



**South Treatment Plant**

1200 Monster Rd. SW  
Renton, WA 98057

January 23, 2025

Sean Wilson, P.E.  
Washington Department of Ecology  
Northwest Regional Office  
PO Box 330316  
Shoreline, WA 98133-9716

Dear Mr. Wilson:

King County is providing this report to fulfill the five-day reporting obligation of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. WA0022527.

On January 21, 2025, at 8:27 a.m., the ultraviolet (UV) radiation disinfection system at the Vashon Treatment Plant (VTP) lost power, resulting in a discharge of approximately 4,000 gallons of secondary effluent that was not disinfected. This loss of disinfection event was reported to the Department of Ecology and assigned ERTS number 736506.

At 8:27 a.m., South Plant's Main Control received an alarm for the UV disinfection failure at the VTP, located at 9615 SW 171<sup>st</sup> Street in Vashon, Washington. Within five minutes, the Vashon Operator was notified of the failure and began preparations to store influent flow in the equalization basin. At 9:02 a.m., effluent flow stopped, ending the loss of disinfection event after a duration of 35 minutes. Effluent flow resumed at 12:59 p.m. after the power failure was resolved and the UV disinfection system was returned to normal operation.

King County was replacing the batteries of the Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) at the time of the incident. A control fuse was removed during the investigation of the power outage. Upon replacing the fuse, the power was restored and the UV system started.

To prevent a recurrence, operations will store flow in the equalization basin and confirm that effluent flow has stopped prior to maintenance on the UV or UPS systems that could result in power loss.

While operations focused on halting the effluent flow, no fecal coliform sample was collected during the 35-minute disinfection interruption. Based on previous fecal coliform sample results from the Department of Health, VTP showed a range of 17,000 to 170,000 colony forming units (CFU)/100 mL and a median of 23,000 CFU/100mL for un-disinfected secondary

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effluent on May 28, 2024, the worst-case value of 170,000 CFU/100 mL will be used for compliance with the weekly and monthly fecal coliform limits. A fecal coliform sample collected after the UV was restarted resulted in <1 CFU/100mL, demonstrating a return to typical disinfection performance.

If you have additional questions concerning this event, please contact me at 206-477-5600.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Rebecca Singer  
Operations Manager

*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 the 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 knowing violations.*

cc: Kamuron Gurol, Director, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD), Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)  
Bruce Kessler, Deputy Director, WTD, DNRP  
Jeff Lafer, Project/Program Manager IV, WTD, DNRP  
Norm Cook, East Offsite Plant Manager, WTD, DNRP  
Mike Wohlfert, South Treatment Plant Manager, WTD, DNRP  
Chapin Brackett, Process and Environmental Compliance Manager, WTD, DNRP