



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Northwest Region Office
PO Box 330316, Shoreline, WA 98133-9716 • 206-594-0000

May 19, 2023

Kelly Merz, Commander
Washington State Fire Training Academy
PO Box 1273
North Bend, WA 98045

Re: **WARNING LETTER** for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and
State Waste Discharge Permit No. WA0031836, Washington State Fire Training Academy

Dear Commander Merz:

This letter is to inform you that your facility is out of compliance with your industrial wastewater discharge permit. Violations are listed in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1. Numeric Effluent Violations since November 2022 (Permit Special Condition S1.A.)

Date	Outfall	Parameter	Measurement	Units	Limit	Limit Type
11/10/2022	MP1	Benzene	3.5	µg/L	1	Maximum Daily
11/10/2022	MP1	TPH Gx	1.06	mg/L	1	Maximum Daily
3/16/2023	MP1	Benzene	< 5	µg/L	1	Maximum Daily
3/16/2023	MP1	TPH Gx	< 2	mg/L	1	Maximum Daily
3/16/2023	MP2	Benzene	< 5	µg/L	1	Maximum Daily
3/16/2023	MP2	TPH Gx	< 2	mg/L	1	Maximum Daily

TPH Gx: Gasoline range organics fraction of Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons

Table 2: Discharge Monitoring Reports Submitted Late since December 2021 (Permit Special Condition S3.A.)

Monitoring Period	Begin Date	End Date	Due Date	Date Submitted	Days Late
December 2021	12/1/2021	12/31/2021	1/28/2022	2/9/2022	12
March 2022	3/1/2022	3/31/2022	4/28/2022	5/10/2022	12
November 2022	11/1/2022	11/30/2022	12/28/2022	1/3/2023	6

Non-compliance notifications are required by your permit. You have submitted a notice of non-compliance for the violations in **Table 1** or have explained the cause of the violations in your monthly Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs). This part of your permit requirement been fulfilled. The numeric effluent violations that occurred on March 16, 2023, were the result of the laboratory using analytical methods that were not sensitive enough to measure the parameters below the maximum daily limits. From this point forward, you must ensure that you employ an accredited laboratory to analyze your samples for the required parameters.

The DMR is the principal tool used to evaluate compliance with permit requirements. The Department of Ecology places great importance on the timely submittal of complete and accurate DMRs. **Table 2** lists DMRs that were submitted late in the past two (2) years. Failure to comply with the conditions of your permit may result in formal administrative enforcement action, including orders and penalties. Ecology's enforcement authority for state waste discharge permits is governed by Chapter 173-216 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). Ecology's enforcement authority for NPDES permits is governed by 173-220-230 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your permit manager Jeanne Tran at jtra461@ecy.wa.gov or (425) 531-8311.

Sincerely,



Gretchen Onstad
Compliance Specialist
Water Quality Program

ecc: Permit and Reporting Information System (PARIS): Washington State Fire Training Academy, WA0031836
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Monika Kannadaguli, Ecology
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