



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality  
Eastern Region Pendleton Office  
800 SE Emigrant Ave., Suite 330  
Pendleton, OR 97801  
(541) 276-4062

February 26, 2024

Jason Thomas  
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation  
79772 S Fork Walla Walla River Rd.  
Milton-Freewater, OR 97862

RE: **Walla Walla River Fish Hatchery, 2024-PEN-8930, Corrective Actions Completion**  
Confederated Tribes of Umatilla – Walla Walla River Hatchery  
NDPES permit # 103227  
WQ file #126275  
WQ – Umatilla County

Dear Mr. Thomas,

The Walla Walla Fish Hatchery (NPDES Permit No. 103227) was issued a Pre-Enforcement Notice (2024-PEN-8930) on January 31, 2024. The PEN provided details about 253 violations reported by the facility over a time spanning August 2021 – December 2023. The letter also provided corrective actions related to the violations. The corrective actions are as follows:

1. By **March 15, 2024**, the facility must submit a DMR excel attachment for approval by DEQ. The excel attachment must include the following:
  - a. Identifying information for the facility, including: permit number, file number, facility address, contact information, monitoring period, signature of certified staff and date.
  - b. Monitoring data, including: date of sample, sample type, units of measurement, reported value, accurate summary statistics and calculations for determining summary statistics (refer to Schedule A, Table A2, notes a – c, of the NPDES permit for Excess Thermal Load calculations and Appendix 1 for further information)

Submit a copy of the excel spreadsheet for approval to::

Shane Cossel (541) 971-263-1095

[Shane.Cossel@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:Shane.Cossel@deq.oregon.gov)

Anna Morgan-Hayes 541-246-4562

[Anna.Morgan-Hayes@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:Anna.Morgan-Hayes@deq.oregon.gov)

2. By **May 1, 2024**, the facility must resubmit DMRs with corrected information and appropriate DEQ-approved excel attachments and correct significant figures, for the following monitoring periods: **August 2021 to March 2024**. DEQ’s Internal Management Directive for Significant Figures: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Filtered%20Library/SigFigsIMD.pdf>). DEQ will conduct a follow-up compliance review to determine additional enforcement action if needed.
3. By **January 15, 2025**, the facility must submit quarterly monitoring (Q4 of 2024) for Walla Walla River (receiving water), as described in Schedule B, Table B5 of the NPDES permit in NetDMR.

On February 9, 2024, facility staff submitted a revised DMR spreadsheet attachment, as required in Corrective Action #1 (above). DEQ met with facility to staff to discuss needed changes determining that the spreadsheet was sufficient for Discharge Monitoring Report (DMRs) resubmittals and satisfies Corrective Action #1, with the following condition:

- Ensure all summary statistics calculation formulas embedded in the spreadsheet for daily maximum values do not include previous months data. While 7-day averages are calculated using the previous month’s data, summary statistics should report only values of the reporting month.

On February 22, 2024, facility staff submitted a final DMR spreadsheet, including the needed change.

On February 20, 2024, the facility resubmitted quarterly receiving water monitoring results for Q4 of 2023, which had previously been cited as a failure to collect data:

Monitoring Period	Violation	Violation Class	Number of Violations
Q4 of 2023 due January 15, 2024	The facility failed to collect quarterly receiving water monitoring for BOD <sub>5</sub> , as required by Schedule B of the permit. Failing to collect monitoring data is a violation; OAR 340-012-0055(1)(o).	I	1
Q4 of 2023 due January 15, 2024	The facility failed to collect quarterly receiving water monitoring for dissolved oxygen, as required by Schedule B of the permit. Failing to collect monitoring data is a violation; OAR 340-012-0055(1)(o).	I	1
Q4 of 2023 due January 15, 2024	The facility failed to collect quarterly receiving water monitoring for Ammonia,	I	1

Monitoring Period	Violation	Violation Class	Number of Violations
	as required by Schedule B of the permit. Failing to collect monitoring data is a violation; OAR 340-012-0055(1)(o).		
Q4 of 2023 due January 15, 2024	The facility failed to collect quarterly receiving water monitoring for CaCO <sub>3</sub> , as required by Schedule B of the permit. Failing to collect monitoring data is a violation; OAR 340-012-0055(1)(o).	I	1
Q4 of 2023 due January 15, 2024	The facility failed to collect quarterly receiving water monitoring for TKN, as required by Schedule B of the permit. Failing to collect monitoring data is a violation; OAR 340-012-0055(1)(o).	I	1

The results submitted have been reviewed and are complete, and the updated information will be provided to DEQ’s Office of Compliance and Enforcement.

**Remaining Corrective Action:**

- By **May 1, 2024**, the facility must resubmit DMRs with corrected information and appropriate DEQ-approved excel attachments and correct significant figures, for the following monitoring periods: **August 2021 to March 2024**. DEQ’s Internal Management Directive for Significant Figures: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Filtered%20Library/SigFigsIMD.pdf>). DEQ will conduct a follow-up compliance review to determine additional enforcement action if needed.

DEQ appreciates the facility’s continued effort and compliance related to the NPDES permit. Please review Schedule C of your assigned NPDES permit for needed upcoming compliance actions, including the final effluent limitations for Excess Thermal Loads due May 15, 2026.

If you have any questions, please contact me in writing, at [anna.morgan-hayes@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:anna.morgan-hayes@deq.oregon.gov), or at 541-278-4615.

Sincerely,



Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Walla Walla River Hatchery  
February 26, 2024  
Page 4 of 4

Anna Morgan-Hayes  
Water Quality Permitting and Compliance

cc: Jen Krajcik, Artificial Production Supervisor, CTUIR Department of Natural Resources  
Ryan Ashcraft, Fish Hatchery Assistant Manager, Walla Walla River Fish Hatchery  
ec: Mike Hiatt, Water Quality Manager, Eastern Region, DEQ  
Shane Cossel, Water Quality, Eastern Region, DEQ  
Oregon Records Management Solution