STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
Eastern Region Office
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October 27, 2026

Ki Bealey
Public Works Director
City of Walla Walla
15 North Third Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Re: Update on Ecology's Demobilization Plans at the Stillwater Chevron Site

Site Name: Stillwater Holdings Chevron
CSID: 16913
FSID: 70525886

Dear Ki Bealey,

The Department of Ecology is aware of concerns from the City of Walla Walla regarding how foundation groundwater from the real property located at North 106 Second Avenue in Walla Walla (the 106 Building[1]) diverted to the City's system may impact the City's POTW and associated permit. The Stillwater Holdings Chevron gas station spill occurred in 2023 and impacted area groundwater. For the 106 Building, this meant that groundwater which had long been diverted from the building's sumps to the City's system needed to be diverted into a groundwater treatment system to address petroleum contamination. This work was originally installed and overseen by Clean Harbors under contract with Reata Ranches, then Clean Harbors under contract with Ecology, and then revised and overseen by NWFF Environmental (NWFF) under contract with Ecology. NWFF's contract for this work will end on October 31. To prevent groundwater flooding impacting the 106 Building, the sump water must be directed

[1] Ecology has also been addressing groundwater issues for the Marcus Whitman Hotel. Due to the lower volume of groundwater into the Hotel's sumps, the situation regarding a sump connection to the City's system can be addressed further into November. Therefore, this letter is focused on the imminent situation at the 106 Building. However, Ecology remains committed to addressing any concerns the City may have with plans to divert the Hotel's foundation groundwater.

somewhere, and this must occur before the end of the month. The current plan is for the sump water to revert back into the City's sanitary sewer system.

Ecology would like to clarify how it would address detection of Site contaminants of concern at the POTW, including detections in excess of acceptable limits. Ecology's Water Quality Program is dedicated to working collaboratively with local government and where compliance issues occur to discuss approaches to bring the system into compliance. Ecology commits that for the next five years[2], if there is a permit violation or plant upset regarding Site contaminants of concern, the first step will be to work with the City and provide technical assistance to protect the City's investments and the environment, not the issuance of enforcement actions. If there were detections of Site contaminants of concern more than acceptable limits at the POTW, Ecology staff would meet with the appropriate City staff to discuss the exceedance(s). If the parties agree that the exceedances were likely to have originated at the Site (e.g., from foundation groundwater at the 106 Building), Ecology would (1) have staff from the Toxics Cleanup Program review the site remedial actions to determine if it is appropriate and practicable to use an interim action to address groundwater contamination in the near term, and (2) have staff from the Water Quality Program review the POTW and associated permits to determine if there are any risks to the POTW and if so if any steps are appropriate and practicable to address that risk.

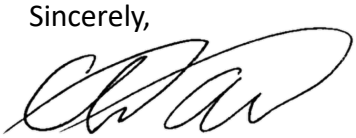
Regarding the Water Quality Program's decisions related to the City's POTW and any need to expand the treatment requirements, Ecology can confirm that the acceptance of foundation groundwater from the 106 Building will not be used as a deciding factor if the agency requires an expansion of treatment requirements for the POTW. Ecology is aware that the petroleum contamination currently being measured in the groundwater from the 106 Building and Marcus Whitman Hotel sumps is impacted by a one-time spill event and is not indicative of an ongoing industrial operation which will have a continual impact on the City's POTW.

Ecology's goal is to continue to address the impacts of the 2023 gasoline spill from the Stillwater Holding Chevron gas station through Ecology's process under the Model Toxics Control Act (RCW 70A.305) so there is no ongoing impact to the City of Walla Walla. Given upcoming cleanup events (e.g., removal of underground storage tanks from the Stillwater Holdings Chevron property) the groundwater in the area should respond with a continued decrease in

[2] As previously discussed with the City, Ecology will be continuing to conduct and oversee cleanup work at the Stillwater Holdings Chevron Site, and due to that work, the petroleum contamination in groundwater from the Site will continue to decrease. Ecology may expand this approach beyond five years if the Site remediation work has not yet decreased the area groundwater contamination levels.

contaminant levels. Ecology plans to continue to work with the City and have staff available to address concerns.

Sincerely,



Chad Atkins
Section Manager, Water Quality Program

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