

Response to Comments

City of St. Maries Wastewater Treatment Plant

NPDES Permit Number: ID0022799

September 4, 2020

On March 10, 2020, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 (EPA) issued a public notice for the proposed reissuance of Name of Facility draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. ID0022799. The public comment period closed April 9, 2020.

During the public comment period, the EPA received comments from the following:

- The City of St. Maries

In addition to soliciting public comments, the EPA also received final Clean Water Act Section 401 from the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, the certifying authority for the permit, on September 1, 2020.

The EPA did not make any changes to the permit as a result of comments received from the City of St. Maries. In response to the Tribe's certification, and in accordance with the Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and 40 CFR Part 124.53, the EPA has revised the permit to include a special condition requiring the city to conduct leak detection testing on all known under-river crossings (See Part II.F of the Permit and the attached Final CWA 401 Certification).

Comment 1. New Monitoring Requirements Proposed (City of St. Maries)

“The draft permit conditions require the City conduct testing above what is required in the current permit. Specifically, it adds bi-monthly testing for Whole Effluent Toxicity, copper, zinc, nickel and turbidity; as well as continuous temperature monitoring during the month of June. The additional testing creates a burden to the City finances in the form of testing costs and additional manpower needs.

The City of St. Maries has concerns from a feasible point regarding the ability to perform extra surface water monitoring requirements along with the financial burden of budgeting for the extra samples and monitoring.

The City understands and appreciates the overall need for a clean environment including a safe and healthy river and lake. The City joins the EPA in its efforts in this regard. However, the City does not see the justification for additional burden imposed through testing and monitoring. The City is requesting that the additional testing and monitoring be removed from the final permit.

The City appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft permit. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.”

Response.

Section 308 of the Clean Water Act and the federal regulation 40 CFR 122.44(i) require monitoring in permits to determine compliance with effluent limitations. Monitoring may also be required to gather effluent and receiving water data in order to assess the need for effluent limitations in future permitting actions. The regulation at 40 CFR § 122.44(d)(1)(i) requires limitations on all pollutants that have a reasonable potential to cause excursions of applicable water quality standards. The need for effluent limitations and monitoring requirements is evaluated at the time of each permit reissuance, and is based on representative effluent and receiving water data and water quality standards currently in effect for Clean Water Act purposes. Section V.D. of the Fact Sheet explains the bases for new effluent limitations and/or effluent monitoring requirements for whole effluent toxicity, copper, zinc, nickel, turbidity, and June temperatures. Section VI.C. of the Fact Sheet explains the basis for the establishment of surface water monitoring requirements to assess the assimilative capacity of the receiving water for pollutants of concern. In combination, effluent and surface water monitoring data will be used to determine the need for water quality based effluent limitations and monitoring requirements in future permitting actions. The EPA did not make any changes as a result of the comment.