



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

Western Region Salem Office

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Salem, OR 97302

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TTY 711

December 4, 2024

David Buckwald, Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor
City of Yachats
PO Box 345
Yachats, OR 97498

Re: Warning Letter with opportunity to correct
City of Yachats WWTP
2024-WLOTC-9742
NPDES Permit #103001, EPA ID OR0020290
File 99260
WQ- Lincoln County

Dear Mr. Buckwald,

DEQ has reviewed the sanitary sewer overflow report received on November 11, 2024. The SSO reported had 63,000 gallons spilled on November 9, 2024. The overflow left a broken 4" cleanout lid next to the drainage ditch. The sewerage ran directly into a drainage ditch north for 330 feet and then south 180 feet to the Yachats River near 508 Bayview Terrace. The spill area was covered with lime, and estuary beaches were closed to the public while bacteria samples were analysed over the next several days. The beaches were opened to the public after testing showed no increase in bacteria counts in downstream areas.

City of Yachats staff reported this SSO to OERS within 24 hours of becoming aware of the SSO. The reported cause of the SSO was a failure of staff to turn the pumps and alarms system on after completing routine maintenance at the lift station.

Violation

Based on this review DEQ has concluded the City of Yachats is responsible for the following violation of its permit and Oregon environmental law.

City of Yachats allowed the discharge of waste into waters of the state from a point not authorized in the permit. This is a Class I violation per OAR 340-012-0055 (1)(c).

Requested Corrective Actions

The City of Yachats must submit what changes they are making to their standard operating procedures to prevent a reoccurrence of this nature. This SOP should be submitted by December 27, 2024.

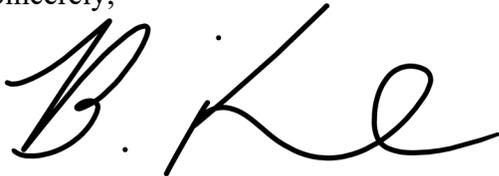
Class I violations are the most serious violations; Class III violations are the least serious. Oregon Revised Statute 468B.025(2) requires compliance with your permit.

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 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
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