



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality  
Eastern Region Bend Office  
475 NE Bellevue Drive, Suite 110  
Bend, OR 97701  
(541) 388-6146  
FAX (541) 388-8283  
TTY 711

January 28, 2026

Mr. Stan Foster  
Town of Lakeview  
525 North First Street  
Lakeview, Oregon 97630

RE: Warning Letter with Opportunity to Correct  
Town of Lakeview  
**2026-WLOTC-10114**  
NPDES Permit #101594  
YDO FISID #213305  
Lake County

Dear Mr. Foster:

The Town of Lakeview operates a municipal wastewater (sewage) treatment facility which discharges treated effluent to Thomas Creek and East Branch Thomas Creek and distributes recycled water under National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit #101594. DEQ recently performed a file review of records from 2023-2026 and conducted a compliance inspection at the treatment facility on December 11, 2025.

Based on the file review, the treatment facility inspection, and additional information provided by the Town, DEQ has documented the following violations of Oregon environmental law. With each violation, the Town of Lakeview failed to comply with the terms and conditions of NPDES Permit #101594, each of which is a violation of ORS 468B.025(2).

### **Violation Category #1: Failure to Submit Required Reports**

Schedule B, Table B1 of the NPDES permit requires the Town to submit required reports to DEQ. However, the Town failed to submit the required reports by the required due dates. These are shown in the table below:

Reporting Period(s) and Due Date	Violation	# of Violations	Class
February 15, 2023	Schedule B, Table B1 of the NPDES permit requires the permittee to submit a sludge depth survey by 2/15/2023. To date, the facility has not submitted the required report.	1	II

<b>Reporting Period(s) and Due Date</b>	<b>Violation</b>	<b># of Violations</b>	<b>Class</b>
February 1, 2023	Schedule B, Table B1 of the NPDES permit requires the permittee to submit an Industrial User Survey within 24 months after permit effective date (by 2/1/2023). To date, the facility has not submitted the required report.	1	II
2024 (due February 15, 2025)	Schedule B, Table B1 of the NPDES permit requires the permittee to submit an annual Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) Report by February 15 each year. To date, the facility has not submitted the required report for the 2024 reporting period.	1	II
2024, 2025 (due January 15, 2025 and 2026)	Schedule B, Table B1 of the NPDES permit requires the permittee to submit an annual Recycled Water Report by January 15 each year. To date, the facility has not submitted the required report for the 2024 or 2025 reporting periods.	2	II
2024 (due February 19, 2025)	Schedule B, Table B1 of the NPDES permit requires the permittee to submit an annual Wastewater Solids Report by February 19 each year. To date, the facility has not submitted the required report for the 2024 reporting period.	1	II
2025 (due January 15, 2026)	Schedule B, Table B1 of the NPDES permit requires the permittee to submit an annual Hauled Waste Report by January 15 each year. To date, the facility has not submitted the required report for the 2025 reporting period.	1	II
May 2025 (due June 15, 2025)	Schedule B, Table B1 of the NPDES permit requires the facility to submit monthly discharge monitoring (DMR) reports to DEQ. To date, the facility has not submitted the monthly DMRs for May 2025 (for Outfall 001-A, Outfall 001-B, 001-CU, 001-G, and 001-RW). There are five missing DMRs for May 2025 in NetDMR.	1	II
June 2025 (due July 15, 2025)	Schedule B, Table B1 of the NPDES permit requires the facility to submit monthly discharge monitoring (DMR) reports to DEQ. To date, the facility has not submitted the monthly DMR for June 2025 (for Outfall 001-A, Outfall 001-B, 001-CU, 001-G, and 001-RW). There are five missing DMRs for June 2025 in NetDMR.	1	II

Failing to timely submit a report or plan as required by rule, permit, or license unless otherwise classified is a Class II violation (OAR 340-012-0055(2)(b)). There are nine (9) occurrences of this violation.

**Violation Category #2: Failing to Submit a Complete DMR**

Schedule B.3, Table B2 requires the facility to submit influent monitoring as follows:

Item or Parameter	Units	Time Period	Minimum Frequency	Sample Type / Required Action See note a.	Report Statistic See note b.
Flow (50050)	MGD	Year around	Daily	Metered	Monthly Average Daily Maximum
BOD <sub>5</sub> (00310)	mg/L	Year around	Weekly	24-hour composite	Monthly Average
TSS (00530)	mg/L	Year around	Weekly	24-hour composite	Monthly Average
pH (00400)	SU	Year around	3/week	Grab	Monthly Maximum Monthly Minimum
<p>Notes:</p> <p>a. In the event of equipment failure or loss, the permittee must notify DEQ and deploy new equipment to minimize interruption of data collection. If new equipment cannot be immediately deployed, the permittee must perform grab measurements.</p> <p>b. When submitting DMRs electronically, the permittee must submit all data used to determine summary statistics in a DEQ-approved format as a spreadsheet via electronic reporting unless otherwise directed by DEQ.</p>					

The facility submitted inaccurate or incomplete information to DEQ on the following DMRs:

