



Public Notice

DEQ Requests Comments on Proposed Water Quality Permit Issuance for Crane High School

Date posted: 10/12/26

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality invites the public to submit written comments on the conditions of Crane High School's proposed water quality permit, known officially as a Water Pollution Control Facilities permit.

How to provide public comment

Facility name: Crane High School

Permit type: Individual Domestic WPCF

Comments due by: Nov. 17, 2026 at 5 p.m.

Submit written comments:

By mail: Permit Coordinator, Oregon DEQ, 475 NE Bellevue Drive, Suite 110, Bend, OR 97701

By web: [Your DEQ Online](#)

By email: Water.PermitER@deq.oregon.gov

Summary

This permit allows Crane High School, Harney County School District #UH1J and #4 to operate and maintain a domestic wastewater treatment facility consisting of a three-cell lagoon system serving Crane High School. The permittee is authorized to construct, operate and maintain new expanded domestic wastewater treatment facilities consisting of a two-cell treatment lagoon and lined evaporative lagoon system. The existing three-cell system will be decommissioned. Components of the existing system, including the collection system, will be retained. Part of the review process is an opportunity for public comment, based on the application and other DEQ information. Subject to public review and comment, DEQ plans to issue the permit.

About the facility

Crane High School is a domestic wastewater facility located at 43277 Crane-Venator Lane, Crane, Oregon in Harney County. DEQ last issued a permit for this facility on July 28, 1999. Crane High School submitted an application for a new WPCF permit on Aug. 13, 2026 (Submittal ID 103106).

The permittee is authorized to operate and maintain a domestic wastewater treatment facility consisting of a newly constructed lined, two-cell treatment lagoon and evaporative lagoon system. The average daily design flow for the current facility is 0.007 million gallons per day.

The facility discharges wastewater to a lagoon system. The permit does not allow any discharges to waterways.

The facility holds no other permits from DEQ.

What types of pollutants does the permit regulate?

The permit regulates pollutants typically associated with domestic wastewater and for protection of groundwater. Domestic wastewater contains human pathogens and nitrogen compounds. Although nitrogen is a plant nutrient, nitrogen applied in excess of crop requirements may degrade groundwater. The proposed

permit prohibits unauthorized discharges to waters of the state, requires spill reporting, and requires the city to have a DEQ-certified operator supervise wastewater treatment and disposal operations.

Would the draft permit change the amount of pollution the facility is allowed to release?

No.

How does DEQ determine permit requirements?

DEQ evaluates types and amounts of pollutants and the water quality of the surface water or groundwater where the pollutants are proposed to be discharged to determine permit requirements. This ensures the proposed discharges will meet applicable statutes, rules, regulations and effluent guidelines of Oregon.

DEQ relied solely on these documents and made no other discretionary decisions for the permit action.

How does DEQ monitor compliance with the permit requirements?

This permit will require the facility to monitor for pollutants discharged using approved monitoring practices and standards. DEQ reviews the facility's discharge monitoring reports to check for compliance with permit limits.

What happens next?

DEQ will hold a public hearing if DEQ receives written requests for public hearing within 14 days of mailing the public notice from at least 10 persons or from an organization or organizations representing at least ten persons.

For more information

View information about this proposed permit issuance, including the application, permit evaluation report and underlying documents online or by contacting Patty Isaak, Permit Coordinator, at 541-613-1125, to make an appointment to review the documents in person.

Non-discrimination statement

DEQ does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status in the administration of its programs and activities.

For translation and other formats, visit DEQ's [Civil Rights and Environmental Justice page](#).



WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITIES PERMIT

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Eastern Region – Bend Office
475 NE Bellevue Drive, Suite 110
Bend, Oregon 97701
Telephone: 541-388-6146

Issued pursuant to ORS 468B.050

ISSUED TO:	SOURCES COVERED BY THIS PERMIT:		
Crane High School Harney County School District #UH1J & #4 PO Box 828 Crane, Oregon 97732	Type of Waste	Outfall Number	Location
	Domestic Wastewater	001	43.418727, -118.574213
	Biosolids	002	Specified in Biosolids Management Plan

FACILITY TYPE AND LOCATION:

3-cell treatment lagoon to be decommissioned
2-cell treatment lagoons and evaporative lagoon
43277 Crane-Venator Lane
Crane, Oregon 97732
County: Harney

RIVER BASIN INFORMATION:

WRD Basin: Harney/Malheur Lakes

USGS Sub-Basin: Harney/Malheur Lakes
Nearest surface water body name: Crane Creek
LLID: 1182852433540

Issued in response to Application/Submittal No. 103106 received August 13, 2026. This permit is issued based on the land use findings in the permit record.

