

Memo

To: NWR Files.

From: David Cole.

Date: 7/8/2015.

Subject: Molalla field inspection report.



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

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On July 7, 2015, Pat Heins, Derek Gill and myself performed an inspection of the City of Molalla's Sewage Treatment Plant's recycled water land application activities.

Our first stop was the bridge over Bear Creek at the facility entrance. Upstream from the bridge, no water was flowing in Bear Creek (see photo 1). Downstream of the bridge was a pool of water, with no apparent flow (see photo 2). While we were observing the condition of Bear Creek at this location, the plant operator, Jason Clifford, came out to talk with us. We explained we were out to observe the recycled water land application activities. He told us that some city personnel were out tending to the lines, and that we were likely to encounter them. He said for us to feel free and ask him any questions we might have, at any time. We thanked him and proceeded to the Coleman Ranch North property for more observations.



Photo 1. Bear Creek, upstream of the bridge at the facility entrance.



Photo 2. Bear Creek, downstream of the bridge at the facility entrance. The pool of water had no apparent flow.

We parked on 4th Street at Mathias Road, and walked the ditch line on the western edge of the Coleman Ranch North property. Here we observed hand line irrigation taking place in the field (see photos 3 and 4). The drainage ditch along this side of the property was dry (see photo 5).

At the northeast corner of the property, where a culvert crosses under the road, we saw water flowing from the property into the culvert (see photo 6). This is the Creamery Creek drainage channel.



Photo 3. Coleman Ranch North, view to the east.



Photo 4. Coleman Ranch North, telephoto view.



Photo 5. Dry ditch along west side of Coleman Ranch North property.



Photo 6. Water flowing from NE corner of Coleman Ranch North property into culvert.

We continued on to Feyrer Park Road, separating the Coleman Ranch North property from Coleman Ranch South. From several pull-outs in the road, we could see one of the "big guns" (water cannons), spraying water near the middle part of the south end of the south property. Farther east on Feyrer Park Road we saw the other big gun spraying water near the northeast corner of the north property.

We continued east on Feyrer Park Road, which led us down to river level and the location of the facility's dechlorination and effluent sampling building. From there, a buried discharge pipe leads underground to the outfall in the river, just beyond the trees visible from the locked gate near the building.

On our way back, we saw a city truck at the entrance to the Coleman Ranch North property. We stopped and talked with the city personnel (James and Nikki). We told them about the water we saw flowing from the Creamery Creek channel, at the northeast corner of the Coleman Ranch North property, where a culvert leads under the road and discharges to the west, off site. They said they might turn off the hand lines near that area and see if the water flowing from the property into the culvert stops. We said if they take that action we'd like to know the outcome.

At that point our inspection was done and we drove back to NWR.

