

From: [Vincent, Angela \(ECY\)](#)
To: [Maureen Meehan](#)
Cc: [Reed-Harmon, George](#) ; [Raso, Gabe \(ECY\)](#)
Subject: Response to S4F Notification for diesel spill (Waller Road East) into Swan Creek
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025 12:43:01 PM

Dear Maureen,

I am responding to the S4F notification dated March 6, 2025, that Pierce County submitted to the Department of Ecology (Ecology) under the county's NPDES Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit (Permit). This notification concerns a petroleum-based spill that originated from a trucking yard and entered Pierce County MS4 and Swan Creek.

Ecology inspector Joe McCord reported this spill to Ecology's Environmental Report Tracking System (ERTS) on February 18, 2025. This incident happened at 11315 Waller Road East, and it was recorded in our tracking system as ERTS number 737003. As reported in your letter,

"Pierce County Public Works (PPW) Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) and Maintenance and Operations (M&O) took immediate action deploying spill kit supplies. Field observations suggested that the discharge was likely diesel fuel, which flowed into both the MS4 and Swan Creek. Water samples were taken, and results are pending."

According to Pierce County IDDE supervisor George Reed-Harmon, the water samples collected confirmed high amounts of diesel. I requested more information related to this incident on March 7, 2025. On March 13, George replied with the following:

"The current status of containment and cleanup for the fuel spill that flowed into County MS4 and Swan Creek indicates that there is no ongoing or significant discharge from the site. The PC staff will continue to conduct follow-up visits to the catch basin to ensure that the discharge has stopped and that no continued discharge has been identified to Swan Creek."

Pierce County and Ecology staff met onsite with the property owner on March 3, 2025. Regarding this site visit, George said,

"...a residual sheen was observed in the area of concern; however, no active discharge was occurring at that time. The booms from the contributing ditch at the entrance of the property's driveway were removed. Following the joint site visit, staff were dispatched to remove the booms positioned before the catch basin and to place a new boom in the catch basin as a precautionary measure. The Department of Ecology provided the property owner with additional booms to help prevent any further discharge from the site."

In your S4F notification, you said,

"Additionally, IDDE staff have been collaborating with DOE Spills to ensure an

effective response. Should any improvements to the response protocols be identified, Pierce County Procedures and Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) will be revised accordingly."

Please notify me if Pierce County identifies necessary updates and/or improvements to your spills and illicit connection/discharge response protocols. It is my understanding that Pierce County had cross-training with Ecology Spill responders on April 4, 2025.

Ecology has determined that an adaptive management response under Permit condition S4.F.3 is not necessary for this notification because the Permit's Stormwater Management Program requirements are designed to address and eliminate illicit discharges into the MS4. This is Permit condition S5.C.9. This determination does not affect any obligation you may have under other laws, regulations, or permits. If you or your staff have questions, please contact me by phone at (360) 628-4734 or email.

Sincerely,

Angela Vincent
Municipal Stormwater Planner
SWRO Water Quality Program
WA State Department of Ecology
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