

Addendum to Fact Sheet for NPDES Permit No. WA0029556

Birch Bay Water and Sewer District

Modification Effective Date: xx,xx,xx

GENERAL INFORMATION

This is an addendum to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit number WA0029556, issued to Birch Bay Water and Sewer District for its wastewater treatment plant on January 29, 2021. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) proposes to modify the permit to remove nutrient related requirements now addressed by the Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit. The modification also updates the mailing address and reporting phone number for Ecology.

BACKGROUND

Ecology issued permit number WA0029556 to the Birch Bay Water and Sewer District on January 29, 2021 with an effective date of March 1, 2021. The permit included conditions related to the regulation of total inorganic nitrogen in the discharges from the Birch Bay wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). At the same time, Ecology continued work to develop the Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit (PSNGP) to regulate the discharge of inorganic nitrogen from publicly-owned sewage treatment plants to Washington State waters of the Salish Sea. Ecology issued the final PSNGP on December 1, 2021 and Birch Bay applied for covered under that permit. This permit modification changes the individual permit to remove requirements that are now included in the general permit.

This permit modification implements commitments Ecology made in response to public comments on the draft Birch Bay permit (see comments O-2-4 and O-4-27 in the fact sheet dated March 1, 2021).

PERMIT MODIFICATIONS

The proposed modification makes the following changes:

- Removes Condition S1.B – Total Inorganic Nitrogen (TIN) Action Level, which includes deletion of Table 3 titled “Action Levels: Outfall 001”.
- Edits Table 8: Effluent Characterization – Final Wastewater Effluent, to remove the following parameters: Total Ammonia, Nitrate plus Nitrite Nitrogen, Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN), Monthly TIN, and Cumulative TIN (year to date). The edit also removes footnotes c and d.
- Edits Condition S3.B to update Ecology’s Northwest Regional Office mailing address.
- Edits Condition S3.F to update Ecology’s Northwest Regional Office phone number for reporting permit violations.
- Removes condition S11 – Nitrogen Optimization Plan along with references to this condition from Table 1: Summary of Report Submittals.

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PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT INFORMATION

Ecology proposes to modify a permit to the Birch Bay Water and Sewer District STP. This fact sheet addendum describes Ecology's reasons for permit modifications.

Ecology will place a Public Notice of Modification on February 25, 2022 in the Bellingham Herald to inform the public and to invite comment on the proposed draft modifications of NPDES permit and fact sheet addendum.

The notice:

- Tells where copies of the draft permit and fact sheet addendum are available for public evaluation (a local public library, the closest regional or field office, posted on our website).
- Offers to provide the documents in an alternate format to accommodate special needs.
- Asks people to tell us how well the proposed permit would protect the receiving water.
- Invites people to suggest fairer conditions, limits, and requirements for the permit.
- Invites comments on Ecology's determination of compliance with antidegradation rules.
- Urges people to submit their comments, in writing, before the end of the comment period.
- Tells how to request a public hearing about the proposed NPDES permit.
- Explains the next step(s) in the permitting process.

Ecology has published a document entitled [Frequently Asked Questions about Effective Public Commenting](https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/0307023.pdf), which is available on our website at <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/0307023.pdf>.

You may obtain further information from Ecology by telephone, 206-594-0167, or by writing to the address listed below.

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