

January 11, 2022

Colleen Griffith  
Municipal Stormwater Permit Implementation Planner  
Water Quality Department  
Department of Ecology, Northwest Regional Office  
PO Box 330316  
Shoreline, WA 98133-9716

Re: NPDES Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit, S4.F Notification – Turbid, potable water discharge from municipal separate storm sewer (MS4) to Puget Sound

Dear Ms. Griffith,

The purpose of this letter is to notify Ecology under S4.F of the Permit that a one-time discharge from the City of Seattle's (City) municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) has caused or contributed to a known or likely violation of water quality standards in the receiving water.

Notification Subject

On 12/17/2021 and 1/04/2022, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) received a report of turbid discharge to Puget Sound. A drinking water main line cracked, causing a turbid discharge of potable water to enter a storm drain that outfalls to Puget Sound. SPU's Spill Response team investigated and was unable to estimate the volume of the discharge.

Nature and Extent of Known or Likely Violation

This notification is for a known or likely violation of the Narrative Water Quality Standards, Aesthetics Criteria (WAC 173-201A-260(2)(b)) in marine water and is based on the visual turbidity impacts to the receiving water body, Puget Sound, from the City's MS4.

The City of Seattle's Actions

- On 12/17/2021, SPU Spill Response was notified of and responded to a drinking water main line break at 2458 NW Blue Ridge Dr/2644 NW Esplanade causing a turbid discharge of potable water at the outfall at that location.
- SPU Spill Response found that a drinking water mainline had cracked and was discharging potable water. The damaged drinking water mainline caused a turbid discharge to a storm drain. On 12/17/2021 the drinking water pipe was repaired, and the turbid discharge was stopped.
- SPU Spill Response notified Ecology on 12/17/2021. ERTS #711427 was issued on 12/17/2021 at 3:31pm.
- On 1/04/2022, SPU was notified of another drinking water main line break in the same area, at 3218 NW Esplanade, causing a turbid discharge of potable water at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave NW stormwater outfall. The same day the drinking water pipe was repaired, and the turbid discharge was stopped.
- SPU notified Ecology on 1/05/2022. ERTS #711732 was issued on 1/05/2022 at 11:30am.

The City continues to apply and implement its programs for stormwater management and to seek improvement to those programs through increased understanding of stormwater impacts and mitigation tools. The City looks forward to working with Ecology toward the mutual goal of reducing the water quality impacts of municipal stormwater discharges.

It is anticipated that Ecology will not require an Adaptive Management response, as this notification is based on a one-time event that was addressed by Seattle's SWMP through the City's spill response program.

The City relies on the understanding that unless otherwise notified by Ecology, this letter will serve as the single notification to Ecology for the situations identified, for any ongoing or continuing violations. Seattle is making notification in good faith under an evolving understanding of S4 gained through permit appeal and modification, which is a learning process in communication with Ecology. Additionally, it is the City's understanding that a notification under G20 is not required. If Ecology has any different understanding, please contact the City as soon as possible.

Please feel free to contact Melissa Ivancevich if you have any questions regarding this letter. Melissa is the lead for the Municipal Stormwater Permit for the City of Seattle and can be reached at [melissa.ivancevich@seattle.gov](mailto:melissa.ivancevich@seattle.gov).

I certify under penalty of law, that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gathered and evaluated the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for willful violation.

Sincerely,



Ellen Stewart, Interim Deputy Director  
Drainage and Wastewater Line of Business  
Seattle Public Utilities

cc: Ben Marré, Seattle Public Utilities  
Kevin Burrell, Seattle Public Utilities  
Erik Lust, Seattle Public Utilities  
Theresa Wagner, Seattle City Attorney's Office