



FACT SHEET

Public Comment Period Start Date: July 23, 2012

Public Comment Expiration Date: August 22, 2012

**The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Plans To Modify Two National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits**

**West Boise Wastewater Treatment Facility
City of Boise
Boise, Idaho**

and

**Lander Street Wastewater Treatment Facility
City of Boise
Boise, Idaho**

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Permit Nos. ID-002127-0 and Permit No. ID-002044-3

401 Certification

The EPA will request from the State of Idaho, Department of Environmental Quality a Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Certification that the permit will comply with the applicable Idaho Water Quality Standards. The NPDES permit will not be issued until the certification requirements of Section 401 have been met.

EPA Proposes To Modify NPDES Permits

The EPA proposes to modify the NPDES permits issued for the West Boise Wastewater Treatment Facility and the Lander Street Facility. The modification increases the interim minimum level (IML) for mercury from 0.001 µg/l to 0.004 µg/l. This fact sheet includes:

- information on public comment, public hearing, and appeal procedures
- technical material supporting the conditions in the permit modification

Public Comment

The EPA is only accepting comments on the modified interim limits for mercury. Pursuant to 40CFR122.62 only the conditions subject to modification are reopened for public comment.

Persons wishing to comment or request a public hearing on the proposed modification may do so in writing by the expiration date of the public comment period. A request for a public hearing must state the nature of the issues to be raised as well as the requester’s name, address and telephone number. All comments and requests for public hearings must be in writing and should be submitted to EPA as described in the public comments section of the attached Public Notice.

After the public notice period expires, and all comments have been considered, EPA’s Regional Director for the Office of Water and Watersheds will make a final decision regarding permit modification. The modification will become effective 30 days after the date of the Regional Director’s decision, unless an appeal is submitted to the Environmental Appeals Board within 30 days.

Documents are Available for Review.

The draft permit modifications and fact sheet are posted on the Region 10 website at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/WATER.NSF/NPDES+Permits/DraftPermitsID>. Copies may also be requested by writing to EPA at the Seattle address below, by e-mailing washington.audrey@epa.gov, or by calling Audrey Washington at 206-553-0523 or (800) 424-4372 ext 0523 (within Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, & Washington). Copies may also be inspected and copied at the offices below between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. In Seattle, visitors report to the 12th floor Public Information Center.

EPA Region 10 (206) 553-0523
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Boise Regional Office
1445 North Orchard
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I. Applicant

The West Boise Facility and the Lander Street Facility treat wastewater from domestic, industrial, and commercial sources. The facilities discharge secondarily treated wastewater throughout the year to the Boise River.

The West Boise facility serves Boise City/Ada County, West Boise Sewer District, Garden City and Eagle Sewer District. The total population served according to the 2010 application is approximately 148,300. The current design flow is 24 million gallons per day (mgd).

The Lander Street facility serves Boise City/Ada County, Bench Sewer District, and the

Northwest Boise Sewer District. The total population served according to the 2010 application is approximately 122,600. The current design flow is 15 mgd.

II. Background

The City of Boise (City) was reissued NPDES permits effective August 1, 2012 for the West Boise Wastewater Treatment Facility and the Lander Street Wastewater Treatment Facility. The discharge from the Lander Street facility is located at approximately river mile 49.9 on the Boise River and the West Boise facility discharge is located downstream of the Lander Street facility at approximately river mile 43.5 of the Boise River.

The reissued permits included an Interim Minimum Level (IML) for mercury of 0.001 µg/l.

The reissued permits included a Minimum Level (ML) for mercury influent monitoring of 0.0005 µg/l beginning October 1, 2012.

The specific permit conditions which are identical in the both the West Boise and Lander Street permits are as follows:

1. Condition I.D.3. Table 4, *Minimum Levels and Interim Minimum Levels*, requires a 0.001 µg/l ML and IML for effluent mercury monitoring.
2. Condition II.H.8.d) Table 9, *Minimum Levels and Interim Minimum Levels*, for influent and effluent pretreatment monitoring requires an IML for mercury of 0.001 µg/l until September 30, 2012. Beginning October 1, 2012 the ML is 0.0005 µg/l.

III. Modification Request

In a letter submitted to the EPA on April 12, 2012 the City of Boise requested an IML for mercury of 0.004 µg/l instead of 0.001 µg/l. The City of Boise will be using the existing laboratory equipment and methods to monitor and report mercury results until the purchase of new laboratory equipment and modification of the quality control and quality assurance procedures, which will be completed by September 30, 2012. The existing equipment cannot attain the 0.001 µg/l interim minimum level.

The City of Boise also requested that the ML for mercury influent monitoring be less sensitive than 0.0005 µg/l. The request is intended to minimize the risk of cross contamination and laboratory error. The influent to the WWTPs has higher concentrations of mercury than the effluent. Over the past 5 years the influent mercury levels have ranged from a low of 15.4 ng/L in 2008 to a maximum of 1,088 ng/L in 2011. To have the higher influent mercury concentrations present in the lab in the same area as the effluent and receiving water samples risks cross contamination. Further, there would need to be dilution in order to use the more sensitive method which introduces the possibility of error.

IV. Tentative Determination

The EPA has tentatively determined to modify the permits to include an IML for mercury of 0.004 µg/l. The specific permit modifications include: establishing an IML for mercury of 0.004 µg/l in Table 4 and increasing the IML for mercury in Table 9 from 0.001 µg/l to 0.004 µg/l in both Permit No. ID-0023981 and Permit No. ID-002044-3. The mercury ML beginning on October 1, 2012 is unchanged for the effluent sampling.

The EPA has tentatively determined to modify both permits to allow a less sensitive ML for influent monitoring provided mercury can be detected and quantified. The specific permit modification is a footnote to the mercury ML in Table 9 of both permits to allow a less sensitive EPA-approved method for influent mercury monitoring provided that the method is sufficiently sensitive to detect and quantify the level of mercury in the influent sample.

The regulations at 40 CFR §122.62 allow NPDES permits to be modified for cause. In this case, the cause for modification is new information not available at the time of the permit issuance. Therefore, this permit is being modified in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR §124.5. When a permit is modified, only the conditions subject to modification are reopened.