



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

## Department of Environmental Quality

Eastern Region Pendleton Office

800 SE Emigrant Avenue, Suite 330

Pendleton, OR 97801

(541) 276-4063

FAX (541) 278-0168

TTY 711

February 3, 2026

Ms. Shanna Gronquist  
City of Arlington  
P.O. Box 68  
Arlington, OR 97812

Re: Warning Letter  
City of Arlington  
**2026-WL-10095**  
File #3384, NPDES Permit #101369  
Gilliam County

Dear Ms. Gronquist:

The City of Arlington operates a domestic wastewater treatment plant with discharge to the Columbia River under National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit #101369. Based on review of the September 2025 Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) submitted as required by your permit, DEQ has documented the following violations of Oregon environmental law. With each violation, the facility failed to comply with the terms and conditions of the assigned permit, which is a violation of ORS 468B.025(2).

### Reporting Violation: Effluent Discharge Exceedance for Technology Based Effluent Limitations

Table 1. Technology Based Effluent Limitation Exceedances

Effluent Limit	Effluent Limit Exceedance			Flow Data	
	Reported Result*	Violation Date	Violation Class	Stream Flow** (Columbia River) CFS	Effluent Flow* CFS
TSS Concentration Weekly Average Not to Exceed 30 mg/L	77 mg/L (156% exceedance)	Week of September 7 – 13, 2025	I	NA	0.05 (dilution >10)
TSS Loading Weekly Average Not to Exceed 18 lb/day	20 mg/L (11% exceedance)	Week of September 7 – 13, 2025	III	NA	0.05 (dilution >10)

TSS Concentration Monthly Average Not to Exceed 20.0 mg/L	29 mg/L (45% exceedance)	September 2025	II	NA	.05 (dilution >10)
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The Total Suspended Solids (TSS) effluent limits in your permit are technology based effluent limits (TBELs). Per DEQ's enforcement guidance, violating a TBEL for TSS in an NPDES permit by less than 20% is a Class III violation (OAR 340-012-0055(3)(b)(A)). Per DEQ's enforcement guidance, violating a TBEL for TSS in an NPDES permit by less than 50% but greater than 20% is a Class II violation (OAR 340-012-0055(2)(a)(A)). Per DEQ's enforcement guidance, violating a TBEL for TSS in an NPDES permit by less than 50% but greater than 20% is a Class II violation (OAR 340-012-0055(1)(k)).

There are three (3) violations of this type.

### **Corrective Actions Required**

The permittee must ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the issued NPDES permit, including all Schedule A effluent limits.

### **Summary**

This notice is a Warning Letter. 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, 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 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) 714-0035.

Sincerely,

*Stuart Blois*

Stuart Blois

NPDES Permitting and Compliance  
Specialist

cc: Mike Hiatt, ER Water Quality Permitting and Compliance, DEQ  
Anna Morgan-Hayes, ER Water Quality Permitting and Compliance, DEQ  
Garren Friedemann, Delta ESI  
WQ Data Crew