



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

November 6, 2024

Mike Miller
City of Florence
250 Highway 101
Florence, OR 97439

Re: Warning Letter
City of Florence Domestic Wastewater Treatment
2024-WL-9686
NPDES Permit #101703, EPA ID OR0020745
File 30058
WQ-Lane County

Dear Mr. Miller,

On October 17, 2024, DEQ conducted a compliance evaluation inspection at the City of Florence domestic wastewater treatment facility. The purpose of the inspection was to determine compliance with the conditions of National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit number 101703, issued to the City of Florence with an effective date of May 22, 2014. These findings are summarized below. I have enclosed a copy of the inspection report checklist that provides additional information.

Site Visit

I met with you, Justin Heacock, Senior Wastewater Treatment Operator, and Dafydd Balston, Operator 1. Also present during the inspection was Kenzie Billings, DEQ WQ Senior Environmental Engineer. The plant is operated and maintained well.

Records Review

Records from September 2021 through September 2024 were reviewed in preparation for this inspection. City of Florence has submitted all DMRs on time in NetDMR. DEQ has concluded that City of Florence is responsible for the following violations:

Schedule B Violations

1. Schedule B Table B2 of the permit requires City of Florence to conduct effluent BOD testing two times per week. City of Florence failed to follow testing procedures for the test scheduled for October 18, 2023. Failing to follow test procedures approved under 40 CFR part 136 is a Class II violation per OAR 340-012-0055(2)(d).

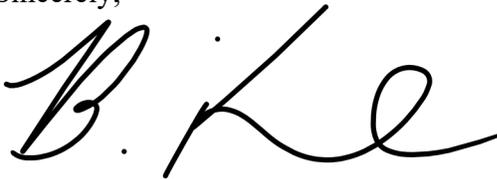
Class I violations are the most serious violations; Class III violations are the least serious. Compliance with your permit is required by Oregon Revised Statute 468B.025(2).

This notice is a warning letter. DEQ does not intend to take formal enforcement action at this time. However, should you repeat any of these violations, the matter may be referred to DEQ's Office of 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 warning letter are in error, you may provide information to me at the office at the address shown at the top of this letter. DEQ will consider the 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
Oregon Records Management Solution
Justin Heacock, Senior Wastewater Treatment Operator