Report Month	Violation	# of Violations	Class
January 2025 February 2025 March 2025 April 2025	Failing to submit a complete discharge monitoring report; The recycled water flow, irrigation quantity, and monitoring parameter results in the Excel attachment are reported, however irrigation should not occur in January. This information may be a carry-over from prior DMR sheets when irrigation was actually occurring but must be confirmed by the facility. Months February 2025 – April 2025 contain the exact same data for the aforementioned parameters.	4	III
July 2025	Failing to submit a complete discharge monitoring report; The submitted Excel file is blank. Influent monitoring data is missing data from the Excel data file for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flow,</li> <li>• BOD<sub>5</sub>,</li> </ul>	1	III

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TSS</li> <li>• pH</li> </ul> <p>Requires review and resubmittal, and the Excel values must align with values provided in the NetDMR entries.</p>		
August 2025	<p>Failing to submit a complete discharge monitoring report; Influent monitoring data are missing data from the Excel file.</p> <p>Influent pH reported 1/week</p>	1	III
September 2025	<p>Failing to submit a complete discharge monitoring report:</p> <p>Influent monitoring data is missing from the Excel file for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Influent pH reported 1/week.</li> <li>• Influent flow</li> </ul> <p>Influent BOD5 monthly avg reported value (36.6 mg/L) is inconsistent with Excel value (39.6 mg/L).</p>	1	III
October 2025	<p>Failing to submit a complete discharge monitoring report:</p> <p>Influent monitoring data for pH, BOD<sub>5</sub>, and TSS are missing from the Excel file for the weeks of: September 28-October 4 and October 26-November 1.</p> <p>Influent pH reported 1/week for the weeks of October 5-11, October 12-18, and October 19-25.</p>	1	III
November 2025	<p>Failing to submit a complete discharge monitoring report; Influent monitoring data for BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS are missing from the Excel file for the entire month.</p> <p>Influent monitoring data for pH are missing from the Excel file for the entire month.</p> <p>Influent flow monitoring data are missing from the Excel file November 25 – 30. .</p>	1	III
December 2025	<p>Failing to submit a complete discharge monitoring report; Influent monitoring data is</p>	1	III

	<p>missing data from Excel file (submitted Excel file is blank) for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• . Flow</li> <li>• BOD</li> <li>• TSS</li> <li>• pH</li> </ul> <p>Requires resubmittal, and the Excel values must align with values provided in the NetDMR entries.</p>		
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In accordance with DEQ’s Enforcement Rules, failing to submit a complete DMR as required in Schedule B of the permit is a Class III violation (OAR 340-012-0055(3)(a)). There are ten (10) violations of this type.

**Violation Category #3: Failure to develop and maintain a Quality Assurance and Quality Control Plan**

Schedule B, Condition 2(e) of the NPDES permit requires the facility to develop and implement a written Quality Assurance Plan (QA/QC). The facility did not have a quality assurance plan on file for in-house analyses conducted and for sampling/storage procedures for analyses sent off-site.

Procedures for storage, shipping, calibration procedures, and hold time compliance must be detailed in the QA/QC plan. DEQ maintains guidance for self-monitoring laboratories for the most frequent analyses required by wastewater permits: [wqp147guideMonitor.pdf](http://wqp147guideMonitor.pdf) ([oregon.gov](http://oregon.gov))

Failure to implement quality assurance procedures is a Class II violation; OAR 340-012-0053(2). Class I violations are the most serious violations; Class III violations are the least serious. There is one (1) violations of this type.

**Corrective Actions Required:**

The Town must complete the following corrective actions:

- 1) By March 6, 2026, Complete, sign, and submit each of the required reports listed in the table above for Violation Category #1 to DEQ. The missing DMRs must be submitted through the EPA NetDMR portal, and the missing surveys and other reports must be provided as completed and signed .pdf attachments by email to [Justin.Sterger@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:Justin.Sterger@deq.oregon.gov). The Town must ensure that all permit requirements are met, including the requirement to submit reports on time.
- 2) By March 6, 2026, Review, revise and submit the DMRs for each of the months listed above in Violation Category #2. The revised DMRs must be submitted through the EPA NetDMR portal. If there is incomplete information on file to document all required monitoring was completed for the missed reporting periods, please notify DEQ in writing and complete a non-compliance

report by March 6, 2026 documenting any failures to monitor in accordance with your permit. A copy of the non-compliance report has been included with this letter.

- 3) By April 10, 2026, Submit to DEQ a written Quality Assurance Plan to affirm compliance with the permit requirements.

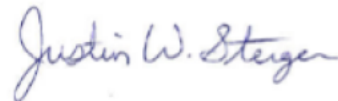
**Summary:**

This notice is a warning letter with opportunity to correct. Should the issues be repeated and/or the facility fail to complete the listed corrective actions by the listed deadlines, 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.

DEQ will also review any reported instances of failure to monitor provided and may provide follow-up written communication and/or enforcement action.

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: Mike Hiatt, DEQ Permitting Manager  
Alyssa Witt, DEQ Compliance Inspector  
Anna Morgan-Hayes, DEQ Permit Writer  
DEQ Enforcement Section