



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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

October 24, 2024

Mouhamad Zaher  
City of St. Helens  
265 Strand Street  
Saint Helens, OR 97051-2039

**CERTIFIED MAIL NO. 7022 1670 0003 2762 5703**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

**RE: Issuance of NPDES Permit no. 101173**  
File no. 84069  
EPA no. OR0020834  
Facility: City of St. Helens Wastewater Treatment Plant, 451 Plymouth St., St. Helens  
Columbia County

Your National Pollutant Disposal Elimination System Permit has been renewed and is enclosed. This permit is DEQ's final action on permit renewal application no. 974206. DEQ received comments during the public notice period and virtual hearing. Changes made to the permit based on public comment are addressed in the response to comments memorandum included with your permit.

Your permit is effective on December 1, 2024. Please read your permit carefully. Compliance with your permit is required at all times.

If you are dissatisfied with the conditions of this permit, you have 20 days to request a hearing before the Environmental Quality Commission or its authorized representative. A request for a hearing must be made in writing and state the grounds for the request. Any hearing will be conducted as a contested case hearing in accordance with ORS 183.413 through 183.470 and OAR chapter 340, division 011. If a hearing is requested, the existing permit continues in effect until a final order is issued.

Please note that your treatment system will need to be supervised by an operator with at least a Grade II Operator Certificate and that your required operator certification levels are no longer listed on the face page of your permit. Pursuant to OAR chapter 340, division 049 your systems are classified as follows:

- Collection System: Class II
- Treatment System: Class II

If changes are made to your systems or if you have additional questions about operator certification requirements, please contact the DEQ Operator Certification program at [opcert@deq.state.or.us](mailto:opcert@deq.state.or.us) , call 503-229-5349, or visit the website: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/wqpermits/Pages/Wastewater-Operator-Certification.aspx>. Current classifications for all systems requiring certified operators may be found at <https://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/opcert/Docs/OpcertReport.pdf>.

If you are interested in upgrading your wastewater treatment infrastructure or need assistance with treatment system design, DEQ's Clean Water State Revolving Fund offers below-market rate loans for qualified applicants to finance the planning, design and construction of water quality improvement projects. DEQ updates interest rates are updated quarterly, and rates vary by loan term, type of loan and community economic conditions. DEQ works with borrowers to ensure access to the best rates available at the time of loan signature. To learn more about eligible water quality projects and application process, please visit the [Clean Water State Revolving Fund website at https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/cwsrf/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/cwsrf/Pages/default.aspx) or call 503-229-LOAN.

If you have any questions about your permit requirements, please contact Mike Pinney at 503-229-5310 or [mike.pinney@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:mike.pinney@deq.oregon.gov).

Sincerely,



Tiffany Yelton-Bram  
Water Quality Manager  
Northwest Region

TYB:th

Enclosure: Permit, Permit Fact Sheet, and Response to Comments

cc: Regional File, Portland DEQ  
Mike Pinney, Portland, DEQ  
Jeff Linzer, Water Quality Division, DEQ  
Rick Scholl, Mayor, City of St. Helens  
Aaron Kunders, City of St. Helens  
WQ Data Crew, DEQ w/permit  
EPA, Seattle /permit  
ORMS  
DEQ Wastewater Operator Certification Program