

Addendum to Fact Sheet for NPDES Permit No. WA0030597
Skagit County Sewer District No. 2 (Big Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant)
Modification Effective Date: April 6, 2022

GENERAL INFORMATION

This is an addendum to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit number WA0030597, issued to Skagit County Sewer District No. 2 for its wastewater treatment plant on January 29, 2021. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) modified the permit to remove nutrient related requirements now addressed by the Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit. The modification also updates the mailing address and reporting phone number for Ecology.

BACKGROUND

Ecology issued permit number WA0030597 to Skagit County Sewer District No. 2 (Big Lake) on January 29, 2021 with an effective date of March 1, 2021. The permit included conditions related to the regulation of total nitrogen in the discharges from the Big Lake wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). At the same time, Ecology continued work to develop the Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit (PSNGP) to regulate the discharge of inorganic nitrogen from publicly-owned sewage treatment plants to Washington State waters of the Salish Sea. Ecology issued the final PSNGP on December 1, 2021 and Big Lake applied for covered under that permit. This permit modification changes the individual permit to remove requirements that are now included in the general permit.

This permit modification implements commitments Ecology made in response to public comments on the draft Big Lake permit.

PERMIT MODIFICATIONS

The modification makes the following changes:

- Edits cover page to update Ecology's Northwest Regional Office mailing address.
- Removes Table 3 titled "Action Level: Outfall 001".
- Removed Table 7: Characterization of Nutrients. This eliminates monitoring of the following parameters: Total Ammonia, Nitrate plus Nitrite Nitrogen, Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN), Monthly TN concentration and loading rate and mass, and Cumulative TN (year to date). The edit also removes related footnotes.
- Edits Condition S3.B to update Ecology's Northwest Regional Office mailing address.
- Edits Condition S3.F to update Ecology's Northwest Regional Office phone number for reporting permit violations.
- Removes Condition S10 – Nitrogen Reduction Optimization Plan along with references to this condition from Table 1: Summary of Report Submittals.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT INFORMATION

Ecology modified a permit to the Skagit County Sewer District No. 2. This fact sheet addendum describes Ecology's reasons for permit modifications.

Ecology placed a Public Notice of Modification on March 3, 2022 in the Skagit Valley Herald to inform the public and to invite comment on the proposed draft modifications of NPDES permit and fact sheet addendum.

The notice:

- Tells where copies of the draft permit and fact sheet addendum are available for public evaluation (a local public library, the closest regional or field office, posted on our website).
- Offers to provide the documents in an alternate format to accommodate special needs.
- Asks people to tell us how well the proposed permit would protect the receiving water.
- Invites people to suggest fairer conditions, limits, and requirements for the permit.
- Invites comments on Ecology's determination of compliance with antidegradation rules.
- Urges people to submit their comments, in writing, before the end of the comment period.
- Tells how to request a public hearing about the proposed NPDES permit.
- Explains the next step(s) in the permitting process.

Ecology has published a document entitled [Frequently Asked Questions about Effective Public Commenting](https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/0307023.pdf), which is available on our website at

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/0307023.pdf>.

You may obtain further information from Ecology by telephone, 206-594-0167, or by writing to the address listed below.

Water Quality Permit Coordinator
Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
PO Box 330316
Shoreline, WA 98133-9716

Response to Comments

Ecology received no comments on the proposed modification.