	7440280

Pollutant See note a.	CAS See note b.
Mercury (total)	7439976
Mercury Equipment Blank see note c.	–

Notes:

a. The term "total" used in reference to metals is intended to cover all EPA-accepted standard digestion methods and is considered to be equivalent to the term "total recoverable".
b. Chemical Abstract Service
c. Due to known issues with sample contamination, an equipment blank must be collected with mercury samples and reported as part of the data submission.

8 Effluent Samples – Cyanide

(µg/L unless otherwise specified)

Pollutant See note a.	CAS See note b.
Cyanide (Free) See note c. & d.	57125

Notes:

a. The term "total" used in reference to metals is intended to cover all EPA-accepted standard digestion methods and is considered to be equivalent to the term "total recoverable".
b. Chemical Abstract Service
c. There are multiple approved methods for testing for free cyanide. For more information, refer to DEQ's analytical memo on the subject of cyanide monitoring at https://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/sToxicscyanide.pdf
d. Cyanide (free and total) must be collected as a grab sample according to 40 CFR 122. Twenty-four hour composite samples are not required for this analyte.

8 Effluent Samples - Volatile Organic Compounds

(µg/L unless otherwise specified)

Pollutant See note a.	CAS	Pollutant See note a.	CAS
Acrolein See note k.	107028	1,2-trans-dichloroethylene See note d.	156605
Acrylonitrile See note k.	107131	1,1-dichloroethylene See note e.	75354
Benzene	71432	1,2-dichloropropane	78875
Bromoform	75252	1,3-dichloropropylene See note f.	542756
Carbon Tetrachloride	56235	Ethylbenzene	100414
Chlorobenzene	108907	Methyl Bromide See note g.	74839
Chlorodibromomethane See note b.	124481	Methyl Chloride See note h.	74873
Chloroethane	75003	Methylene Chloride	75092
2-Chloroethylvinyl Ether See note k.	110758	1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane	79345
Chloroform	67663	Tetrachloroethylene See note i.	127184
Dichlorobromomethane See note c.	75274	Toluene	108883

1,2-Dichlorobenzene (o)	95501	1,1,1-trichloroethane	71556
1,3-Dichlorobenzene (m)	541731	1,1,2-trichloroethane	79005
1,4-Dichlorobenzene (p)	106467	Trichloroethylene See note j.	79016
1,1-dichloroethane	75343	Vinyl Chloride	75014
1,2-dichloroethane	107062		

Notes:

a. VOCs must be collected as a grab sample according to 40 CFR 122. Twenty-four hour composite samples are not required for these analytes.
b. Chlorodibromomethane is identified as Dibromochloromethane in 40 CFR 136.3, Table 1C.
c. Dichlorobromomethane is identified as Bromodichloromethane in 40 CFR 136.3, Table 1C.
d. 1,2-Trans-dichloroethylene is identified as Trans-1,2-dichloroethene in 40 CFR 136.3, Table 1C.
e. 1,1-Dichloroethylene is identified as 1,1-Dichloroethene in 40 CFR 136.3, Table 1C.
f. 1,3-Dichloropropylene consists of both cis-1,3-Dichloropropene and Trans-1,3-dichloropropene. Both should be reported individually.
g. Methyl bromide is identified as Bromomethane in 40 CFR 136.3, Table 1C.
h. Methyl chloride is identified as Chloromethane in 40 CFR 136.3, Table 1C.
i. Tetrachloroethylene is identified as Tetrachloroethene in 40 CFR 136.3, Table 1C.
j. Trichloroethylene is identified as Trichloroethene in 40 CFR 136.3, Table 1C.
k. Acrolein, Acrylonitrile, and 2-Chloroethylvinyl ether must be tested from an unacidified sample.

5 Ambient Samples - Base-Neutral Compounds

(µg/L unless otherwise specified)

Pollutant	CAS
Bis (2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	117817
Equipment Blank see note a	–

Notes:

a. Due to known issues of sample contamination with phthalates, an equipment blank must be collected with Base Neutral compound samples and reported as part of the data submission.

2 Effluent Samples - Base-Neutral Compounds

(µg/L unless otherwise specified)

Pollutant	CAS
Bis (2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	117817
Equipment Blank see note a	–

Notes:

a. Due to known issues of sample contamination with phthalates, an equipment blank must be collected with Base Neutral compound samples and reported as part of the data submission.

