



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Water Pollution Control Facilities Permit Fact Sheet – **Modification #2** City of John Day

Permittee	City of John Day John Day 450 East Main John Day, OR 97845
Existing Permit Information	File Number: 127619 Referenced F43569 Permit Number: 103281 Referenced P102481 Category: Domestic Class: Minor Expiration Date: March 31, 2032
Permittee Contact	Melissa Bethel – City Manager bethelm@JohnDay-or.gov 541-575-0028 450 East Main St. John Day, OR 97845
Nearest Water Waterbody	Water Body Name: John Day River River Mile: 248.0 Sub Basin Name: Upper John Day Basin Name: John Day
Proposed Action	Major WPCF Permit Modification
Permit Writer	Justin Sterger 541-714-0206 Date Prepared: November 26, 2025

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WPCF Permit Fact Sheet – **Modification #2**

City of John Day

1. Introduction

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) proposes to modify the Water Pollution Control Facilities (WPCF) permit for the City of John Day wastewater treatment facility located at 700 NW 7th Avenue in John Day, OR 97845. This is the second modification to the permit. The assigned permit allows and regulates the treatment and discharge of domestic wastewater from a new treatment plant that is finalizing design (sequencing batch reactor with ultraviolet disinfection and a sludge storage lagoon) to rapid infiltration basins.

The purpose of this fact sheet is to explain and provide justification for the proposed modifications to the existing permit.

2. Permit History

WPCF Permit #103281 was issued to the facility on April 18th, 2022 and the permit went into effect on May 1, 2022. The permit has been modified once, on March 13, 2023, to provide clarifications in the monitoring and reporting requirements for surface and groundwater monitoring. The facility has not yet been constructed at the time of this permit modification and is nearing final design.

The purpose of this permit modification is to add reference to the sludge storage lagoon, which was added to the design since the permit issuance. The modifications also add the parameters to the groundwater and surface water monitoring per the plans that were approved by DEQ compliance and hydrogeology staff on November 4, 2025 which added several monitoring parameters.

3. Proposed Permit Modification

3.1 Revisions to Schedule A

The proposed revisions to Schedule A are listed below:

Condition 1 of Schedule A is modified. Condition 8 is new.

1. Permitted System

The City of John Day is authorized to operate and maintain a domestic wastewater treatment facility consisting of a sequencing batch reactor with tertiary filters and ultraviolet light disinfection with an ~~average dry weather flow~~ **annual average daily flow** of 0.31 MGD. ~~The facility will utilize a lined sludge storage lagoon.~~ Treated effluent will be discharged to rapid

infiltration basins or can be utilized for beneficial purpose as recycled water in accordance with a DEQ approved Recycled Water Use Plan (RWUP).

8. Lagoon System Management

The treatment plant lagoon(s) shall be operated to achieve the discharge requirements detailed in this permit and in accordance with the following site management conditions:

- a. The lagoon area shall be enclosed with an adequate fence to prevent access from animals and the public.
- b. Appropriate warning signs shall be maintained along the fence around the lagoons to designate the nature of the facility and advise against trespassing.
- c. At all times, sufficient freeboard shall be maintained in the lagoons to prevent unauthorized wastewater overflows or spills. If an overflow or spill occurs, the facility shall immediately implement its Emergency Response and Public Notification Plan (see Schedule D, Condition 2).
- d. The lagoons shall be routinely maintained to control burrowing animals, vegetation growth, and erosion.
- e. The lagoons shall be dredged or cleaned of wastewater solids at a frequency to preserve design treatment capacity and prevent the creation of nuisance odors and operational issues.

3.2 Revisions to Schedule B

The proposed revisions to Schedule B are listed below with changes shown in red:

3.2.1 Reporting Requirements

The permittee must submit to DEQ monitoring results and reports as listed below:

Table B1: Reporting Requirements and Due Dates

Reporting Requirement	Frequency	Due Date (See Note a.)	Report Form (See Note b.)	Submit To: (See Note c & d)
Tables B2, and B3, and B8 Influent Monitoring and Effluent Monitoring Lagoon Monitoring	Monthly	By the 15th of the following month	Specified in Schedule B. Section 2 of this permit	As directed by DEQ
Groundwater Monitoring Plan	One Time	12 months after permit effective date	Electronic copy in a DEQ- approved format	As directed by DEQ

Reporting Requirement	Frequency	Due Date (See Note a.)	Report Form (See Note b.)	Submit To: (See Note c & d)
Groundwater Monitoring	Quarterly	By the 15 th of the following month after quarter end (See Note e).	Electronic copy in the DEQ-approved form	As directed by DEQ
Surface Water Monitoring Plan	One Time	12 months after permit effective date	Electronic copy in a DEQ-approved format	As directed by DEQ
Surface water monitoring	Quarterly	By the 15 th of the following month after quarter end (See Note e).	Electronic copy in the DEQ-approved form	As directed by DEQ
Recycled Water Annual Report (see Schedule D)	Annually	January 15	Electronic copy in the DEQ-approved format	As directed by DEQ Electronic copy to DEQ Water Reuse Program Coordinator
Biosolids annual report (See Schedule D)	Annually	February 19	Electronic copy in the DEQ-approved form	As directed by DEQ DEQ Biosolids Program Coordinator
Inflow and infiltration report (see Schedule D)	Annually	February 15	Electronic copy in a DEQ-approved format	As directed by DEQ
Industrial User Survey (see Schedule D)	One Time	January 15, 2024	Electronic copy in a DEQ-approved format	As directed by DEQ Electronic copy to DEQ Pretreatment Program Coordinator

