



PUBLIC NOTICE

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DEQ Requests Comments on Proposed City of The Dalles Water Quality Permit Renewal

HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT

Facility name: City of The Dalles Wastewater Treatment Facility

Permit type: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit – Domestic Major

Comments due by: [Date] at 5 p.m.

Send written comments to:

By mail: Water Quality Permit Coordinator, Oregon DEQ,
800 SE Emigrant Ave., Ste. 330 Pendleton, OR 97801

By email: Water.PermiTER@deq.oregon.gov

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality invites the public to provide written comments on the conditions of the City of The Dalles' proposed water quality permit, known officially as a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit.

Summary

Subject to public review and comment, DEQ intends to renew the proposed water quality permit, which allows The Dalles to discharge wastewater to the Columbia River.

About the facility

The City of The Dalles has applied for a water quality permit renewal for city's wastewater treatment plant located at 105 Laughlin Street in Wasco County. DEQ last renewed this permit in December 2018. The wastewater treatment plant is an activated sludge facility.

The facility discharges to the Columbia River approximately halfway between the river port and the marina, near river mile 185.8. The Columbia River is listed as impaired (category 4 or 5) for several pollutants according to the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-approved integrated report for Oregon. The proposed permit reflects effluent limits established through reasonable potential analysis, best available technology, or the Columbia River Total Maximum Daily Load, or TMDL, for biochemical oxygen demand, total suspended solids, pH, ammonia, thermal load, and bacteria.

The most recent DEQ inspection of the facility was in August 2021. DEQ did identify corrective actions with the city's pretreatment program, during this inspection, which have since been resolved. The facility has had thirty-five water quality violations in the past permit term. The issues related to these past compliance issues have been addressed.

The facility holds no other permits from DEQ.

What types of pollutants does the permit regulate?

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This permit sets conditions for how the facility deals with the following pollutants: biochemical oxygen demand, total suspended solids, pH, ammonia, thermal load, and bacteria.

DEQ also requires the permittee to maintain a biosolids management plan. The facility treats wastewater solids to produce Class B biosolids for beneficial reuse on agricultural lands located in Wasco and Sherman counties. The biosolids program including the beneficial use sites are described in the biosolids management plan.

Would the draft permit change the amount of pollution the facility is allowed to release?

Yes. The draft permit would include new limits for the pollutants identified below.

Pollutant	Change
pH	More stringent lower limit
Ammonia	new
Thermal Load (June 1 – October 31)	new

How did DEQ determine permit requirements?

DEQ evaluates types and amounts of pollutants and the water quality of the surface water or groundwater where the pollutants are proposed to be discharged and determines permit requirements to ensure the proposed discharges will meet applicable statutes, rules, regulations and effluent guidelines of Oregon and the Clean Water Act.

DEQ relied solely on these documents and made no other discretionary decisions for the permit action.

How does DEQ monitor compliance with the permit requirements?

This permit will require the facility to monitor pollutants discharged using approved monitoring practices and standards. DEQ reviews the facility's discharge monitoring reports to check for compliance with permit limits.

What happens next?

Submit comments by sending an email or using mail service addressed to the permit coordinator listed in the "how to provide public comment" box above.

DEQ will hold a public hearing if it receives written requests for a hearing during the public comment period from at least 10 people or from an organization representing at least 10 people.

DEQ will consider and respond to all comments received and may modify the proposed permit based on comments.

For more information

Find more information by reviewing draft permit documents attached to this notice or contact the permit coordinator at Water.Permits@deq.oregon.gov or Patty Isaak at 541-613-1125 with questions or to view documents in person at a DEQ office.

Non-discrimination statement

DEQ does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex in administration of its programs or activities. Visit DEQ's [Civil Rights and Environmental Justice page](#).