



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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May 28, 2025

Howard Hughes  
Collins Products, LLC  
6410 Hwy 66  
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

RE: Warning Letter with Opportunity to Correct  
Collins Products, LLC  
**2025-WLOTC-9892**  
File #96207, NPDES Permit #101086  
Klamath County

Dear Mr. Hughes:

Collins Products, LLC operates wastewater treatment facilities and discharges treated effluent to the Klamath River under National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit #101086.

Per written reporting provided by the facility, DEQ has documented that the facility failed to comply with the terms and conditions of NPDES Permit, Schedule C, which is a violation of ORS 468B.025(2). This notice is a warning letter with opportunity to correct (WLOTC) with specific corrective actions stated below.

### **Violation: Failure to Complete Schedule C - Compliance Schedule Deliverables**

In accordance with the Schedule C of the NPDES permit, several milestones are required to be completed and submitted to DEQ in order to meet the final effluent limitations in Schedule A. The following compliance schedule items are due to be completed by specific dates (excerpt from the permit, which became effective March 1, 2024):

## SCHEDULE C: COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE

**1. Compliance Schedule to Meet Final Chlorine, Total Phosphorus and Ammonia Effluent Limitations**

The permittee must comply with the following schedule:

Compliance Date	Requirement
Apr. 1, 2024	The permittee must submit to DEQ draft plans for a system to dechlorinate the discharge from the sanitary wastewater system at internal outfall 101. The permittee must also provide a schedule for completing final plans and installation and testing of the dechlorination system.
Oct. 1, 2024	<p>The permittee must submit to DEQ final plans for the proposed dechlorination system and provide an updated schedule for installing and testing of the dechlorination system.</p> <p>The permittee must also submit a draft plan to DEQ to replace the constructed treatment wetlands or to install another wastewater disposal method, to eliminate all, or significantly reduce wastewater discharges through the ground to the Klamath River. This plan must include a detailed analysis of the fate and transport of the wastewater including an estimate of the distance, pathway and transit time to reach the Klamath River, and any physical or chemical changes expected to occur to pollutants prior to entering the Klamath River.</p> <p>In the alternative, the draft plan may include a proposal to remove solids from the industrial wastewater lagoon to enhance removal of ammonia and phosphorus and/or some other plan for reducing the discharge of ammonia and phosphorus. The draft plan must include a schedule for implementing the proposed treatment and control measures.</p>
Apr. 1, 2025	<p>The permittee must complete installation, testing, and start-up of the dechlorination system. The dechlorination system must be fully operational by this date.</p> <p>The permittee must revise and submit the draft plan for complying with ammonia and total phosphorus limits that identifies the selected alternative. If the permittee's selected alternative is to replace the constructed treatment wetlands, the permittee shall comply with compliance schedule option A. If the selected alternative is to remove solids from the industrial wastewater lagoon or some other alternative, the permittee shall comply with compliance schedule option B.</p>
Nov. 1 2025	The permittee must achieve compliance with the final total residual chlorine effluent limits in Schedule A of this permit.

Engineering plans for the wastewater disinfection upgrade project (dechlorination system) were approved by DEQ on September 12, 2024. The schedule then requires the facility to complete installation, testing, and start-up of the dechlorination system and for the system to be fully operational by April 1, 2025. The facility did not complete this requirement by the due date and provided written notice in advance of the deadline to DEQ's compliance contact citing higher than typical precipitation which made construction and installation unfeasible of all the necessary infrastructure, including the concrete basin by the deadline (See Appendix I).

The facility stated the next pending milestone for the dechlorination system, including the final compliance schedule to meet the final effluent limits by November 1, 2025, is not requested to be changed and can be met by the facility.

**Violation #1:** In accordance with Oregon Administrative Rule, violating a requirement or condition of a compliance schedule contained in a permit is a Class I violation (OAR 340-012-0053(1)(a)). Class I violations are considered to be the most serious violations; Class III violations are the least serious.

**Corrective Action Required:** The facility must complete the corrective action as soon as possible but no later than the required due date in the table below and notify DEQ in writing that this deadline has been met.

