



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

*Northwest Regional Office • 3190 160th Avenue SE • Bellevue, Washington 98008-5452 • (425) 649-7000  
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October 27, 2020

Mr. Andrew Lee  
Deputy Director  
Seattle Public Utilities  
700 5<sup>th</sup> Ave Ste 4900  
Seattle, WA 98124-4018

Re: City of Seattle's S4.F Notification (WAR04-4503):  
Discharge of sewage to Lake Union

Dear Mr. Lee,

I am responding to the S4.F notification listed above that the City of Seattle (City) submitted to Ecology under the Phase I Western Washington Municipal Stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit (Phase I Permit). The letter was dated October 16, 2020 and submitted electronically to me via email on October 19, 2020, with hard copies sent by postal mail to the Ecology Northwest Regional Office, received on October 22, 2020.

An estimated 100 year rain event on September 24, 2020 resulted in an overflow of the King County sewer main line within City of Seattle. In speaking with Melissa Ivancevich on October 21, 2020, she confirmed that SPU field staff observed residue of sewage on the municipal right of way, which would have directly discharged into Lake Union. The Combined Sewer Outfall (CSO) was also discharging at the same time, thus no water quality samples were taken. All sewer systems in this particular area are considered part of the CSO system, however, stormwater in this area can go to either the combined sewer system or the MS4 (partially-separated). While the combined sewer is regulated under a separate NPDES Permit, WA0031682, the discharge of sewage material surcharging out of a maintenance man-hole down the public right-of-way in a partially separated stormwater system region of Seattle, meets the criteria for submitting an S4.F.1 notification. When crews returned to clean the impacted roadway, the residue was gone and there was no further cleanup work conducted. All other follow-up relating to this incident was managed through the Seattle CSO Permit.

Ecology has determined that an adaptive management response under condition S4.F.3 is not necessary because the Phase I Permit's Stormwater Management Program requirements are designed to address spills and illicit discharges into the MS4 and receiving waters. The relevant section is S5.C.9.d of the 2019-2024 Permit. This determination does not affect any obligation you may have under other laws.

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact me at (425) 649-7059 or by email at [ccro461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ccro461@ecy.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Colleen Griffith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Colleen" is written in a larger, more prominent script, and the last name "Griffith" is written in a slightly smaller, more compact script. The signature is set against a light gray rectangular background.

Colleen Griffith  
Municipal Stormwater Permit Implementation Planner

cc: Leslie Webster, SPU  
Kevin Burrell, SPU  
Melissa Ivancevich, SPU  
Theresa Wagner, Seattle Law Department  
Permit File