



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

4601 N Monroe Street • Spokane, Washington 99205-1295 • (509)329-3400

May 13, 2010

Mr. Jim Costello  
Public Works Superintendent  
111 South First  
Dayton, WA 99328

RE: Dayton Wastewater Treatment Plant Site Visit - May 6, 2010;  
NPDES Permit No. WA-0020729

Dear Mr. Costello:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us last week. Ginny and I appreciated the opportunity to talk with you and Mike and tour the treatment plant. It was a good chance to discuss treatment plant operations and the impact of the Touchet River TMDL requirements on planning for the future of the treatment plant.

As you know all too well, a major issue for Dayton is the operational problems associated with the age and condition of the treatment plant. The plant is an older trickling filter system that uses ultraviolet light (UV) to disinfect the wastewater discharge. Ecology feels that the age and condition of the plant are causing problems such that the work load is often more than Mike or you can handle and still operate the plant properly and safely. You indicated that you are training an additional staff person to work at the plant and that with the current additional help provided by the second operator most of the work is getting done. That is a positive step in making the best of a difficult situation. It is critical that your staff operate the plant to get the best disinfection possible to protect public health as well as the environment. Dayton has a beautiful river area and the public uses the area in a variety of ways. The current situation definitely requires two operators along with your assistance.

If you have questions on operational issues, Darrel Fleischman, Ecology's technical assistance specialist, has been to your treatment plant and is available to provide additional assistance regarding operations and operator training. He can be reached at (509) 850-6463.

In addition to the condition of the plant, another major issue facing Dayton is the long-term capability of the treatment plant to treat the wastewater sufficiently to meet the new limits for the Touchet River. The Touchet River has Total Maximum Daily Loadings (TMDLs) allocated to the treatment plant for temperature, bacteria, pH and dissolved oxygen (D.O.). The D.O, pH, and temperature limits are so restrictive that Dayton will most likely need to avoid discharging to the river during the critical warm weather months of May through October. It is our understanding that Dayton is discussing long-term options with their consultant. Ecology looks forward to working with the city regarding discharge alternatives as well as design and construction of a new wastewater treatment plant.



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I recommend that Dayton contact Chris Gagnon, Client Service Representative with the Washington State Public Works Board, to look at all funding options available to the city. Chris attended the meeting in Colfax on March 18, 2010, and is familiar with Dayton's issues and is anxious to help. Please contact Chris at (360) 725-3158 as soon as possible. She is a good resource and will let you know if funds are available for planning, design, and/or construction, and what the requirements are for each.

Another topic we discussed during our visit was pretreatment because you indicated there is a potential new cannery coming to the area. As you know, treatment plants are sensitive, dynamic systems that can be upset by big changes in influent characteristics. I e-mailed you a copy of the pretreatment ordinance on May 7, 2010. If you would like another copy, please let me know. This ordinance is a tool many communities use to protect their investment in wastewater infrastructure. We encourage the city to adopt a pretreatment ordinance that protects your current and future treatment plant and establishes an 'even playing field' for Dayton's businesses.

I would like to thank you and Mike for showing us around the facility. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at (509) 329-3567.

Sincerely,



Patrick McGuire  
Water Quality Program

PM:dw

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Craig George, Mayor of Dayton  
Mike Bowhay, Plant Operator  
Darrel Fleischman, WQ TA Specialist