



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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April 18, 2022

The Honorable Scott Anderson, Mayor
City of Stevenson
PO Box 371
Stevenson, WA 98321

Re: 2022 Inspection, Stevenson Water Resource Recovery Facility – WA0020672

Dear Mayor Anderson:

On March 15, 2022, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) conducted an inspection of the Stevenson Water Resource Recovery Facility. We have enclosed a copy of our inspection report for your records, and would like to express our thanks to Devon Groom for the courtesy extended during the inspection.

The water resource recovery facility seemed to be in fair condition and maintained to the best of the operator's abilities at the time of our inspection. We appreciate the City's efforts and attention in caring for the treatment facility. And, we look forward to watching the construction projects move forward later this year.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, or if I can be of any service to you, please contact me directly by email at eleanor.ott@ecy.wa.gov or at (360) 280-5624.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Ott".

M. Eleanor Ott, P.E.
Small Communities Engineer
Southwest Regional Office
Water Quality Program

Enclosure: Inspection Report

cc: Leana Kinley, City Administrator (w/enclosure)
Permit File, Stevenson STP



Water Compliance Inspection Report

Section A: National Data System Coding (i.e., PCS)

Transaction Code 1 N	NPDES 2 5	yr/mo/day 3 W A 0 0 2 0 6 7 2 11	Inspection Type 12 2 2 3 15 17	Inspector 18 C	Fac Type 19 A	20 1
Remarks 21 66						
Inspection Work Days 67 .. 69	Facility Self-Monitoring Evaluation Rating 70 _	BI 71 _	QA 72 _	-----Reserved----- 73 .. 74	75 80	

Section B: Facility Data

Name and Location of Facility Inspected (For industrial users discharging to POTW, also include POTW name and NPDES permit number) Stevenson STP 686 SW Rock Creek Drive Stevenson, WA 98648	Entry Time/Date 3/15/22, 11:10 a.m.	Permit Effective Date Nov. 1, 2008
	Exit Time/Date 3/15/22, 12:45 p.m.	Permit Expiration Date Oct. 31, 2013 (under admin extension)
Name(s) of On-Site Representative(s)/Title(s)/Phone and Fax Number(s) Devon Groom, Operator in Responsible Charge (253) 380-1964 (cell)	Other Facility Data	
Name, Address of Responsible Official/Title/Phone and Fax Number. Scott Anderson, Mayor 7121 East Loop Road (PO Box 371) Stevenson, WA 98648 Telephone #: (360) 829-1921 FAX #: (360) 829-2659 Contacted <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		

Section C: Areas Evaluated During Inspection (Check only those areas evaluated)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flow Measurement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operations & Maintenance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSO/SSO (Sewer Overflow)
<input type="checkbox"/> Records/Reports	<input type="checkbox"/> Self-Monitoring Program	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sludge Handling/Disposal	<input type="checkbox"/> Pollution Prevention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Facility Site Review	<input type="checkbox"/> Compliance Schedules	<input type="checkbox"/> Pretreatment	<input type="checkbox"/> Multimedia
<input type="checkbox"/> Effluent/Receiving Waters	<input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory	<input type="checkbox"/> Storm Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

Section D: Summary of Findings/Comments (Attach additional sheets of narrative and checklists as necessary)

See attached Section D Narrative

Name(s) and Signature(s) of Inspector(s)	Agency/Office/Phone and Fax Numbers	Date
Eleanor Ott, P.E.	Ecology/SWRO (360) 280-5624	3/16/2022
Signature of Management QA Reviewer Steven Ogle, P.E.	Agency/Office/Phone and Fax Numbers Ecology/SWRO (564) 999-3591	Date 4/18/2022

Section D Narrative

Ecology inspector/Permit Manager, Eleanor Ott, arrived onsite at the Stevenson WWTF a little after 11 a.m. on Tuesday morning, March 15, 2022. Access was provided by Devon Groom, Operator in Responsible Charge for the City of Stevenson, WA. Gordon (“Gordy”) Rosander has been providing backup operations assistance and signing DMRs as Devon has not yet received WQWebDMR permissions. Leana Kinley (City Administrator), Jane Vail (new City Engineer) and Carolyn [no last name available] (new Public Works Director) also visited the treatment plant while Ecology was onsite.

