

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. *National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, Fact Sheet/Permit Evaluation Report: West Linn Paper Company (Permit #100976)*. Updated March 4, 2004. (Reviewed by Pamela Johnston)

Evaluation of DEQ's proposal to reissue a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit to West Linn Paper Company. The WLPC paper mill is located on an island in the Willamette River. Wastewater from the plant is treated in a primary clarifier and then an aerated stabilization basin (ASB). A 10-day detention time is provided before the waste is released into the Willamette via Outfall 001. Outfall 002 is the most disconcerting, since this is where filters occasionally discharge backwash water into the river.

Analysis of this section of the Willamette show levels of concern for pesticides, bacteria, DDT and DDE, PCBs, aluminum, copper, lead, mercury, and zinc, as well as increase in temperature. NPDES permit requires monthly monitoring reports. It appears that WLPC may not be able to meet effluent levels at Outfall 002 as stated in the NPDES permit. The DEQ is therefore “proposing to issue a Mutual Agreement and Order (MAO) with the NPDES permit. The MAO includes a compliance schedule for WLPC to conduct an alternatives evaluation and implement the selected alternative to meet the effluent limits specified in the NPDES permit.”

Critique

One concern in regard to acceptable pollutant levels as dictated by the DEQ could be the chemicals that have no set water quality standards at this time. These include bromoform and trichlorofluoromethane, which were detected from the company's Outfall 001. However, this source is useful for current statistics of potentially-polluting local facilities, as well as the acceptable levels that our government sets for these kinds of emissions. The West Linn Paper Company is just one of many industrial facilities located near, or on, the Willamette. The DEQ website provides various Individual Permit Documents regarding water quality at its website <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/wqpermit/indvpermitdocs.htm>

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/wqpermit/IndvPermits/WestLinn/WLPCDraftEvalRpt.pdf>

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