

January 7, 2015

Doug Knutson
Northwest Regional Office
Department of Ecology
3190 160th Avenue, SE
Bellevue, WA 98009-5452



RE: NPDES Permit WA-0002470; Written Notification of Noncompliance

Dear Doug,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of an indirect wastewater discharge noncompliance incident that occurred on December 10, 2014. Verbal notification was issued to the appropriate contact at the POTW shortly after discovering the incident.

Plant management staff learned of this incident after a mechanic eventually informed management staff that a truck driver had indicated that he had observed warning lights at the receiving lift station. It remains unclear why the audible alarm was not sounding/heard by our team. Upon investigating the alarm state with the mechanic in question, I noted an unauthorized bypass of effluent to city collections was indeed occurring. Later investigation showed gravel and leaves had rendered one of the pumps totally inoperable by impeding check ball operation. One pump alone cannot keep up with a silo wash and normal operations.

It is regrettable that this incident occurred at all, but especially unfortunate that this by-pass occurred in such close succession to the 11-22-14 bypass as we were in the process of initiating corrective measures identified from the first incident. For example, we had already had a steel fabricator perform a site visit and measure the drains in question. After a few different trials, I had all drains fitted with the fabricated baskets by 12/23/14. Furthermore, at the date of the second incident, a contractor had also already been out to start bidding upsizing the affected lift station pumps. Pending the outcome of that bid and some further discussion with an engineering consultant, we may also install a screen or baffle to further protect the intakes of these pumps from detritus carried in by the 20-some loads of milk received in each receiving bay daily. At least for the time being, we are also having our vacor service clean this lift station weekly to remove any refuse not impeded by the drain baskets.

If you have any questions regarding this notice please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ryan Gustafson
Environmental Manager
Darigold-Lynden

cc: Doug Pettinger, DG
Steve Banham, City of Lynden
Tamara Adams, City of Lynden

8424 Depot Road P.O. Box 193 Lynden, WA 98264 1 360 354.2151 Fax: 360 354.1010