



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

Western Region Salem Office

4026 Fairview Industrial Dr SE

Salem, OR 97302

(503) 378-8240

FAX (503) 373-7944

TTY 711

April 18, 2024

Ray Davenport, Operator
Gardiner Sanitary District
PO Box 217
Gardiner, OR 97441-0217

Re: Warning Letter
Gardiner Sanitary District
2024-WL-9230
File 31890
WQ-Douglas County

Dear Mr. Davenport,

DEQ has reviewed the sanitary sewer overflow report received on March 7, 2024. The SSO you reported had 8,000 gallons spill between March 1-3, 2024. The overflow occurred near the intersection of Mound and Front Streets.

You reported this SSO to OERS within 24 hours of becoming aware of the SSO. The reported cause of the SSO was heavy rains which overburdened the system with reported rainfall of over 2 inches in the 24 hours prior to the SSO. NOAA data for the Gardiner area shows that the one-in-five year, 24-hour duration storm is 5 inches.

Violation

Based on this review DEQ has concluded the Gardiner Sanitary District is responsible for the following violation of Oregon environmental law.

OAR 340-041-0009(7) prohibits the discharge of raw sewage to waters of State during the period of November 1 through May 21, except during a storm event greater than the one-in-five year, 24-hour duration storm. This is a Class I violation per OAR 340-012-0055(1)(c).

Class I violations are the most serious violations; Class III violations are the least serious.

The discharge of improperly disinfected wastewater can pose a public health hazard. Contact with contaminated water can lead to ear or skin infections, and inhalation of contaminated water can cause respiratory diseases.

This notice is a warning letter. DEQ does not intend to take formal enforcement action at this time. However, should you repeat this violation, the matter may be referred to DEQ's Office of

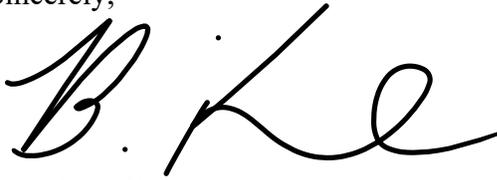
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Compliance and Enforcement for formal enforcement action, including assessment of civil penalties and/or a DEQ order. Civil penalties can be assessed for each day of violation.

If you believe any of the facts in this letter are in error, you may provide information to me at the address shown at the top of this letter by May 20, 2024. I will consider any new information you submit and take appropriate action.

If you have any questions, please contact me in writing at brenda.kuiken@deq.oregon.gov or by phone at (503) 893-0924.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Kuiken', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brenda Kuiken
WQ Compliance Specialist

cc: DEQ Salem Office file

ec: Ranei Nomura, Manager, Western Region DEQ
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