



Public Notice

DEQ Requests Comments on Proposed Water Quality Permit Modification for the City of Ontario Wastewater Treatment Facility

Date posted: xx/xx/xx

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality invites the public to submit written comments on the modification of the City of Ontario's Wastewater Treatment Facility proposed water quality permit, known officially as a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit.

How to provide public comment

Facility name: The City of Ontario's Wastewater Treatment Facility

Permit type: Domestic Individual NPDES

Comments due by: [Date] at 5 p.m.

Submit written comments:

By mail: Patty Isaak, ODEQ, 475 NE Bellevue Dr., Ste. 110, Bend, OR 97701

By web: [Your DEQ Online Instructions for submitting a public comment](#)

By email: water.permitter@deq.oregon.gov

Summary

DEQ has determined that the paired Copper Biotic Ligand Model and Aluminum Multiple Linear Regression monitoring practices described in the existing permit are not necessary to determine whether there is reasonable potential for an exceedance of the water quality criteria at the next permit renewal. The paired monitoring of both ambient and effluent is proposed to be removed from the permit and replaced with effluent only-monitoring for copper, aluminum, chloride, hardness, and alkalinity.

Effluent hardness and alkalinity monitoring will be retained.

About the facility

The City of Ontario Wastewater Treatment Facility is a domestic wastewater treatment facility located at 2405 Malheur Drive in Ontario. The treatment facility is a five-cell stabilization with aeration lagoon system that serves a population of 15,300 individuals. DEQ last issued this permit on Feb. 1, 2026.

The facility discharges wastewater to the Snake River at River Mile 369.2.

The facility holds no other permits from DEQ.

What types of pollutants does the permit regulate?

The permit establishes maximum effluent discharge limitations for the following pollutants: biochemical oxygen demand (BOD₅), Total Suspended Solids (TSS), bacteria, arsenic, pH, and chlorine.

The permit does not currently set limitations for copper or aluminum.

Would the modification change the amount of pollution the facility is allowed to release?

No.

How does DEQ determine permit requirements?

DEQ evaluates types and amounts of pollutants and the water quality of the surface water or groundwater where the pollutants are proposed to be discharged to determine permit requirements. This ensures the proposed discharges will meet applicable statutes, rules, regulations and effluent guidelines of Oregon and the Clean Water Act.

For this proposed permit action DEQ reviewed the previous permit and fact sheets, regional water quality data and research, and discharge monitoring reports and attachments submitted by the permittee. DEQ relied solely on these documents and made no other discretionary decisions for the permit action.

How does DEQ monitor compliance with the permit requirements?

This permit will require the facility to monitor for pollutants discharged using approved monitoring practices and standards. DEQ reviews the facility's discharge monitoring reports to check for compliance with permit limits.

What happens next?

To submit comments electronically, please visit Your DEQ Online. To submit a comment through Your DEQ Online, you can either set up an account by clicking "Register Account" or submit a comment without an account by clicking "Public Records and Services." If you want to attach a file with your comment, you'll need to create an account.

Once in the system, you may search for the public notice using the project name listed above or filtering the results by selecting "NPDES Individual Industrial/Domestic" as the "Environmental Interest". Click the blue information "i" in the far-right column of the project, and then select the tab labeled "comments."

DEQ will hold a public hearing if DEQ receives written requests for public hearing during the public comment period from at least 10 people or from an organization or organizations representing at least 10 people.

For more information

Find more information by reviewing draft permit documents attached to this notice or contact the permit coordinator Patty Isaak at water.permiter@deq.oregon.gov or 541-613-1125 with questions or to view documents in person at a DEQ office. Visit the Your DEQ Online Help page for more information on how to access public notice documents and submit comments through this platform. Get information about submitting comments through [Your DEQ Online](#).

Non-discrimination statement

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For translation and other formats, visit DEQ's [Civil Rights and Environmental Justice page](#).