



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

Western Region Eugene Office

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TTY 711

March 3, 2025

Jason Williams, Public Works Director
City of Lebanon
925 Main Street
Lebanon, OR 97355

Re: Warning Letter
2025-WL-9851
Lebanon Wastewater Treatment Plant
NPDES Permit #101771, EPA ID OR0020818, File 49764
WQ-Linn County

Dear Mr. Williams:

DEQ received the City of Lebanon's 2024 annual biosolids report and noncompliance form on February 23, 2025. The noncompliance report documented that the City miscalculated the agronomic rate for biosolids land application for 2024. Biosolids application exceeded agronomic rates. The error was due to inaccurate representation of the net acreage of the area (field size minus separation distances) where biosolids were land applied.

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) Chapter 468.025(2) requires that no person shall violate conditions of a waste discharge permit. Schedule D, condition 2 requires that all biosolids shall be managed in accordance with their current biosolids management plan approved by DEQ. The City's 2006 Biosolids Management Plan sets the agronomic biosolid land application rate for pasture at 100 lb/acre. Oregon Administrative Rule 340-050-0025(3) requires biosolids land application not exceed the nitrogen loading rate (agronomic loading rate) required for maximum crop yield. OAR 340-050-0035(6)(a) requires the reporting of data on each site that receives solids, which is adequate to characterize solids quality and demonstrate that solids were applied within agronomic loading rates.

DEQ has reviewed the 2024 biosolids report and identified the violation listed below.

Violation

The City violated a management plan established pursuant to a waste discharge permit, which is a Class II violation of Oregon Rule OAR 340-012-0055(3)(b). Class I violations are the most serious, Class III violations are the least serious. Compliance with your permit is required by Oregon Revised Statute 468B.025(2).

Lebanon Warning Letter

Land application of biosolids at a rate more than established agronomic rates can cause leaching of nutrients, including nitrates, beyond the crop's root zone and where the nutrients can negatively impact groundwater.

Corrective action:

1. Obtain soil samples for nutrients in Sommers field in 1 foot increments below ground surface, (example one sample 0" to 12", 12 to 24", 24 to 36, etc.) to the point one foot below the established root zone. Report to DEQ for review the plant available nitrogen in the profile before any biosolids land application on the Sommers field. Refer to the attached document for more information on nutrient parameters and soil sampling.
2. Verify the net acreage for all land application sites (document application acreage of biosolids minus the setbacks) and provide the updated acreages to DEQ for all the land application sites prior to any land application.
3. Submit a final draft biosolids management plan to DEQ by October 15, 2025.

This notice is a warning letter. DEQ does not intend to take formal enforcement action at this time. However, should you fail to submit the requested documentation or 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 letter are in error, you may provide information to me at steve.mcmillan@deq.oregon.gov by March 17. I will consider any new information you submit and take appropriate action.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 541.686.7799.

Sincerely,

Steve McMillan

Steve McMillan, Natural Resource Specialist

cc: Lebanon biosolids file, Eugene DEQ Office

ec: Steven Haney, Lebanon Lead Operator, Ranei Nomura DEQ WR Manager

Lebanon Warning Letter

Soil sampling needed prior to land application of Sommers Field

Parameter	Sample Type	Provide
Carryover nutrients in the 0^{'''} to 12" soil sample, 12^{'''} to 24" soil sample, 24^{'''} to 36" soil sample, (repeat the soil sample at each foot of depth of crop root depth. Also include soil sample in the foot of soil below the rooting depth) 1. Ammonium (NH₄, mg/kg or mg/L) 2. Nitrate + Nitrite (NO₃+NO₂, mg/kg or mg/L) 3. Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN, mg/kg)	Composite soil sample that is representative of the site. At a minimum, the sample must be composite of minimum of 7 distinct locations for each soil type.	Submit total plant available nitrogen DEQ in soil profile
Soil sampling method: https://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pub/ec-628-guide-collecting-soil-samples-farms-gardens		