Reporting Requirement	Frequency	Due Date (See Note a.)	Report Form (See Note b.)	Submit To: (See Note c & d)
Hauled Waste Control Plan (see Schedule D)	One time	Submit prior to accepting hauled waste	Electronic copy in a DEQ-approved format	As directed by DEQ
Hauled Waste Annual Report (see Schedule D)	Annually	January 15	Electronic copy in the DEQ-approved format	As directed by DEQ

Notes:

- For submittals that are provided to DEQ by mail, the postmarked date must not be later than the due date.
- All reporting requirements are to be submitted in a DEQ approved format, unless otherwise specified in writing.
- Electronic reporting information is provided on DEQ's web page (<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/wqpermits/Pages/NPDES-E-Reporting.aspx>).
- Email address for biosolids and recycled water coordinator are provided on DEQ's biosolids web page (<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/programs/Pages/Biosolids.aspx>).
- Monitoring requirements will not begin until after DEQ approves the city's plan

6. Groundwater Monitoring Requirements

The permittee must monitor groundwater as listed below. The samples must be representative of the groundwater flowing through the aquifer at the time of sample collection. The samples will be collected at the monitoring well(s) as identified in the Groundwater Monitoring Plan.

Table B7: Groundwater Monitoring

Item or Parameter	Unit	Minimum Frequency	Sample Type/ Required Action	Report
Dissolved Oxygen (00300)	mg/L	Quarterly	Field Measurement	Quarterly Report
Oxidation Reduction Potential (ORP)	mV	Quarterly	Field Measurement	
pH (00400)	SU	Quarterly	Field Measurement	
Turbidity (00070)	NTU	Quarterly	Field Measurement	
Temperature (00010)	°C	Quarterly	Field Measurement	
Electrical Conductivity (82561)	uS/cm	Quarterly	Field Measurement	

Item or Parameter	Unit	Minimum Frequency	Sample Type/ Required Action	Report
Total Suspended Solids (00530)	mg/L	Quarterly	Grab	
BOD ₅ (00310)	mg/L	Quarterly	Grab	
Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD)	mg/L	Quarterly	Grab	
Total Dissolved Solids (70296)	mg/L	Quarterly	Grab	
Total Nitrogen	mg/L	Quarterly	Grab	
<i>E. coli</i> (51040)	#/100 mL	Quarterly	Grab	
Total Phosphorus	mg/L	Quarterly	Grab	
Chloride (Cl) (00940)	mg/L	Quarterly	Grab	

7. Surface Water Monitoring Requirements

The permittee must monitor surface water of the John Day River as listed below. The samples must be representative of the water flowing in the John Day River at the designated locations. Samples will be collected from the upstream site and downstream site for each sampling event except for total flow which will be collected from the USGS John Day River gauge 14038530. These samples will be collected at the locations identified in the Surface Water Monitoring Plan. The permittee may request a reduction or termination of this sampling effort after collection of three full years of data if the data clearly shows no evidence of discharge of pollutants from the facility to surface water.

Table B8: Surface Water Monitoring

Item or Parameter	Unit	Minimum Frequency	Sample Type/ Required Action	Report
Total Flow (Upstream)	MGD	Quarterly	Field Measurement	Quarterly Report
Dissolved Oxygen (00300)	mg/L	Quarterly	Field Measurement	
Oxidation-Reduction Potential (ORP)	mV	Quarterly	Field Measurement	
Electrical Conductivity (00400)	uS/cm	Quarterly	Field Measurement	
pH (00400)	SU	Quarterly	Field Measurement	
Temperature (00010)	°C	Quarterly	Field Measurement	
<i>E. coli</i> (51040)	#/100 mL	Quarterly	Grab	
Total Nitrogen	mg/L	Quarterly	Grab	
BOD ₅ (00310)	mg/L	Quarterly	Grab	
Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD)	mg/L	Quarterly	Grab	
Chloride (00940)	mg/L	Quarterly	Grab	

Item or Parameter	Unit	Minimum Frequency	Sample Type/ Required Action	Report
Total Ammonia (00610)	mg/L	Quarterly	Grab	
Total Phosphorus (00665)	mg/L	Quarterly	Grab	
Total Dissolved Solids (70296)	mg/L	Quarterly	Grab	

8. Lagoon Monitoring Requirements

The permittee must monitor each lagoon and report results in accordance with Table B1 and the table below:

Table B9: Lagoon Monitoring

Item or Parameter	Units	Time Period	Minimum Frequency	Sample Type/ Required Action	Report Statistic
Lagoon observation visual (82289) (See note a.)	Yes/No	Year-round	5/week (See note b.)	Visual	Record Observation
Lagoon Freeboard (Each Cell) (82564)	Feet	Year-round	1/week	Measurement	Value
Note: a. A perimeter inspection is a sight surveillance of the lagoon dikes looking for the presence of muskrats, rock chucks, or other rodents whose burrowing could threaten the structural integrity of the dike. b. Perimeter inspections are not required on weekends and federal holidays.					

4. Next Steps

DEQ sent the draft permit documents to the applicant for review and comment and then proceeded with a Category II permitting action for public notification as per OAR 340-045-0027. The permit modification is recommended for issuance.

DEQ will respond to comments received during the comment period. Interested parties may request a copy of DEQ's response. Once comments are received and evaluated, DEQ will decide whether to issue the permit as proposed, to make changes to the permit, or to deny the permit. DEQ will notify the permittee of DEQ's decision. If substantive changes are made to the permit, then an additional public notice period may occur. DEQ may also revise this fact sheet or update the fact sheet through memorandum.