

Request for Comments

Proposed Renewal of NPDES Permit for City of Gold Hill

The purpose of this notice is to invite you to provide written comments on this proposed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit renewal.

DEQ's Role:

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is responsible for protecting and enhancing Oregon's water and air quality, for cleaning up spills and releases of hazardous materials, and for managing the proper disposal of hazardous and solid wastes. One way DEQ does this is by requiring permits for certain activities. DEQ issues permits to regulate the type and amount of discharge produced at a regulated facility.

Comments due:

Written comments due: 5 p.m., August 11, 2010

Where can I send my comments?

Carrie Everett, Permit Coordinator
Phone: (503) 378-5055 or (800) 349-7677
750 Front St. NE, Ste. 120
Salem, OR 97301
Fax: (503) 373-7944
Email: Everett.Carrie@deq.state.or.us

Where can I get technical information?

Mary Pfauth, Water Quality Specialist
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750 Front St. NE #120
Salem, OR 97301
Fax: (503) 373-7944
pfauth.mary@deq.state.or.us

Where can I get background information?

Information about this project is viewable online by clicking the following link(s):

- [Permit](#)
- [Evaluation Report](#)

You can review hard copies of the draft permit and related documents at the nearest DEQ office in Medford or in Salem. For a review appointment in Medford, please call Jon Gasik at 541-776-6242. For a review appointment in Salem, please call Carrie Everett at 503-378-5055.

What is proposed?

DEQ proposes to renew a NPDES permit for the City of Gold Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant and is inviting public comment on the proposed

permitting action. During the comment period the public is invited to make comments related to specific conditions within the proposed permit.

The permittee is not proposing changes to the limits in the renewal permit.

Permit expiration

Oregon law requires facilities with a NPDES permit to renew that permit every 5 years. Upon renewal, this permit will be effective for 4 years, expiring on June 30, 2014. The shortened term is to align the next permit reissuance with other permits in the watershed.

Who is the applicant?

City of Gold Hill
PO Box 308
Gold Hill, OR 97525-0308

Where is the facility located?

Gold Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant
Sardine Creek Rd.
Gold Hill, OR

Who might have an interest?

People who work, live, and recreate in the area.

What does Gold Hill STP do that affects water quality?

The Gold Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant treats domestic sewage collected from the City of Gold Hill and discharges the treated, disinfected wastewater to the Rogue River.

What legal requirements apply?

Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 468B and Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Chapter 340 Division 45 give DEQ the authority to issue permits.

How does DEQ determine what requirements go in the permit?

Various federal and state regulations apply to a facility depending on the type of industry, the type and amount of wastewater discharged and the location of the facility. All applicable regulations must be contained in the permit, including the appropriate recordkeeping, monitoring, and reporting requirements to ensure compliance with these rules.



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Western Region Water Quality

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If you received a hard copy of this notice in the mail, please consider receiving updates via e-mail instead. Send your request to:
subscriptions@deq.state.or.us

Please include your full name, e-mail address and mailing address so that we can purge you from our print mailing list, thus saving trees and taxpayer dollars.

Notice Issued: 07/07/2010
By: Carrie Everett

A Reasonable Potential Analysis was performed to determine which pollutants needed permit limits and/or monitoring requirements.

DEQ will use the appropriate Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) and standard permit language.

What are the known health effects or environmental impacts of the permitted substances discharged by City of Gold Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant?

The impacts to the environment (mostly dissolved oxygen depletion and solids deposition) are likely minor due to the large size of the Rogue River. The permittee uses chlorine for killing pathogenic organisms in the wastewater effluent. High effluent residual chlorine concentrations can be toxic to aquatic organisms in the receiving water.

How are the permitted substances measured?

Schedule B of the permit requires monitoring of various influent, effluent and biosolids parameters at specified minimum frequencies. Monitoring must be performed in accordance with federal regulations (40 CFR Part 136) unless otherwise specified in the permit.

Compliance history:

DEQ issued the City four Notices of Non-compliance since the last permit renewal. The Notices were issued for *E. coli* and TSS violations, and for submittal of incomplete Discharge Monitoring Reports.

What are the special conditions of this permit?

The proposed renewal includes special conditions requiring the permittee to implement a program to identify and reduce inflow and infiltration into the sewage collection system: to implement a program to identify, prioritize, and schedule collection system upgrades; to manage biosolids in accordance with a DEQ approved Biosolids Management Plan; and to retain DEQ certified staff to supervise the treatment and collection systems.

What other DEQ permits are required?

None.

What similar activities take place in the vicinity of the facility?

The City of Rogue River operates a municipal wastewater treatment plant downstream of Gold Hill.

What other information about this company is related to this permit?

None.

What happens next?

DEQ will schedule a public hearing if one is requested by 10 or more people, or by an authorized person representing an organization of at least 10 people. An additional public notice will be published to advertise the public hearing.

If a public hearing is not requested, DEQ will consider and provide responses to all comments received at the close of the comment period. DEQ may modify provisions in the proposed permit, but the permit writers can only modify conditions of the permit in accordance with the rules and statutes under the authority of DEQ. Participation in the rulemaking or the legislative process is the only way to change the rules or statutes. Ultimately, if a facility meets all legal requirements, DEQ will issue the facility's NPDES permit following EPA review.

Accessibility information

DEQ is committed to accommodating people with disabilities. Please notify DEQ of any special physical or language accommodations or if you need information in large print, Braille or another format. To make these arrangements, contact DEQ Communications & Outreach (503) 229-5696 or toll free in Oregon at (800) 452-4011; fax to 503-229-6762; or e-mail to deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.

People with hearing impairments may call DEQ's TTY number, (503) 378-3684.

