



City of Cashmere

101 Woodring Street
Cashmere, WA 98815

Phone (509) 782-3513 Fax (509) 782-2840

April 4, 2024

Gene Woodin, General Manager
Blue Star Growers
200 Blue Star Road
Cashmere, WA 98815

Dear Gene,

Below is a summary from the meeting between Blue Star Growers (BSG), Woodard & Curran (W&C) and the City of Cashmere. The City contracts W&C to manage, operate and maintain the water and wastewater systems.

Meeting held at Cashmere City Hall on April 2, 2024 at 10:00 AM

City of Cashmere: Steve Croci, Director of Operations

Woodard & Curran: Dorien McElroy, Plant Manager & Jason Williams, Lead Operator

Blue Star Growers: Jerry Vanatta, Gene Woodlin

CH2O Technician: Kelli Clasen

The main topic of discussion was an overview of the industrial discharge event which took place in the middle of March which led to an upset at the City of Cashmere Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The WWTP upset resulted in exceedance of several of the NPDES effluent parameters which caused the facility to be non-compliant. The noncompliance was promptly reported to the Washington Department of Ecology (DOE). In addition, a Written Report was submitted to DOE.

When the WWTP Lead Operator, Jason of W&C, contacted Jerry at BSG on or around March 18, 2024 to inquire if there had recently been a change in their process, he was informed that the facility had switched their industrial cleaning product. It was unclear if the product had been effectively neutralized prior to discharge to the sewer collection system. Signs lead to the conclusion that it had not as the activated sludge process appeared inhibited following introduction of this influent flow to the WWTP.

The intent of the meeting was to emphasize the criticality of maintaining timely communication from BSG with the W&C Operations and Management staff at the WWTP and the City of Cashmere. It is of critical importance to inform W&C and the City when the following occur:

- Significant changes in the use and discharge of industrial chemicals at the facility
- Significant changes to operational procedures which may impact discharge
- Changes to key staff at the BSG facility

- Noncompliance with effluent parameters monitored under the BSG general permit

Communication with W&C should be directed to:

Lead Operator, Jason Williams, JLWilliams@woodardcurran.com, 509-885-6920

Plant Manager, Dorian McElroy, dmcelroy@woodardcurran.com, 714-916-3873

W&C On Call 509-699-6295

City of Cashmere 509-782-3513 – after 5 pm this automatically rolls over to the On Call system

The W&C and the City also request:

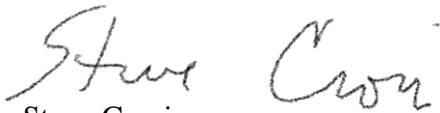
- Quarterly Discharge Monitoring Reports
- A copy of your Standard Operating Procedures which specify the steps taken to neutralize any chemical discharged to the sewer system

W&C and the City understand Shannon Przepolewski, the Food and Industrial Safety Manager for the facility, is most familiar with the BSG wastewater permit and to contact her with questions. Shannon was not at the meeting.

Process water at the BSG facility is monitored in individual tanks for process control but is not monitored at one central discharge point to the sewer collection system. One concern W&C and the City have is that the minimum allowable effluent pH for the BSG facility is 6.0, but the minimum allowable effluent pH value for the WWTP is 6.5. The discharge point for the BSG facility is directly at the City sewer lift station which is within one quarter mile of the WWTP. This means that there is very little time before that volume of water reaches the WWTP influent headworks. Again, timely notification of any perceived inhibitor to normal treatment processes at the WWTP needs to be communicated immediately.

W&C would be glad to host a tour of the Cashmere WWTP in the near future. We appreciate your cooperation and commitment to effectively monitor the BSG industrial process and communicate as necessary. We value your role in the community and are here to assist you.

Sincerely,



Steve Croci,
Director of Operations