The inspection started at the headworks and followed the liquid stream flow through the secondary treatment and disinfection. At the headworks, a single fine screen removes inorganics which get transferred manually to a roll-off dumpster. Grit must be manually removed from the system with a shovel (or other method) as the plant does not have a grit classifier. The facility upgrade will relocate the headworks and also add a grit classifier which will help make daily operations smoother. Influent sampling occurs via automatic compositor and samples are pulled after screening.

Devon indicated that he has had recent trouble with both his dissolved oxygen (DO) and pH meters. The existing DO meter controls air delivery to the oxidation ditch through set points and the PLC. A working, calibrated DO meter is essential for proper aeration basin function. Devon has worked with Ecology’s technical assistance operator, Shane Cooper, and also HACH’s help desk to troubleshoot the meter issues. He’s also placed an order for a portable DO/pH meter so he can conduct side by side analyses to verify calibration. The upgrade currently in design will improve air delivery. The associated SCADA system and automated controls will provide more reliable air delivery and operational reliability. At present, rotor depth is the only mechanism available for changing DO in the aeration basin.

From the oxidation ditch, flows enter a distribution box which splits partially treated effluent to secondary clarifiers #1 and #2. When Devon started operating the plant in late January 2022, sludge blanket depth in both clarifiers was approximately 9-10 feet. He’s been working diligently to reduce the sludge blanket depth. Blanket depths are now around three-feet and five-feet for clarifiers #1 and #2, respectively. Clarified effluent received UV disinfection prior to discharge into the Columbia River. No outfall inspection occurred given location/position in the channel. Facility upgrades will add redundancy to the UV disinfection system by adding an extra bank of lights. Devon produced the bench sheets he and Gordy keep to track UV intensity and RAS flows on a daily basis. UV light cleaning occurs regularly and is not governed by UV intensity outputs unless the operators observe a dramatic decrease. Operators bump the onsite generator weekly and transfer power loads to ensure backup power reliability.

The plant does not have much flexibility in solids handling. Duplex RAS pumps remove solids from the secondary clarifiers and return the biomass to middle of the oxidation ditch. The existing RAS pumps have a set volumetric flow with little turndown ability. RAS pump controls and a RAS meter will be part of the facility upgrade – both are necessary for more robust process control. A single WAS pump directs waste sludge from the clarifiers to the aerobic digester. This digester, constructed with the original plant in 1973 appears to be near the end of its useful life and offers very little operational flexibility. The City produces Class B biosolids and Tribeca Transport hauls digested solids 2-3x/ week for disposal in Hood River. Solids content is approximately 1.3%

Ecology visited both lift stations that the City had to bypass in January due to a rain on snow event. The City has pursued funding for collection system improvements which includes upgrades to the Rock Creek lift station. The lift station downtown, near LDB Beverage had a sweet, fruity odor indicating discharge from the production facility. As reported, the City has continued difficulty with this industrial discharger. Ecology will follow up on any compliance issues with this user as the City continues to document high pH (>11) in their influent along with color/odor issues. The spike in influent BOD loading experienced during the summer may be related to this industrial user.

Overall, the City continues to operate the plant as well as can be expected. Anticipated upgrades will assist the City in maintaining consistent treatment performance. Devon continues to work towards this Group 2 certification and is knowledgeable and responsive. The only findings from the inspection relate to deficiencies with the influent and effluent flow meter calibration. The City needs to procure services for calibration as soon as possible and send notification to Ecology once complete.

Ecology left the site around 12:45 p.m.

INSTRUCTIONS

Section A: National Data System Coding (i.e., PCS)

Column 1: Transaction Code: Use N, C, or D for New, Change, or Delete. All inspections will be *new* unless there is an error in the data entered.

Column 3 - 11: NPDES Permit No.: Enter the facility's NPDES permit number – third character in permit number indicates permit type for U=unpermitted, G=general permit, etc.. (Use the Remarks columns to record the State permit number, if necessary.)

Columns 12 - 17: Inspection Date: Insert the date entry was made into the facility. Use the year/month/day format (e.g., 94/06/30 = June 30, 1994).

