

October 17, 2024

Matt Durkee
Department of Ecology Central Regional Office
1250 West Alder Street
Union Gap, WA 98903

Re: Outfall 1, 2, and 4 violations September 2024. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit # WA0052078

Mr. Durkee:

During the month of September, the Sunnyside plant continued to have numerous violations for outfalls 1, 2 and 4. Outfall 1 had 11 violations due to sampling issues. Outfall 2 exceeded Schedule A contract limits, and the Port of Sunnyside did not meet the TKN sampling frequency for the week of September 8th and 15th. Outfall 4 had five violations for exceeding Schedule A contract limits with the Port of Sunnyside.

Due to irregular flow to outfall 1, the third-party lab was unable to get a dissolved oxygen reading during the days we discharged. The Sunnyside plant was also unable to obtain samples for BOD. To remedy the outfall 1 violations, I have had the Sunnyside plant temporarily cease flow to outfall 1. This began towards the end of September. In addition to not discharging to outfall 1, the membranes on water recovery system four (WRS-4) have been replaced. I am currently waiting on a new compliance sampler and once I get that in place, I will make the Sunnyside plant demonstrate they can collect the composite BOD sample before allowing flow to outfall 1 resume.

Outfall 2 exceeded Schedule A monthly limits for volume, BOD pounds, and TKN pounds in September. In addition, the Port of Sunnyside did not meet the sampling frequency for TKN during two different weeks in September. The week of September 8th and 15th, the Port of Sunnyside was only able to sample TKN three out of the required four samples per week. The Sunnyside plant continues to have operational challenges and product spills which led to excess BOD.

Outfall 4 exceeded Schedule A monthly contract limits for pounds of the following: BOD, chloride, fixed dissolved solids, phosphorus, and total dissolved solids. This was the results of diverting excess COW water from outfall 1 to outfall 4. The rejected outfall 1 water gets discharged to outfall 4 and the membranes were essentially not doing their job of removing impurities. As I mentioned before, plant personnel have replaced the membranes. This took place on 10/9/2024.

If you have questions, please feel free to reach out. My email is chris.babcock@darigold.com and my mobile phone number is (509) 854-4379.

Best Regards,



Chris Babcock
Darigold