[1] Electronic Data Delivery (EDD) format and submission information is available here: https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/wqpermits/Pages/Electronic-Data-Delivery-for-Toxics-Data.aspx

From: PLUNK Chance * DEQ <Chance.PLUNK@deq.oregon.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 22, 2023 2:37 PM
To: Mac Corthell <mcorthell@cityofmolalla.com>
Cc: Joe Thompson <jt@pacifichabitat.com>
Subject: DEQ Water Quality Review Questions for Proposed Wastewater Facilities Upgrades project (USACE # 2022-00131 / DSL # 64622)

Dear Macahan Corthell.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has received a water quality review request for the Proposed Wastewater Facilities Upgrades project, identified by DEQ Submittal# 66614, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers # 2022-131, and Department of State Lands permit # 64622. Thank you for submitting your application materials to DEQ through *Your DEQ Online*. DEQ will use the application materials and the responses to the comments below to evaluate this project for a mutual agreement and order in lieu of permit (MAO). A draft decision document will be put on public notice for 30 days prior to issuance.

Based on the materials received, DEQ understands that City of Molalla proposes to impact approximately 0.16 acre of wetlands by excavating approximately 197 cubic yards and discharging approximately 365 cubic yards of fill material adjacent to drainage systems that discharge to the Bear Creek in order to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant to meet requirements of the City's National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System permit, creating approximately 1.39 acres (ac) of new impervious surface area on a 7.67 ac site in the Willamette Basin.

The project site is located on wetlands adjacent to the Bear Creek, in Molalla, in Clackamas County, Oregon (Section 7, Township 5 South, Range 2 East).

DEQ requests that the applicant review the following and respond within 30 days of this message:

1. The applicant will be charged at the Tier 2A level of $4,390 per OAR 340-048-0055. A review fee has been applied to your project through *Your DEQ Online*. Payment can be made through an ACH transfer, credit card, or by mailing in a check. If you choose to pay via check, please refer to additional instructions on pages 18-19 of the 401 Program's User Guide. Please note that as of July 1, 2022 a 4% technology fee will be applied to all 401 project reviews as part of an agency-wide policy to cover operation and maintenance costs of Your DEQ Online. More information regarding this fee can be found here.

2. The Bear Creek at river mile 8.64 is classified as water quality limited under the Federal Clean Water Act and is listed on the Section 303(d) list of impaired water bodies for the

2. The Bear Creek at river mile 8.64 is classified as water quality limited under the Federal Clean Water Act and is listed on the Section 303(d) list of impaired water bodies for the parameters of temperature and biocriteria.

   In addition, the entire Willamette Basin has a TMDL for all perennial streams and fish-bearing intermittent streams for bacteria and mercury.

   The above listed parameters impair the following beneficial uses in the Bear Creek: fish and aquatic life. Additional beneficial uses include: public domestic water supply, private domestic water supply, industrial water supply, irrigation, livestock watering, wildlife and hunting, fishing, boating, water contact recreation, aesthetic quality, and hydropower.

   Please specify how the listed TMDLs, 303(d) listed impairments, and beneficial uses will not be further impacted as a result of this proposed project.

3. The applicant is required to consider and describe potential water quality impacts which could result from implementing the proposal, evaluate whether the proposal would cause or contribute to violations of each applicable water quality standard adopted pursuant to OAR Chapter 340 division 041, and identify actions to avoid or mitigate degradation of water quality.

   Please explain how the project will not modify surface water quality as it relates to the following criteria:

   a. Statewide Narrative Criteria
   b. Bacteria
   c. Biocriteria
   d. Dissolved Oxygen
   e. Nuisance Phytoplankton Growth
   f. pH
   g. Temperature
   h. Total Dissolved Gas
   i. Total Dissolved Solids
   j. Toxic Substances

j. Toxic Substances
k. Turbidity
l. Basin-Specific Criteria
m. Antidegradation

4. Prior to construction, the applicant may be required to obtain an NPDES 1200-C construction stormwater general permit if total ground disturbance, including staging activities, is one (1) acre or greater. For more information, please refer to the DEQ Stormwater Program's submission guidelines here.

5. If mitigation is required for stream and/or wetland impacts, please submit the mitigation plan.

6. This project appears to include the addition or redevelopment of impervious surface areas; therefore, the applicant must submit a post construction stormwater plan and submission form to DEQ. Please refer to DEQ submission guidelines here. A copy of the stormwater submission form is attached in this message.

7. Although a JPA has been submitted DEQ may request additional information to determine if the proposal meets water quality standards and compliance with applicable rules and regulations.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Chance Plunk

Basin Specialist – DEQ Western Region
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
4026 Fairview Industrial Dr. SE
Salem, OR 97302
Mobile: 541-972-5463