



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Southwest Region Office
PO Box 47775, Olympia, WA 98504-7775 • 360-407-6300

February 12, 2025

Cowlitz County Public Works
Attn: Susan Eugenis
1600 13th Avenue South
Kelso, Washington 98626

Re: Water Quality Certification Order No. **23483** (Corps No. **NWS-2024-726**), Tower Road Permanent Bridge at Rock Creek, Cowlitz County, Washington

Dear Susan Eugenis:

On September 4, 2024, Cowlitz County Public Works submitted a request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) under the federal Clean Water Act for the Tower Road Permanent Bridge at Rock Creek, Cowlitz County, Washington.

On behalf of the state of Washington, the Department of Ecology certifies with conditions that the work described in the Water Quality Certification Request and supplemental documents complies with applicable provisions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act, as amended, and applicable state laws. **This certification is subject to the enclosed Water Quality Certification Order (WQC Order).**

Please ensure that anyone doing work under this WQC Order has read, is familiar with, and is able to follow all of the provisions within the attached WQC Order.

If you have any questions about this decision, please contact Lydia Albright at (360) 870-2983 or Lydia.Albright@ecy.wa.gov. The enclosed WQC Order may be appealed by following the procedures described within.

Sincerely,

Maria Sandercock, Section Manager
Southwest Regional Office
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

WQC Order No. 23483, Corps No. NWS-2024-726

Aquatics ID No. 141853

February 12, 2025

Page 2 of 2

Enclosure (1)

By certified mail: 9489 0090 0027 6085 7509 04

Sent via e-mail: eugeniss@co.cowlitz.wa.us

E-cc: Owen Weller, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Dusty Day, WSP USA

Erin Hanlon Brown, Ecology

Lydia Albright, Ecology

ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov

**In The Matter of Granting a Water Quality
Certification with Conditions to Cowlitz County Public Works
pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 (FWPCA § 401), RCW 90.48.120, RCW
90.48.260 and Chapter 173-201A WAC**

Cowlitz County Public Works
Attn: Susan Eugenis
1600 13th Avenue South
Kelso, Washington 98626

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| WQC Order No. | 23483 |
| Corps Reference No. | NWS-2024-726 |
| Site Location | Tower Road Permanent Bridge at Rock Creek located within Rock Creek, near Castle Rock, Cowlitz County, Washington. |

Cowlitz County Public Works submitted a request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) under the federal Clean Water Act for the Tower Road Permanent Bridge at Rock Creek, Cowlitz County, Washington. The required processing dates are listed below:

- On April 25, 2024, the Cowlitz County Public Works submitted a pre-filing meeting request.
- On September 4, 2024, Ecology received a request for Clean Water Section 401 Water Quality Certification.
- On November 21, 2024, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) sent an email notification to Ecology that they are reviewing the project for authorization under the Nationwide Permit (NWP) Program.
- On December 27, 2024, Ecology issued a public notice for the project.
- Ecology’s “Reasonable Period of Time” for this project has been established as March 21, 2025.

This project proposes to replace a temporary single lane pre-engineered 140-foot-long by 24-foot-wide steel bridge with a 35-foot-wide by 148-foot-long permanent bridge across Rock Creek. The temporary bridge was installed in 2022 after the road washed out, and the new bridge will be constructed within the pre-existing road prism. The bridge includes precast WF74G girders with cast-in-place concrete deck and barriers, and a steel pedestrian railing.

The project site is located on Tower Road near Milepost 4.52, approximately 5 miles northeast of Castle Rock, in Rock Creek, Cowlitz County, Washington, Section 16, Township 10 N., Range 1 W., within Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 26 Cowlitz.

With this WQC Order, Ecology is granting with conditions Cowlitz County Public Works's request for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the Tower Road Permanent Bridge at Rock Creek project, provided that the activity is conducted in accordance with the Section 401 Water Quality Certification request and attachments Ecology received on September 4, 2024, and the following supporting documentation:

1. Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) and WQMP Appendix B dated January 2025, regarding the project's visual monitoring plan.

Based on the information submitted, Ecology has determined that the discharge from the project will comply with state water quality requirements. Prior to undertaking any changes that materially alter the project, Cowlitz County Public Works must contact Ecology to determine whether a new Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required.

Issuance of this Section 401 Water Quality Certification for this proposal does not authorize Cowlitz County Public Works to exceed applicable state water quality standards (Chapter 173-201A WAC), ground water quality standards (Chapter 173-200 WAC), or sediment quality standards (Chapter 173-204 WAC). Furthermore, nothing in this Section 401 Water Quality Certification absolves Cowlitz County Public Works from liability for contamination and any subsequent cleanup of surface waters, ground waters, or sediments resulting from project construction or operations.

Special Conditions:

1. This Certification is not effective until the U.S. Corps of Engineers (Corps) Seattle District issues a Department of the Army (DA) permit for this project. WQC Order No. **23483** will remain valid until January 31, 2027.
 - Justification – Certifications are required for any license or permit that authorizes an activity that may result in a discharge or fill material into waters. This WQC Order is not valid until the Federal agency issues a permit. Additionally, Ecology needs to be able to specify how long the WQC Order will be in effect.
 - Citation – Chapter 90.48 RCW, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
2. Cowlitz County Public Works shall send a copy of the final Federal permit via e-mail to fednotification@ecy.wa.gov and cc to Lydia.Albright@ecy.wa.gov prior to the starting of any work authorized by this WQC Order. If the Federal Agency determines the proposed project does not require a Federal permit, Cowlitz County Public Works shall immediately inform Ecology.

