Public Notice

DEQ Requests Comment on Proposed Red Rock Biofuels Water Quality Permit

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality invites the public to provide written comment on the conditions of the Red Rock Biofuels, LLC, proposed water quality permit, known officially as a Water Pollution Control Facilities Permit.

Summary

Subject to public review and comment, DEQ intends to issue the water quality permit in accordance with OAR 340-045. The permit will allow the company to construct and operate an evaporative wastewater treatment system for pretreatment prior to discharge to the Town of Lakeview municipal wastewater treatment facility. The permit is necessary to ensure environmental protection to manage high strength industrial wastewater from the facility's industrial operations. Part of the review process is an opportunity for public comment, based on the application and supporting documentation.

Where can I get more information?

View information about this proposed permit, including the permit evaluation report and preliminary engineering report following this notice, or by contacting the permit coordinator, Patty Isaak, to make an appointment to review the documents in person:

Phone: 541-278-4600
Fax: 541-278-0168
Email: Isaak.Patty@deq.state.or.us

How do I participate?

You may submit your comments by mail, fax or email to:

Patty Isaak, Permit Coordinator
Oregon DEQ
800 SE Emigrant Ave. Suite. 330
Pendleton, OR 97801

Fax: 541-278-0168
Email: Isaak.Patty@deq.state.or.us

All comments are due by 5 p.m on Monday November 2, 2020, All comments will become part of the public record.

About the facility

The proposed lagoon treatment facility will consist of a single treatment lagoon with an aeration system to oxygenate the wastewater. The facility is to be constructed as a treatment lagoon to reduce biochemical oxygen demand loading, provide cooling, and provide pH control prior to discharge into the Lakeview municipal wastewater treatment facility.

The lagoon will be lined with a synthetic liner to prevent seepage to groundwater. Discharge to the town's municipal wastewater treatment system is also subject to any local pretreatment requirements.

The proposed lagoon will be located directly adjacent to the existing Lakeview wastewater treatment ponds and have a volume of approximately 4.86 million gallons. The facility is required to maintain the pond to prevent nuisance conditions and prevent any off-site discharge.

This facility also holds a Stormwater Permit.

What types of pollutants does the permit regulate?

The proposed permit for Red Rock Biofuels regulates industrial wastewater discharged to a pretreatment and disposal lagoon. Therefore, the permit prohibits discharge to waters of the state and requires the facility to have an environmental supervisor to oversee operations. Disposal will be through evaporation and discharge after treatment to the Lakeview municipal wastewater treatment system.

How did DEQ determine the proposed permit requirements?

DEQ evaluates the type of treatment and disposal systems at the site and requires regular monitoring and maintenance of the wastewater system to protect public health and the environment.

For this permit action, DEQ evaluated the facility based on data and plans provided in the permit file and subsequent communications and reviewed compliance with Oregon Administrative Rules and Statute.

State of Oregon
Department of Environmental Quality

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DEQ is a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water.

Notice issued: 9/28/2020

How does DEQ monitor compliance with the permit requirements?

This permit requires the facility to monitor various parameters using approved monitoring practices and standards. The facility must submit annual monitoring reports to DEQ. DEQ reviews the facility's submitted monitoring reports to check for compliance with permit limits and may conduct site inspections to verify compliance with permit conditions or to respond to complaints.

What happens after the public comment period closes?

DEQ will hold a public hearing if DEQ receives a written request for a public hearing within 14 days of mailing or posting the public notice from at least 10 people or from an organization representing at least 10 people.

DEQ will consider and respond to all comments received and may modify the proposed permit based on comments.

Alternative formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us. People with hearing impairments may call 711.