



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

## Department of Environmental Quality

### Agency Headquarters

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March 6, 2025

Steve Nipp  
Reworld Marion, Inc.  
4850 Brooklake Road NE  
Brooks, OR 97305  
*Sent via email only*

Steve Nipp,

Reworld Marion, Inc. (Reworld Marion), formerly known as “Covanta Marion, Inc.,” was called in to Cleaner Air Oregon (CAO) on August 13, 2020. DEQ approved Reworld’s CAO Emissions Inventory (Inventory) on November 7, 2023, and Reworld submitted a CAO Modeling Protocol (Protocol) and Risk Assessment Work Plan (Work Plan) on December 6, 2023. In accordance with [Oregon Administrative Rule \(OAR\) 340-245-0030\(2\)](#), DEQ issued a written request on April 26, 2024, requiring additional information and a revised Protocol and Work Plan. Reworld submitted these documents to DEQ on June 10, 2024.

DEQ has reviewed the revised Protocol and Work Plan and has identified additional information and updates that are needed before approval. In accordance with [OAR 340-245-0030\(4\)\(b\)](#), DEQ is providing Reworld with a revised deadline for submittal of a revised Protocol and Work Plan. Please submit the information specified below by **April 21, 2025**.

### **General Comments**

DEQ has reviewed Reworld’s June 10, 2024, response to DEQ’s comments regarding potential health risk exposure through air deposition to nearby ponds used for recreational fishing (Item 8 of DEQ’s letter dated April 26, 2024). DEQ had requested that Reworld provide justification for the exclusion of these potential exposure scenarios from the risk assessment because they are not included in the default multi-pathway adjustment factors used to develop DEQ’s default Risk-Based Concentrations (RBCs). Reworld’s response included the equivalent of a Level 4 risk assessment for a similar facility in Hawai‘i. Based on DEQ’s analysis of the Hawai‘i risk assessment and comparison to the Reworld Marion facility, the Hawai‘i risk assessment did not provide a clear indication that risks from air deposition to ponds, uptake by fish, and consumption by humans would be acceptable at Reworld Marion. DEQ has determined that the information provided to date is insufficient to demonstrate that a Level 4 risk assessment is not needed in this case, particularly given the extremely conservative mercury emission rates in Reworld’s approved CAO Emissions Inventory.

If Reworld revises the mercury emission rates in the Inventory and provides additional quantitative evidence that the assumptions made in the Hawai‘i risk assessment are overly conservative with respect to Reworld Marion, DEQ will reconsider the available information before making a determination about requiring a Level 4 risk assessment.

### **Specific Comments**

1. Provide additional information to justify the exclusion of deposition risk pathways at the St. Louis Fish Ponds from the risk assessment. This may include:

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- a. Resubmittal of the Inventory with updated mercury emission rates – include justification that the new emission rates are achievable on a pound per hour basis, as these may become permit limits;
  - b. More detailed information about the approach to modeling exposure to mercury taken in the Hawai‘i risk assessment. If the assumptions made in the Hawai‘i study or DEQ analysis are overly conservative for Reworld Marion, provide justification and a summary of the data that demonstrates this; and
  - c. In our internal analysis, DEQ has considered the impacts of differing meteorology, wet and dry deposition, and emission rates between the Hawai‘i risk assessment and Reworld Marion. Provide any additional information that DEQ should consider regarding differences in medium- and pathway-specific parameters that would apply to the two facilities (for example, watershed hydrology or fish ingestion rates).
2. In Section 4.1.3, please revise the text of the final bullet to include consideration of the recreational fishing ponds at St. Louis Fish Ponds County Park in Keene, Oregon.

DEQ is requesting that you submit additional information to complete your Protocol and Work Plan. If you think that any of that information is confidential, trade secret or otherwise exempt from disclosure, in whole or in part, you must comply with the requirements in [OAR 340-214-0130](#) to identify this information. This includes clearly marking each page of the writing with a request for exemption from disclosure and stating the specific statutory provision under which you claim exemption. Emissions data is not exempt from disclosure.

DEQ remains available to discuss this information request with you and answer any questions you may have. Failure to provide additional information, corrections, or updates to DEQ by the deadlines above may result in a violation of [OAR 340-245-0030\(4\)\(b\)](#).

If you have any questions regarding this letter please contact me directly at (503) 866-9643 or [julia.degagne@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:julia.degagne@deq.oregon.gov). I look forward to your continued assistance with this process.

Sincerely,



Julia DeGagné  
Cleaner Air Oregon Program Engineer

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