

State of Oregon
Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

Date: November 22, 2010

To: Environmental Quality Commission

From: Dick Pedersen, Director

Subject: Agenda item H, Informational item: City of Portland Combined Sewer Overflow Control Program

Purpose of item The city of Portland will report to the commission on the progress of its Combined Sewer Overflow Control Program. The presentation will focus on major current construction activities, the successful functioning of the West Side Willamette CSO facilities and the expected completion of all constructed overflow facilities by December 2011. This item will also introduce the post-2011 CSO Facilities Plan which identifies methods for achieving further reductions in overflow frequency and volume after the expiration of the ASFO. The plan is subject to EQC approval. The city's amended stipulation and final order requires periodic updates to the commission.

Background and summary A large part of Portland is served by a combined sewer system that historically discharged large quantities of untreated sanitary sewage and storm water to the Columbia Slough and the Willamette River during most rain events. Such overflows are a significant public health and water quality concern.

In 1991, the commission and the city entered into a legal agreement through a stipulation and final order that established the framework for a twenty-year combined sewer overflow control program that would drastically reduce overflow frequency and volume. The agreement was amended in 1994.

Now in the final year of the program, the city has made significant progress in controlling overflows. All milestones and requirements of the original and amended stipulation and final order have thus far been met.

The presentation by city staff will summarize accomplishments of the control program and focus on the design and construction of the control facilities for the Willamette sewer basins. The placement of both small and massive collection and conveyance facilities in a densely developed urban setting and complex geological environment has posed significant challenges. The city is on schedule to control all remaining combined sewer overflow outfalls by the mandated deadline of Dec. 1, 2011.

In addition, as the last piece required by the amended stipulation and final order for EQC approval, the city will present a facilities plan that outlines the

methods for reducing overflow event frequency and volumes resulting from possible future development activity that increases impervious area within the city. The presentation will introduce green infrastructure plans to control the stormwater from both existing surfaces as well as from future development. This plan will be presented for final commission action at a future EQC meeting.

Over the course of implementation of the control program, DEQ has maintained close coordination with the city on a host of policy, regulatory and technical matters. DEQ also provides engineering review of the sewerage facilities constructed as part of the city's program.

Attachments

- A. DEQ fact sheet on Portland combined sewer overflows
- B. Post-2011 Combined Sewer Overflow Facilities Plan Executive Summary (City of Portland September 2010)
- C. Summary report from the city to accompany the presentation

Available upon request

- 1994 ASFO and original 1991 agreement
- CSO Management Plan (City of Portland, 1994), or Executive Summary
- CSO Management Plan Update (City of Portland, 2001)
- Numerous engineering and other technical analyses developed as part of the program

Additional resource

The city's Bureau of Environmental Services maintains an informative website about the CSO control program at www.portlandonline.com/bes/

Approved:

Division: _____

Section: _____

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