

Newport Wastewater Treatment Plant

Extraordinary Diligence



Introduction

At the end of 2007, the Newport Wastewater treatment plant reached a milestone that very few treatment plants in the state of Washington have ever reached: they completed their eleventh straight year of perfect performance. Ecology staff presented the 2007 “Good Guy” Award to the mayor, city council, and treatment plant operators at the Newport city council meeting on May 19, 2008.

Problem

To win the Good Guy award, a treatment plant must go through the entire calendar year without any permit violations. They must also submit all reports complete and on time. Given the complexity of treatment plant operations and the permit requirements, this is an extraordinary accomplishment.

Facility performance

The city of Newport wastewater treatment plant discharges an average of 300,000 gallons of effluent per day to the Pend Oreille River. The treatment plant operators must monitor for six different parameters as part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements, along with other operational monitoring. The city must then submit a discharge monitoring report (DMR) to Ecology by the 15th of every month. They also need to send Ecology an Annual Assessment every year during the permit period, and an Industrial User Survey as part of the permit requirements.

From 1997 through 2007 the treatment plant has been operated efficiently and with pride by the treatment plant crew. The city of Newport mayor and city council have supported their treatment plant facilities with a budget that allowed necessary upgrades and maintenance. The city also supported the operators so that they could carry out their duties.



Project highlights

The Newport treatment plant installed new headworks, a metered septage hauler pump station, and a belt press for dewatering biosolids in 2004.

Partners

Fred Anderson, mayor of Newport, Ray King, city Administrator, and the city council have been very involved in and supportive of the operations at the treatment plant. The treatment plant operators: Leroy Linton, Ed Rocheck, and Jim Clark have been very professional and effective in operating the plant.



For more information:

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