



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

Eastern Region Pendleton Office

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TTY 711

June 24, 2025

Mr. Casey Mordhorst, Public Works Director
Mr. Dan Cummings, City Manager of Ontario
City of Ontario
1551 NW 9th Street
Ontario, OR 97914

Re: Warning Letter with Opportunity to Correct
City of Ontario
2025-WLOTC-9928
File 63631, NPDES 101633
Malheur County

Dear Mr. Mordhorst and Mr. Cummings,

The City of Ontario (City) is permitted under a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit No. 101633, with Modifications 1-3. On June 12, 2025, DEQ was contacted by Mr. Dustin Mosher, City of Ontario/Jacobs Water/Wastewater Treatment Superintendent about monitoring and reporting for groundwater and Copper Biotic Ligand Model (CuBLM) data. Mr. Mosher determined that numerous results for parameters in these monitoring groups were reported as mg/L, while the permit requires reporting in µg/L. On June 12, 2025, the City of Ontario obtained an exception to submit reporting for toxics and CuBLM data to the DEQ laboratory (Attachment 1). Currently, it is unknown how many groundwater monitoring frequencies and for which parameters the incomplete monitoring has occurred.

Reporting Violations:

DEQ has determined that these submittals are in violation of the NPDES permit and Oregon Environmental Law:

Date	Violation	Class
June 12, 2025	Failing to submit a complete discharge monitoring report; OAR 340-012-0055(3)(a).	III

Corrective Actions:

Based on the information provided to DEQ requests the City of Ontario take the following corrective actions:

1. **By August 15, 2025**, the City of Ontario must provide a list to DEQ of misreported data, including:
 - a. Date of data collection
 - b. Monitoring Period
 - c. Parameter
 - d. Result
2. **By September 15, 2025**, resubmit all corrected Groundwater monitoring data through the NetDMR webpage for each month specified in corrective action #1. Please contact Rick Hill, DEQ Hydrogeologist concerning questions relating to groundwater data resubmittals at Rick.Hill@deq.oregon.gov or 971-263-1120.

Summary:

This notice is a Warning Letter with Opportunity to Correct. DEQ does not intend to take formal enforcement action at this time. However, should the City fail to meet permit compliance deadlines in the future or fail to complete the requested corrective action, 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. This notice is the second notice of this type of violation in less than one year.

If you believe any of the facts in this Warning Letter are in error, you may provide information to me at the address shown at the top of this letter. DEQ will consider new information you submit and take appropriate action. Should you have any questions about the content of this letter or would like follow-up technical assistance, please contact me at 541-246-5462.

Sincerely,



Anna Morgan-Hayes

Water Quality Compliance Specialist

ec: Mike Hiatt, ER Water Quality Permitting and Compliance, DEQ
Stuart Blois, ER Water Quality Permitting and Compliance, DEQ
Rick Hill, DEQ, ER Water Quality, DEQ
Carter Thomas, DEQ
Marshall Pierce, PE, Jacobs, City of Ontario
Dustin Mosher, Wastewater Treatment Supervisor, Jacobs, City of Ontario
WQ Data Crew

Attachment 1: DEQ Email to City of Ontario, Carter Thomas, June 12, 2025:

From: THOMAS Carter * DEQ <Carter.THOMAS@deq.oregon.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2025 11:54 AM
To: Mordhorst, Casey <Casey.Mordhorst@jacobs.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: DMR submissions

Hi Casey,

For the Toxics and Copper BLM data I review, we are more concerned about conversion errors than anything else. Ideally, the lab would provide you with the correct units, but if that is not the case I would rather have the correct values in a unit different than what the permit says. We don't encourage anyone to go into the lab generated tables and do large numbers of manual conversions.

Carter Thomas
Data Steward for Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Hillsboro Lab

phone: [503-995-0770](tel:503-995-0770)
email: carter.thomas@deq.oregon.gov
he/him/his