

Public Notice

DEQ Requests Comment on Portland General Electric Company Water Pollution Control Facilities Permit Modification

The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) invite the public to provide written comments on a proposed modification to a Water Pollution Control Facilities (WPCF) Permit.

Summary

Portland General Electric Company (PGE or permittee) currently operates a 450 megawatt natural-gas fired energy generation facility (Carty Generating Station) and the Boardman Coal Plant, a coal fired plant to be decommissioned, located at 73334 Tower Road in Boardman, Oregon. PGE maintains a WPCF Permit for these energy facilities, in accordance with OAR 340 Chapter 045, for the management, storage, reuse, disposal, and treatment of industrial process wastewater and sanitary wastewater

WPCF Permit #100189 was issued on May 2, 2013 with an April 30, 2023 expiration date. The permit was subsequently modified via permit action letter on Nov. 4, 2015 to align the permit with EPA's new Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR) Rules. Addendum #1 to the permit was issued and became effective January 24, 2019 which allowed the disposal of solar panel wash water. Since the permit was last renewed in 2013, DEQ has documented one violation for failure to monitor pH in two of the lined evaporation ponds and failure to monitor one pH sample during irrigation withdrawal as required—the facility was issued a Warning Letter for the missed pH monitoring and documented a return to compliance.

DEQ has not received any complaints since the permit was last issued.

PGE requests to modify the WPCF Permit to authorize disposal of turbine rinse water and to edit several other written permit conditions related to the closure of the Boardman Coal Plant to align with the future operations of the Carty Generation Station. The WPCF permit modification is under review through ODOE and the Energy Facility Siting Council's site certificate amendment process.

Where can I get more information?

DEQ relied on information submitted by PGE in its August 17, 2020 written request for permit

modification. To view information about this proposed permit action, including the request, permit evaluation report and underlying documents, contact Patty Isaak to make an appointment to review the documents. You may also view the documents online at:

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Programs/Pages/PG E-Boardman.aspx>

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How do I participate?

You may submit your comments by 5 p.m. on Nov. 2, 2020 by mail, fax or email to:

Chase McVeigh-Walker, Senior Siting Analyst
Oregon Department of Energy
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Salem, OR
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Email: Chase.McVeigh-Walker@oregon.gov Fax: 503-373-7806

DEQ and ODOE will jointly review any comments submitted on the WPCF modification documents.

About the facility

The Carty Generation Station maintains an existing WPCF Permit allowing disposal of industrial and domestic wastewater using Carty Reservoir, a wastewater pond, and through seepage and evaporation. The WPCF Permit also authorizes and regulates wastewater and ash disposal.

What types of pollutants does the permit regulate?

The proposed modification to the WPCF Permit includes a condition that allows disposal of turbine rinse water into Carty Reservoir based on submitted analytical results in addition to the biodegradable cleaner data sheet. The permit also regulates sewage disposal to the sanitary



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wastewater ponds and process wastewater ponds at the site.

How did DEQ determine the proposed permit requirements?

DEQ evaluates types and amounts of pollutants and the facility's location, and determines permit requirements according to state and federal regulations.

How does DEQ monitor compliance with the permit requirements?

Environmental monitoring is required. The permittee must demonstrate compliance with permit requirements and conditions through the Energy Facility Siting Council site certificate process.

What happens after the public comment period closes?

ODOE and DEQ will consider and respond to all comments received and may edit the proposed modification to the 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.