



Port Townsend Paper Corporation
100 Mill Road, Port Townsend, WA 98368
www.PTPC.com

April 30, 2025

Emily Toffol
Solid Waste Management Program, Industrial Section
Washington State Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Subject: April 2025 Process Water Leak to Port Townsend Bay (Incident #738536)

Dear Ms. Toffol,

This written report summarizes information and response steps taken by Port Townsend Paper Corporation (PTPC) for an April 28, 2025, process water leak to Port Townsend Bay as required by NPDES permit WA0000922 Section S3. E.c.

PTPC called the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) spill line and the Ecology Industrial Section on April 28, 2025, upon initial discovery. ERTS # 738536 was assigned to this event.

On April 28, 2025, at approximately 10:30 AM, a leak in the process wastewater line was discovered under the dock at the sewer line between the #9 and Main Pump Stations just past the concrete sewer vault (see attached map). The leak was estimated at 1000 gallons per minute at the time of discovery. As required in NPDES permit section S3.E, an investigation to identify the source was immediately initiated and PTPC operations began the process to shut down the mill at 11:40 AM, to isolate and halt inflow sources. While taking immediate corrective action, PTPC notified Ecology at 11:34 AM. By 1:05 PM, the line drainage had been reduced to an estimated 5 to 7 gallons per minute, and operations were fully offline by 1:20 PM. The mill remained offline until the leak was repaired using a pipe clamp, and no further discharge occurred.

No discharge flow was expected once all sources were taken offline by 1:20 PM. PTPC employees visually verified that no untreated effluent was being discharged from the line at 2:00 PM. An estimated 114,630 gallons of untreated process wastewater was discharged after discovery, with the greatest spill rate likely occurring from 10:30 AM-12:24 PM and then tapering off as mill operations shut down. Repairs were completed by 4:15 PM.

PTPC personnel collected a sample of the mill process effluent discharge directly from the pipe leak at approximately 11:30 AM. The sample had a pH of 8.45 and temperature 31 degrees Celsius (88° Fahrenheit). Color, total suspended solids (TSS), and Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) concentrations were consistent with expected operational flow to the inlet of the Primary Clarifier treatment works. TSS and COD results were within normal operational ranges and BOD (5-day process) is also expected to be.

Work order WO0195378 was written for the repair of the leak at the sewer line. A small amount of deteriorating wood was removed directly below the pipe to provide access to install the clamp. The large diameter rubber lined pipe clamp was installed. During low tide on 4/29 Thacker Masonry encapsulated the clamp repair with quick set/grout concrete. The sewer line was then visually inspected. During the inspection no leaks or steam were noted at the repair site, indicating a successful repair.

PTPC is evaluating replacing or lining the piping in question during the scheduled annual maintenance shutdown in November 2025.

PTPC is pleased to report that it was able to quickly rectify and stop this nonhazardous process water discharge and has taken appropriate measures to implement repairs and prevent a recurrence. This report serves to fulfill the five (5)-day notification requirement of NPDES permit Section S3. E.c. If you have any questions about this report or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me at (360) 379-2059 or Micheal.Clea@ptpc.com.

Sincerely,

Micheal Clea

Micheal Clea MBA, MESH
Environmental Manager
Port Townsend Paper Corporation

Enclosures:
Engineering Drawing with Spill Location

Cc: Bert Brown – PTPC
Cc: Brian Peterson – Crown Paper Group