



# *City of Stevenson*

## Public Works Department

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TO: Stevenson City Council

FROM: Eric Hansen, Public Works Director

DATE: 3/15/17

SUBJECT: March Update on Status of Waste Water Facilities Plan

**February 22<sup>nd</sup>:** PWD and consultant visited with high strength dischargers (Skamania Lodge, Walking Man, Jester & Judge, Backwoods, Skunk Brothers, and Port of Skamania County) to discuss results of sampling and possible next steps that the City will be taking, which may include: new rate structures, pre-treatment requirements, and plant upgrades.

**February 23<sup>rd</sup>:** R&W Engineering looked at process controls at waste water plant to find out why certain operations are not operating in automatic mode as designed. Determined that when plant was built it was not constructed as designed. Extensive wiring and programming is required to get processes back operating as designed.

**February 24<sup>th</sup>:** Began experimental dosing to clarifiers with coagulant to aid in solids settling. OMI will monitor effectiveness and determine if additional dosing will help the plant to stay in permit compliance.

**February 27<sup>th</sup>:** Reviewed compliance schedule with consultants then submitted to DOE.

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Started sampler at Skamania Lodge to test the effluent while the Enviropure System was offline, consultants believe that it may be causing high loadings. Skamania Lodge had the system put back in service the next day, they did not want to take it off line again saying that it costs too much to haul food scraps to landfill.

**March 8<sup>th</sup>:** Called DOE to verify receipt of compliance schedule that they had requested, their response was "I saw the email come in, but I haven't opened it yet". I was a little confused because the previous conversation was of a more urgent nature.

**March 10<sup>th</sup>:** Met with Phillip from the Skamania County Pioneer to answer questions he had regarding the waste water plant improvements.

**March 14<sup>th</sup>:** Received letter from DOE stating that it was a follow up to our phone conversation from January 25<sup>th</sup>, and noted the concerns they had, which include: underestimating the potential cost of

plant upgrades and time considerations, not having a sewer use ordinance that would control discharges from significant commercial and industrial operations. It also addressed concerns for the plant being overloaded and recommended that the City adopt a moratorium on all new non-residential sewer customers unless there are near-term steps the city can take to reduce loadings. Their next step is to issue a Notice of Violation, which will describe recent permit violations and we will have 30 days to respond. After that, they could issue an Administrative Order to the City to comply with the NPDES Permit. The Order would not impose monetary penalties. The Administrative Order would also open additional funding opportunities to us.