Column 18: Inspection Type*: Use one of the codes listed below to describe the type of inspection:

A	Performance Audit	U	IU Inspection with Pretreatment Audit	!	Pretreatment Compliance (Oversight)
B	Compliance Biomonitoring	X	Toxics Inspection	@	Follow-up (enforcement)
C	Compliance Evaluation (non-sampling)	Z	Sludge – Biosolids	{	Stormwater-Construction-Sampling
D	Diagnostic	#	Combined Sewer Overflow-Sampling	}	Stormwater-Construction-Non-Sampling
F	Pretreatment Follow-up	\$	Combined Sewer Overflow-Non-Sampling	:	Stormwater-Non-Construction-Sampling
G	Pretreatment (Audit)	+	Sanitary Sewer Overflow-Sampling	~	Stormwater-Non-Construction-Non-Sampling
I	Industrial User (IU) Inspection	&	Sanitary Sewer Overflow-Non-Sampling	<	Stormwater-MS4-Sampling
M	Multimedia	\	CAFO-Sampling	-	Stormwater-MS4-Non-Sampling
N	Spill	=	CAFO-Non-Sampling	>	Stormwater-MS4-Audit
O	Compliance Evaluation (Oversight)	2	IU Sampling Inspection		
P	Pretreatment Compliance Inspection	3	IU Non-Sampling Inspection		
R	Reconnaissance	4	IU Toxics Inspections		
S	Compliance Sampling	5	IU Sampling Inspection With Pretreatment		
		6	IU Non-Sampling Inspection with Pretreatment		
		7	IU Toxics With Pretreatment		

P

Column 19: Inspector Code: Use one of the codes listed below to describe the *lead agency* in the inspection

A - State (Contractor)	O - Other Inspectors, Federal/EPA (Specify in Remarks columns)
B - EPA (Contractor)	P - Other Inspectors, State (Specify in Remarks columns)
E - Corps of Engineers	R – EPA Regional Inspector
J - Joint EPA/State Inspectors-EPA Lead	S – State Inspector
L - Local Health Department (State)	T – Joint State/EPA Inspectors-State Lead
N - NEIC Inspectors	

Column 20: Facility Type: Use one of the codes below to describe the facility.

- 1 - Municipal. Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) with 1987 Standard Industrial Code (SIC) 4952.
- 2 - Industrial. Other than municipal, agricultural, and Federal facilities.
- 3 - Agricultural. Facilities classified with 1987 SIC 0111 to 0971.
- 4 - Federal. Facilities identified as Federal by the EPA Regional Office.
- 5 – Oil & Gas. Facilities classified with 1987 SIC 1311 to 1389

Columns 21-66: Remarks: These columns are reserved for remarks at the discretion of the Region.

Columns 67-69: Inspection Work Days: Estimate the total work effort (to the nearest 0.1 work day), up to 99.9 days, that were used to complete the inspection and submit a QA reviewed report of findings. This estimate includes the accumulative effort participating inspectors; any effort for laboratory analyses, testing, and remote sensing; and the billed payroll time for travel and pre and post inspection preparation. This estimate does not require detailed documentation.

Column 70: Facility Evaluation Rating: Use information gathered during the inspection (regardless of inspection type) to evaluate the quality of the facility self-monitoring program. Grade the program using a scale of 1 to 5 with a score of 5 being used for very reliable self-monitoring programs, 3 being satisfactory, and 1 being used for very unreliable programs.

Column 71: Biomonitoring Information: Enter D for static testing. Enter F for flow through testing. Enter N for no biomonitoring.

Column 72: Quality Assurance Data Inspection: Enter Q if the inspection was conducted as follow-up on quality assurance sample results. Enter N otherwise.

Columns 73-80: These columns are reserved for regionally defined information.

Section B: Facility Data

This section is self-explanatory except for "Other Facility Data," which may include new information not in the permit or PCS (e.g., new outfalls, names of receiving waters, new ownership, and other updates to the record).

Section C: Areas Evaluated During Inspection

Check only those areas evaluated by marking the appropriate box. Use Section D and additional sheets as necessary. Support the findings, as necessary, in a brief narrative report. Use the headings given on the report form (e.g., Permit, Records/Reports) when discussing the areas evaluated during the inspection.

Section D: Summary of Findings/Comments

Briefly summarize the inspection findings. This summary should abstract the pertinent inspection findings, not replace the narrative report. Reference a list of attachments, such as completed checklists taken from the NPDES Compliance Inspection Manuals and pretreatment guidance documents, including effluent data when sampling has been done. Use extra sheets as necessary.

*Footnote: In addition to the inspection types listed above under column 18, a state may continue to use the following wet weather and CAFO inspection types until the state is brought into ICIS-NPDES: K-CAFO, V-SSO, Y-COS, W-Stormwater, 9-MS4. States may also use the new wet weather CAFO and MS4 inspection types show in column 19 of this form. The EPA regions are required to use the new wet weather CAFO and MS4 inspection types for inspections with an inspection date (DTIN) on or after July 1, 2005.