

Harrington WWTP WA0045462
Site Visit
09/26/12

Attendance:

Eleanor Key (ECY)

Mike Hepp (ECY)

Dave Moss (Spokane County)

Adam McClymont (Operations Director)

Arrived: 10:45 am

Departure: 1:15 pm

The purpose of this site visit was to introduce Eleanor as the new Permit Manager, tour the facility, discuss permit requirements, recent violations and upcoming submittal requirements. Upon arrival, a meeting was held in the treatment plant's office. Dave Moss briefly explained the modifications to the collection system for diverting flows to the new treatment facility from the City of Spokane's Riverside Water Reclamation Facility. While the County's facility is able to expand for growth, 10 MGD of capacity has been maintained at the City's treatment plant, down from 18 MGD prior to start-up of the County's facility. In essence, the County is currently able to support an average flow of 18 MGD and will not have to plan for expansion until reaching 85% of the total capacity split between both facilities.

Mike Hepp discussed the recent permit violations and permit triggers. Recent DMRs have shown that the County is already within 85% of the influent design loading for BOD, based on the 8 MGD flow to the facility. WebDMR needs to be adjusted to avoid these unnecessary permit triggers from occurring. Dave Moss indicated that the County would issue a letter clarifying that the additional capacity at the City's treatment plant negates the need for the facility to enter into a planning period for maintaining adequate capacity.

Other issues were also raised concerning the County's discharge permit. Primarily, the issues are with the effluent limits set for pH and cadmium. Zinc and lead are less of a concern although the County would like these limits revisited as well based on their two years of monitoring data. Monitoring data for November and December shows a spike in effluent cadmium concentrations – this spike was also observed in December 2011. It is suspected that the cadmium source is from annual cleaning/maintenance at one of the industrial facilities located in the park off of Sullivan road; however this cannot be substantiated at this time. They are investigating the cadmium source and sampling upstream in their influent to help locate the source, but finding it is difficult because of the sporadic nature of the discharges.

Eleanor offered to revisit the performance based limits used for metals in the existing discharge permit at the request of the County. Dave Moss also indicated he would send documents relating to the

metals issue, which were prepared by Dave Reynolds, and may offer some insight into pretreatment investigations. The current metal limits are based off of the City's effluent limits which were contested during the permit review but were not adequately addressed in the response to comments. Adam also indicated that the County had been taking samples weekly for orthophosphate, and has offered those results for review.

Following the office meeting, Dave and Adam took Mike and Eleanor on a tour of the facility, which started at the educational center, followed by the headworks, primary clarifiers, selectors, membrane tanks, disinfection, and solids handling centers. Each of these processes was discussed in detail and was observed to be functioning as designed. General housekeeping practices in the headworks building and in the biosolids handling building were less than adequate. Spills of raw sewage and grease splatter were evident in the headworks and biosolids in the dewatering areas. Also, a polymer spill, several months old, had not been cleaned up (cat litter still on floor in piles).

Overall, the plant is functioning well. The laboratory area was clean, as were the paths between all treatment processes (save for ice/snow accumulation). The County is eager to comply with their discharge permit and have been agreeable when asked to provide additional information to Ecology.