- Justification - This condition is needed to ensure that the federal permit has been issued and all the conditions of the WQC Order have been included into the federal permit.
 - Citation - 40 CFR 121.10, 40 CFR 121.11, and Chapter 90.48 RCW.
3. To transfer this WQC Order to a new owner or operator Cowlitz County Public Works shall:
- a. Complete a Request for Transfer of Order with a specific transfer date of the WQC Order's obligations, coverage, and liability and submit it to Ecology at fednotification@ecy.wa.gov and cc to Lydia.Albright@ecy.wa.gov. Link to form: <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/ECY070695.html>;
 - b. Provide a copy of this WQC Order to the new owner or operator; and
 - c. The transfer is not considered valid until Cowlitz County Public Works receives written notification from Ecology that the transfer has been approved.
 - Justification – Ecology has independent state authority to ensure protection of state water quality. Ecology needs to ensure that anyone conducting work at the project, including any new owners or operators, are aware of and understand the required conditions of this WQC Order to ensure compliance with the water quality standards and other applicable state laws.
 - Citation – 40 CFR 121.5, Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, Chapter 173-201A WAC, and WAC 173-225-010.
4. Any work that causes distressed or dying fish or discharges of oil, fuel, or other chemicals into state waters or onto land with a potential for entry into state waters is prohibited. If such work, conditions, or discharges occur, immediately notify Ecology's Regional Spill Response Office at 360-407-6300 and the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife with the nature and details of the problem, any actions taken to correct the problem, and any proposed changes in operation to prevent further problems. You will also need to notify the Washington Emergency Management Division at 1-800-258-5990, for spills to water only. This condition is necessary to prevent oil and other hazardous materials spills from causing environmental damage and to ensure compliance with water quality requirements. The sooner a spill is reported, the quicker it can be addressed, resulting in less harm.
- Justification - This condition is necessary to prevent oil and hazardous materials spills from causing environmental damage and to ensure compliance with water quality requirements. The sooner a spill is reported, the quicker it can be addressed, resulting in less harm. Ecology must protect waters of the state from all discharges

and potential discharges of pollution that can affect water quality to protect aquatic life and beneficial uses.

- Citation - Chapter 90.48 RCW, RCW 90.48.030, RCW 90.48.080, Chapter 90.56 RCW, RCW 90.56.280, Chapter 173-201A WAC, WAC 173-201A-300 - 330, WAC 173-204-120, WAC 173-225-010, and WAC 173-303-145.

In view of the foregoing and in accordance with 33 U.S.C. §1341, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260 Chapter 173-200 WAC and Chapter 173-201A WAC, this WQC is granted with conditions to the Cowlitz County Public Works for the Tower Road Permanent Bridge at Rock Creek project.

Your right to appeal

You have a right to appeal this Order to the Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) within 30 days of the date of receipt. The appeal process is governed by Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC. "Date of receipt" is defined in RCW 43.21B.001(2).

To appeal, you must do all of the following within 30 days of the date of receipt of this Order:

- File your notice of appeal and a copy of this Order with the PCHB (see filing information below). "Filing" means actual receipt by the PCHB during regular business hours as defined in WAC 371-08-305 and -335. "Notice of appeal" is defined in WAC 371-08-340.
- Serve a copy of your notice of appeal and this Order on the Department of Ecology by mail, in person, or by email (see addresses below).

You must also comply with other applicable requirements in Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC.

Address and Location Information

Filing with the PCHB

For the most current information regarding filing with the PCHB, visit: <https://eluh.wa.gov/> or call: 360-664-9160.

Service on Ecology

Street Address:

Department of Ecology
Attn: Appeals Processing Desk
300 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Mailing Address:

Department of Ecology
Attn: Appeals Processing Desk
PO Box 47608
Olympia, WA 98504-7608

E-Mail Address:

ecologyappeals@ecy.wa.gov

Americans with Disabilities Act Information

Accommodation Requests

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-6831 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

Contact Information

Please direct all questions about this WQC Order to:

Lydia Albright
Department of Ecology
(360) 870-2983
Lydia.Albright@ecy.wa.gov

More Information

- **Pollution Control Hearings Board Website**
<https://eluhho.wa.gov>
- **Chapter 43.21B RCW - Environmental and Land Use Hearings Office – Pollution Control Hearings Board**
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=43.21B>
- **Chapter 371-08 WAC – Practice And Procedure**
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=371-08>
- **Chapter 34.05 RCW – Administrative Procedure Act**
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=34.05>

- **Chapter 90.48 RCW – Water Pollution Control**
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=90.48>
- **Chapter 173.204 WAC – Sediment Management Standards**
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-204>
- **Chapter 173-200 WAC – Water Quality Standards for Ground Waters of the State of Washington**
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-200>
- **Chapter 173-201A WAC – Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington**
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-201A>

Signature

Dated this 12th day of February 2025 at the Department of Ecology, Lacey, Washington.



Maria Sandercock, Section Manager
Southwest Regional Office
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program