

NOTICE: ANNOUNCEMENT OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT PERMIT

PERMIT NO: WA0037770

APPLICANT: Cowlitz County Public Works
1600 13th Ave
Kelso, WA 98626

FACILITY: Toutle Wastewater Treatment Plant
200 S Toutle Rd
Toutle, WA 98649

Cowlitz County Public Works has applied for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit in accordance with the provisions of [Chapter 90.48 Revised Code of Washington \(RCW\)](#), [Chapter 173-216 Washington Administrative Code \(WAC\)](#), and [Federal Clean Water Act](#).

Cowlitz County Public Works presently owns or operates an oxidation ditch wastewater treatment plant which is designed to handle a maximum monthly flow of 0.25 million gallons per day. The wastewater, following treatment, must meet the requirements of the Washington State Water Pollution Control Act (Chapter 90.48 RCW) and applicable regulations for a permit to be issued.

Following evaluation of the application and other available information, a draft permit has been developed which would allow the discharge of treated municipal wastewater from Toutle Wastewater Treatment Plant to the Toutle River.

A tentative determination has been made on the effluent limitations and special permit conditions that will prevent and control pollution. A final determination will not be made until all timely comments received in response to this notice have been evaluated.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND INFORMATION

The draft permit and fact sheet may be viewed at the Department of Ecology (Ecology) website: <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/paris/DocumentSearch.aspx>. The application, fact sheet, proposed permit, and other related documents are also available at Ecology's Southwest Regional Office for inspection and copying between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:30 pm, weekdays. To obtain a copy or to arrange to view copies at the Southwest Region Office, please call (360) 407-6365, email publicdisclosureswro@ecy.wa.gov, or write to the address below.

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments regarding the proposed permit. **All comments must be submitted by May 16, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. be considered for the final determination.** Comments should be sent to:

Alisha Mckittrick
Department of Ecology
Southwest Region Office
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775

Email comments should be sent to swrowqpermits@ecy.wa.gov.

Any interested party may request a public hearing on the proposed permit within 30 days of the publication date of this notice. The request for a hearing shall state the interest of the party and the reasons why a hearing is necessary. The request should be sent to the above address. Ecology will hold a hearing if it determines that there is significant public interest. If a hearing is to be held, a public notice will be published at least 30 days in advance of the hearing date. Any party responding to this notice with comments will be mailed a copy of a hearing public notice.

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6831 or email at ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov. For TTY or Washington Relay Service, call 711 or 877-833-6341. Visit Ecology's website at <https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Accountability-transparency/Accessibility> for more information.