



CITY OF NEWPORT, WASHINGTON

Rob Buchert
Senior Compliance Specialist
Water Quality Program
Eastern Regional office

6/10/2021

Dear Rob Buchert:

RE: The city of Newport Washington's response to the warning letter for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit WA0022322.

1. Effluent Limit Violations

January 12, 2020

The wastewater superintendent was out of the office and the facility staff failed to pull a fecal for regulatory requirements. The following month while doing the DMR prep I discovered that the facility had missed a sample, resulting in a staff meeting and our staff has not missed a sample since.

January 27, 2020

The facility violated on fecal coliform on the weekly average which in turn we violated on the monthly average, due to high flows and manual chlorine feed rates that did not get turned up. The facility is in the process of collecting bids to install flow pace automated chlorine feed equipment. I believe this will fix our fecal violations.

February 5, 2020

The facility violated on fecal coliform on the weekly average which in turn we violated on the monthly average as well. The facility had high flows and the chlorinator also plugged. We since have installed a filter system upstream of the chlorinator to help prevent it from clogging. We also have bids out for the installation of automated chlorine feed equipment as mentioned above.

July 7, 2020

The Facility violated on the fecal weekly average as well as our monthly average. The facility had some very damaging vandalism which caused the digester to overflow and recirculate into the activated sludge process. This caused our process to be upset due to the older sludge entering the main process. Over the next couple of weeks, we were able to waste the old sludge back out of the process, run belt press and get our process back under control. Also, if we had automated chlorine feed equipment it would have helped adjust the feed for the demand, which we are in the process of getting bids.

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November 19, 2020

The facility violated on our TSS, both the weekly average and the monthly average. This occurred due to having to hold sludge too long. The facility's belt press lost the PLC in late August, and we were unable to run the press and waste to the digester causing our MLVSS to climb and sludge to age in the process. The facility eventually got the parts, got them installed and we were able to waste, run belt press and get the process back under control.

January 14, 2020

The facility once again violated on both the weekly and monthly fecal, due to above average flows and lack of automated chlorine feed equipment.

February 11&18, 2020

The Facility had multiple violations on both weekly and monthly average due to higher flows and lack of automated chlorine feed systems.

The city is currently in the process of getting quotes to upgrade our chlorine feed system, although we are also down a staff member, we are now monitoring the weather and adjusting the chlorine feed rate in the event of a storm or heavy rainfall. The staff is also adjusting the feed rate anytime there is activity internally in the facility that will increase the flow, such as cleaning the finals, belt pressing, decanting ect. The city has also hired the JUB engineering firm, and are currently undergoing a collections system and wastewater treatment systems study to help determine upgrades needed in our current systems and/or the construction of new facilities.

2. Monitoring Requirements

As stated above on the week of January 12, 2020, I was out of the office and the staff failed to pull and set a fecal. We had a staff meeting discussing the issue and it has not happened since.

3. Report Noncompliance

Since mid-2019 I have had some severe health issues that have occurred, and I have been out of the office a lot. I am solely responsible for the missed communications of the facilities violations. I have since trained a lead operator and he is also a signer with the state and is sharing these responsibilities with me so if I am out of the office, he can take care of the proper regulatory requirements.

Thank you for your time,



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