



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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December 3, 2020

Craig McKinney, Environmental Engineer
Cosmo Specialty Fibers, Inc.
PO Box 539
Cosmopolis, WA 98537

**RE: Cosmo Specialty Fibers (Cosmo) NPDES Permit No. WA0000809 Invalid BOD₅ Results
Warning Letter**

Dear Craig McKinney:

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) received Cosmo's discharge monthly reports for May and September 2020 which included information on multiple invalid BOD₅ results due to lab issues. These results were for the discharge at outfall 001 on May 14, 15, 18, 25 and Sept 6, 2020. When reviewing the violations, Ecology took into consideration the following information:

- At the time of the violations, Cosmo was still in curtailment and BOD₅ loadings were significantly reduced. Samples taken prior to and after the violation dates showed that BOD₅ loading was less than 15% of the permit limit. The invalid samples were unlikely to violate permit limits.
- Cosmo had properly collected and shipped the BOD₅ samples to the City of Aberdeen lab for analysis. The sample results were invalid due to laboratory QA/QC errors.

Based on the above considerations, no formal enforcement will be taken for the invalid samples. Please note that failure to collect the discharge samples or continued invalid sample results may result in future enforcement actions.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at ha.tran@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ha Tran", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ha Tran
Industrial Section
Washington State Department of Ecology

Cc: Mark Bessette, Mill Manager