



**STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY**

**Central Region Office**

1250 West Alder St., Union Gap, WA 98903-0009 • 509-575-2490

June 25, 2025

Shawn Davisson  
City of Okanogan  
PO Box 752  
Okanogan, WA 98840-0752

*Sent via email only: [publicworks@okanogancity.com](mailto:publicworks@okanogancity.com)*

**RE: Draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No.  
WA0022365 for Okanogan Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW)**

Dear Shawn Davisson:

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) is publishing a second public notice of draft NPDES Permit and Fact Sheet for permit no. WA0022365 – Okanogan POTW. The reason for this second public notice period is the addition of a daily effluent temperature limit of 27.5 °C for the Okanogan POTW. The decision to add this limit is based on a recent change in how Ecology determines if a limit is needed for NPDES facilities. Previously, a facility would not need a temperature limit as long as their effluent would not raise the ambient temperature of the receiving water by more than .3 °C in the mixing zone. Given the dilution available to the Okanogan POTW and the temperature of the plant effluent, this condition was met and a limit was not needed.

However, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has pushed back on Ecology for using this .3 °C change in their permits and has instead required the State to examine if the ambient temperature of receiving water is higher or lower than aquatic life water quality criteria. In the case of the Okanogan River, the summer temperatures of the river are higher than this criteria, which necessitates Ecology to implement a performance-based limit. Ecology has examined the summer effluent temperature study that was submitted by Okanogan POTW and used this data to calculate a daily max temperature limit for the Okanogan POTW of 27.5 °C.

Enclosed for your review is the revised draft NPDES Permit and Fact Sheet which Ecology proposes to issue for your facility.



Please review these documents to insure that you understand and agree will all conditions. Your written comments must be submitted no later than **August 8, 2025**, to be considered in the formulation of final determinations regarding the draft permit. Comments should be sent to: <https://wq.ecology.commentinput.com?id=t7e9dGh5R> or mail to: Water Quality Permit Coordinator, Department of Ecology, Central Regional Office, 1250 West Alder Street, Union Gap, WA 98903-0009.

State Water Pollution Control laws require the publishing of a Public Notice which describes the discharge for any new or existing operation. This is to give the public a chance to be aware of, and comment on the draft permit and fact sheet. Enclosed is a copy of the public notice of draft permit describing your wastewater treatment discharge. The Department of Ecology will publish this notice in the "Legal Classified Section" of the **Omak-Okanogan Co Chronicle** on **July 9, 2025**.

Ecology understands that adding new limits to a facility's effluent may cause added hardship or burden to small communities. We have reviewed the POTW's effluent temperature data from the previous permit cycle and as it currently stands, the POTW should not be in danger of violating this new limit. Regardless of this, Ecology is more than willing to answer any questions or concerns the City of Okanogan might have about this new limit.

Please reach out to me at [caleb.bos@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:caleb.bos@ecy.wa.gov) or (509) 426-0679. You may also provide comments during the public comment period and the comments will be addressed.

Sincerely,



**Caleb Bos**

Lead Permit Developer  
Water Quality Program

Enclosures: Draft Permit and Fact Sheet  
Public Notice

e-cc: Erik Van Doren, Ecology-Union Gap, [erik.vandoren@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:erik.vandoren@ecy.wa.gov)