Schedule C Paragraph	Permit Required Due Date	Required Corrective Action Completion Date
The Permittee must complete installation, testing, and start-up of the dechlorination system as described in Schedule C of the NPDES permit.	April 1, 2025	<b>July 1, 2025</b>

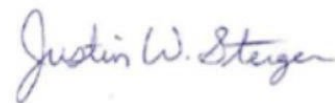
**All other subsequent due dates in the permit compliance schedule remain the same and must be met. This includes, but not limited to, meeting the final effluent limits for total residual chlorine by November 1, 2025.**

**Summary:**

This notice is a warning letter. DEQ does not intend to take formal enforcement action at this time, however, should you fail to complete the required corrective actions by the identified due date, 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 the office at the address shown at the top of this letter. DEQ will consider new information you submit and take appropriate action. DEQ endeavors to assist you in your compliance efforts. Should you have any questions about the content of this letter or desire any follow-up technical assistance, please contact me at (541) 714-0206.

Sincerely,



Justin W. Sterger  
Senior WQ Permit Writer

cc: Water Quality Data Team  
Blair Edwards, DEQ  
Mike Hiatt, DEQ

Appendix I: Collins LLC, Letter Dated March 27, 2025



March 27, 2025

Mr. Justin W. Sterger  
Senior Water Quality Permit Writer  
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality  
475 NE Bellevue Dr., Suite 110  
Bend, OR 97701

Re: EPA Ref. Number: OR0002542  
Permit Number: 101086  
File Number: 96207  
Condition Schedule C: Dechlorination Compliance Schedule

Dear Mr. Sterger:

Due to extraordinarily high rainfall weather conditions beyond our control between October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 and March 31, 2025 Collins Products is unfortunately not able to meet the compliance deadline listed in NPDES Permit 101086 for installation of updated Dechlorination system (“Dechlorination”) by April 1, 2025.

The following weather data underscores the conditions that made it unfeasible to operate on site in a safe manner.

In December 2024 we received 3.17 inches of precipitation; in January 2025 we received another 1.30 inches of precipitation, and in February 2025 we received 35 inches of snow. Besides rainfall and snowfall, the ground has not had enough time to dry and remains in an over-saturated state that precludes active field work.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Monthly Average (Source: US Climate Data)</b>	<b>Actual Rainfall on Collin Products site</b>	<b>Collins Products Snowfall</b>
October 2024	.87	.57	0”

November 2024	1.97	3.17	0"
December 2024	2.01	3.86	6"
January 2025	2.05	1.31	3"
February 2025	1.42	2.12	35"
<b>Total Precipitation</b>	<b>8.32</b>	<b>11.03</b>	<b>44"</b>

Collins Products was positioned to complete the Dechlorination project ahead of schedule until these extraordinary weather conditions. Currently we have completed the following items:

- The concrete pad for the new chemical building has been completed.
- The new chemical building is in place on the concrete pad.
- The power supply conduit has been installed from the existing chlorine room to the new chemical building.
- The low voltage telemetry conduit has been installed from the existing chlorine room to the new chemical building.
- The Sodium bisulfate pipe has been installed from the existing chlorine room to the cistern.
- Wire has been pulled in the conduits

In progress:

- Installation of the sampling pumps in the new chemical building.

Items held up due to site access:

- 10" chlorine contact chamber – this is on hold until the ground dries out enough to access with equipment
- Installation of new pumps, tanks etc. in the existing chlorine building – this will be the last item completed since it will be replacing the operating chlorine gas system. The existing equipment needs to be removed before we can start installing the new components.

At this time all equipment needed to complete this project is on site and we are actively pursuing the completion of the dechlorination project as weather and soil conditions allow us.

Given the foregoing, Collins Products respectfully requests an additional 90 days to complete the Dechlorination project that the Klamath Falls weather has delayed significantly. This updated timetable allows for normal springtime precipitation, which would further exacerbate current oversaturated conditions; and allows for a reasonable window to complete installation of Dechlorination when ground conditions stabilize to allow for project work.

We would also like to state that although there will be a delay on the April 1, 2025, final construction, testing and start-up of the dechlorination system, Collins maintains it will achieve compliance with the final total residual chlorine effluent limits in Schedule A 2. of the permit on November 1, 2025.

I remain available to discuss this matter at your convenience and thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Howard Hughes".

Howard Hughes

Collins Company – Corporate Environmental Manager

cc: Frank Torresy – Collins Company - General Counsel  
Scott McEnroe – Collins Products – Environmental Manager