



King County

Water and Land Resources Division

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

King Street Center

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Seattle, WA 98104-3855

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TTY Relay: 711

September 3, 2019

Danielle DeVoe
Municipal Stormwater Permit Implementation Planner
Washington State Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
3190 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

RE: S.4.F Notification

Dear Ms. DeVoe:

This letter serves as formal notice under Section S.4.F.1 of King County's Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit, that King County has recently become aware of a discharge from its municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) into receiving waters that is likely to have caused a violation of Water Quality Standards.

Site-Specific Incident Date and Location Information

On August 6, 2019, an inspector conducting a routine drainage facility inspection in the Briarwood Shopping Center noticed a pipe coming out of the hillside behind the Sno-King Ice Arena, discharging something other than stormwater. There was distinct white slime (*Sphaerotilus Natans*) in the pipe and in the ditch downstream. *Sphaerotilus Natans* is associated with sewage in water. The discharge went a short distance to a catch basin and then into the large detention tank (drainage facility) on site. The tank outlet goes to a roadside ditch that drains to a small tributary of May Creek.

Source

The source was quickly determined to be from the Large-On-Site-Septic-System (LOSS) that serves the shopping complex. One of the surge tanks had overflowed and a drain field had failed.

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DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Incident Response Information

Ecology and Public Health - Seattle & King County (PHSKC) were immediately notified. The State Health Department was also notified because it is the permitting authority for LOSS. The Briarwood Shopping Center property manager was also contacted and told that the drainage facility and conveyance lines needed to be pumped out as soon as possible. A corrective action letter was also sent informing them of the same.

The failing field was taken out of commission and incoming sewage treated by the remaining five functioning systems.

The drainage facility (large tank), however, continues to discharge sewage-contaminated stormwater to the ditch. The property management company provided King County with conflicting information as to whether the system was being pumped out and eventually explained that they were having difficulty finding a contractor who could pump out and properly dispose of the water. Upon hearing this, County stormwater staff worked with King County Industrial Waste to obtain approval for the contaminated water to the South Treatment Plant. Approval was obtained the morning of the August 20, 2019 and provided to the property manager. Stormwater staff expressed their concern to PHSKC about public access to the open ditch next to a grassy area and road shoulder. PHSKC posted polluted water signage on August 23 in the open ditch.

At the time of this letter, the property management company has not cleaned the stormwater system and King County is proceeding with corrective enforcement actions. The two property owners of the five involved parcels of land have been contacted directly and are working with staff to address the problem.

Additional incident information including credible site-specific information causing or contributing to a known or likely violation of water quality standards in the receiving water

Please see enclosed photos and map.

Nature and extent of the known or likely violation in the receiving water

Sampling taken at the end of the County's MS4 ditch had an *E. coli* result of 7800 cfu/100 mL. Coliscan easy gel tests yielded *E. coli* colonies too numerous to count.

Reasons why the MS4 discharge is believed to be causing or contributing to the problem

It appears that the discharge from the County's MS4 has conveyed sewage to an outfall and the sewage has reached the tributary of May Creek (a receiving water). This is likely to have caused a violation of Water Quality Standards and could constitute a threat to human health, welfare, or the environment.

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If you have any questions regarding the details contained in this letter, please contact Doug Navetski, Environmental Programs Managing Supervisor in the Water and Land Resources Division, at 206-477-4783 or doug.navetski@kingcounty.gov.

Sincerely,



Josh Baldi
Division Director

Enclosures

cc: Curt Crawford, Manager, Stormwater Services Section (SWSS), Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD), Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
Doug Navetski, Environmental Programs Managing Supervisor, SWSS, WLRD, DNRP

Photos



End of MS4 Ditch and Outfall into May Creek



Entry Location into King County's MS4

Map

