

July 23, 2021

The Honorable Patricia Byers
Mayor of Yakima
129 N 2nd St.
Yakima, WA 98901

RE: 2020 Wastewater Treatment Plant Outstanding Performance Awards

Dear Mayor Byers:

Congratulations! The Yakima Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant is receiving the 2020 “Wastewater Treatment Plant Outstanding Performance” award. Of approximately 300 wastewater treatment plants statewide, yours is one of 125 that achieved full compliance with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit in 2020.

My staff evaluated wastewater treatment plants in Washington for compliance with the effluent limits, monitoring and reporting requirements, spill prevention planning, pretreatment, and overall operational demands of the NPDES permit.

This is the fifth consecutive year the Yakima Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant received this award. Your excellent record is a credit to the dedicated operators who are responsible for running this award-winning plant.

It takes diligent operators and a strong management team, working effectively together, to achieve this high level of compliance. It is not easy to operate a wastewater treatment plant 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, without violations.

Operators faced unprecedented challenges in 2020 and used impressive creativity and shared expertise to manage wipes, gloves, and masks clogging pipes and pumps, and numerous other challenges. Ecology appreciates the extraordinary level of effort your plant operators demonstrated throughout 2020. Talented and proficient operators are critical to successful plant operations and protecting the health of Washington’s waters.

We will announce the 2020 award recipients, including the Yakima Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, in the coming weeks.

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Please contact Coleman Miller at 509-406-5664 or coleman.miller@ecy.wa.gov if you have any questions or comments about your award.

Thank you for the excellent service your operators provide to your community and the waters of Washington.

Sincerely,



Vincent McGowan, P.E.
Water Quality Program Manager