



Idaho Department of Environmental Quality **FINAL §401 Water Quality Certification**

October 28, 2011

NPDES Permit Number: City of Glens Ferry Wastewater Treatment Plant, **ID-002200-4**

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 401(a)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), as amended, 33 USC Section 1341 (a)(1), and Idaho Code §§ 39-101 et.seq., and 39-3601 et.seq., the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has authority to review National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits and issue water quality certification decisions.

Based upon its review of the above-referenced permit and associated Fact Sheet, DEQ certifies that if the permittee complies with the terms and conditions imposed by the permit along with the conditions set forth in this water quality certification, then there is reasonable assurance the discharge will comply with the applicable requirements of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act, including the Idaho Water Quality Standards (WQS) (IDAPA 58.01.02) and other appropriate water quality requirements of State law.

This certification does not constitute authorization of the permitted activities by any other state or federal agency or private person or entity. This certification does not excuse the permit holder from the obligation to obtain any other necessary approvals, authorizations or permits.

MIXING ZONES

Pursuant to IDAPA 58.01.02.060, DEQ authorizes a mixing zone that utilizes up to 25% of the critical flow volumes of the Snake River for ammonia.

ANTIDegradation

Idaho WQS provide that existing uses and the water quality necessary to protect the existing uses shall be maintained and protected (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.01). In addition, where water quality exceeds levels necessary to support uses, that quality shall be maintained and protected unless the Department finds, after intergovernmental coordination and public participation, that allowing lower water quality is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the area in which the waters are located (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.02).

The City of Glens Ferry discharges its treated wastewater to the Snake River assessment unit (AU) ID17050101SW005_07, which is listed in Idaho for sediment and nutrients (as total phosphorus). The *King Hill – C.J. Strike Reservoir* (2006) addresses each of these pollutants and has been approved by EPA.

The effluent limitations in the proposed final permit for the City of Glens Ferry are set at levels that ensure the State's numeric and narrative criteria will be met. The numeric and narrative criteria are set at levels which protect and maintain designated and existing beneficial uses. Therefore, the limits in the proposed final permit protect and maintain the applicable designated and existing beneficial uses in the Snake River.

Additionally, the effluent limitations in the proposed final permit for the City of Glenns Ferry are the same or more stringent than the limits in the existing permit. The limits for phosphorus are new and are consistent with the *King Hill – C.J. Strike Reservoir TMDL*. The TSS limitations are the same as the previous permit and are consistent with the *King Hill – C.J. Strike Reservoir TMDL*. The limits in the proposed final permit, therefore, ensure that the existing level of water quality in the Snake River is maintained.

In summary, because the proposed final permit includes limits that comply with the state's numeric and narrative criteria and limits that are the same as or more stringent than those in the existing permit, the permit (a) protects and maintains existing uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect existing uses in accordance with IDAPA 58.01.02.051.01 and (b) maintains and protects the existing water quality in accordance with IDAPA 58.01.02.051.02. Please see the attached Antidegradation review for a more detailed discussion.

OTHER CONDITIONS

The certification is conditioned upon the requirement that any material modification of this permit or the permitted activities including without limitation, any modifications of the permit to reflect new or modified TMDL waste load allocations or other new information, shall first be provided to DEQ for review to determine compliance with WQS and to provide additional certification pursuant to section 401.

RIGHT TO APPEAL FINAL CERTIFICATION

The final Section 401 Water Quality Certification may be appealed by submitting a petition to initiate a contested case, pursuant to Idaho Code § 39-107(5), and the Rules of Administrative Procedure Before the Board of Environmental Quality, IDAPA 58.01.23, within 35 days of the date of the final certification.

Questions regarding the actions taken in this certification should be directed to Lauri Monnot, DEQ (Boise Regional Office) at (208) 373-0550.

Pete Wagner
Administrator, DEQ Boise Regional Office