

News Release

July 31, 2019



Port of Olympia and Department of Ecology enter into an Agreed Order regarding Marine Terminal stormwater permit

Today, the Port of Olympia entered into an Agreed Order with the Washington State Department of Ecology regarding the industrial stormwater permit that covers the Port's Marine Terminal. The Agreed Order provides the Port with a specific timeline to evaluate and implement modifications to the Marine Terminal's stormwater treatment facility.

The Port's stormwater treatment facility has met Chemical Oxidation Demand (COD) permit benchmarks for the first two quarters of 2019 and the Port and its Marine Terminal log yard tenants work together to continually improve performance through implementation of additional best management practices and process improvements.

The Agreed Order is the outcome of several months of direct discussions between Port and Ecology staff, and provides the Port with a specific timeline to propose and implement a range of possible system modifications designed to ensure the facility can consistently meet COD permit benchmarks into the future. There are no fines or penalties paid as part of this Agreed Order.

"The Port of Olympia is committed to sound environmental stewardship. I appreciate Ecology's cooperation in clarifying our mutual expectations and look forward to working together to achieve our shared goal of protecting the water quality of Budd Inlet," said Sam Gibboney, Port of Olympia's executive director.

BACKGROUND:

The Port's Marine Terminal stormwater treatment facility is the only one in the State of Washington to use a chemical oxidation based system to treat stormwater. The facility was completed and fully operational on December 31, 2014. Just a month later, January 28, 2015, a system component failed, resulting in a release of hydrogen peroxide. Following repairs and design changes, the system came back online again on December 31, 2016.

During 2017, the Port exceeded benchmark parameters for COD during three quarters, triggering requirements for additional corrective action under the Port's permit. The Agreed Order spells out the mutual understanding of the steps and timeline necessary to fulfill the requirements of that corrective action.

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About the Port of Olympia

The southernmost deep-water port on Puget Sound, the Port of Olympia owns and operates an international shipping terminal that handles a range of breakbulk and project cargoes. The Port also owns and operates Swantown Marina & Boatworks, a 733-slip recreational marina and boat haul-out/repair facility, a regional airport and a real estate division.

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