Mike Hiatt, Water Quality Permitting
Eastern Region

Draft
Issuance Date

Draft
Effective Date

PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

Until this permit expires or is modified or revoked, the permittee is authorized to construct, install, modify or operate a wastewater collection, treatment, control and disposal system in conformance with the requirements, limits, and conditions set forth in this permit.

Unless specifically authorized by this permit, by another NPDES or WPCF permit, or by Oregon statute or administrative rule, any direct or indirect discharge of pollutants to waters of the state is prohibited.

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SCHEDULE A: WASTE DISCHARGE LIMITS

1. Permitted System

The permittee is authorized to operate and maintain a domestic wastewater treatment facility consisting of a three-cell lagoon system serving Crane High School.

The permittee is authorized to construct, operate and maintain new expanded domestic wastewater treatment facilities consisting of a two-cell treatment lagoon and lined evaporative lagoon system. The existing three-cell system will be decommissioned. Components of the existing system including the collection system will be retained. The average daily design flow (ADDF) for the expanded facility is 0.007 MGD.

2. Surface Water Protection

Discharge or indirect discharge to navigable waters as defined in OAR Chapter 340, Division 045, Section 0010(14) is prohibited.

3. Groundwater Protection

Any activity that has an adverse affect on existing or potential beneficial uses of groundwater is prohibited. All wastewater and wastewater solids must be managed and disposed in compliance with the Groundwater Quality Protection Rules (OAR 340-040). If warranted, at any time, DEQ may evaluate the need for or require a full assessment of the facility's affect on groundwater quality.

4. Lagoon Management

The treatment plant lagoons shall be operated to achieve the discharge requirements detailed in this permit and in accordance with the following site management conditions:

- a. The lagoon area shall be enclosed with an adequate fence to prevent access from animals and the public.
- b. Appropriate warning signs shall be maintained along the fence around the lagoons to designate the nature of the facility and advise against trespassing.
- c. At all times, sufficient freeboard shall be maintained in the lagoons to prevent unauthorized wastewater overflows or spills. If an overflow or spill occurs, the facility shall immediately implement its Emergency Response and Public Notification Plan (see Schedule D, Condition 2).
- d. The lagoons shall be routinely maintained to control burrowing animals, vegetation growth, and erosion.
- e. The lagoons shall be dredged or cleaned of wastewater solids at a frequency to preserve design treatment capacity and prevent the creation of nuisance odors and operational issues.

5. Biosolids

The permittee may land apply biosolids or provide biosolids for sale or distribution, subject to OAR 340-050 and 40 CFR §503, and the following conditions:

- a. The permittee must manage biosolids in accordance with its DEQ-approved Biosolids Management Plan and Land Application Plan.
- b. The permittee must apply biosolids at or below the agronomic rates approved by DEQ in order to minimize potential groundwater degradation. DEQ may require adjustment to the allowable

agronomic rate after review of annual reporting and to ensure adequate protection of public waters, including groundwater.

- c. The permittee must obtain written site authorization from DEQ for each land application site prior to land application (see Schedule D) and follow the site-specific management conditions in the DEQ-issued site authorization letter.
- d. Prior to application, the permittee must ensure that biosolids meet one of the pathogen reduction standards under 40 CFR §503.32 and one of the vector attraction reduction standards under 40 CFR §503.33.
- e. The permittee must not apply biosolids containing pollutants in excess of the ceiling concentrations shown in the table below. The permittee may apply biosolids containing pollutants in excess of the pollutant concentrations, but below the ceiling concentrations, however, the total quantity of biosolids applied cannot exceed the cumulative pollutant loading rates in the table below.

Table A2: Biosolids Limits

Pollutant See note a.	Ceiling concentrations (mg/kg)	Pollutant concentrations (mg/kg)	Cumulative pollutant loading rates (kg/ha)
Arsenic	75	41	41
Cadmium	85	39	39
Copper	4300	1500	1500
Lead	840	300	300
Mercury	57	17	17
Molybdenum	75	N/A	N/A
Nickel	420	420	420
Selenium	100	100	100
Zinc	7500	2800	2800

Note:

- a. Biosolids pollutant limits are described in 40 CFR §503.13, which uses the terms *ceiling concentrations*, *pollutant concentrations*, and *cumulative pollutant loading rates*.

SCHEDULE B: MINIMUM MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. Reporting Requirements

The permittee must submit to DEQ monitoring results and reports as listed below.

Table B1: Reporting Requirements and Due Dates

Reporting Requirement	Frequency	Due Date	Report Form (See Note a.)	Submit To: (See Notes b & c)
Tables B2 and B3 Influent Monitoring and Lagoon Monitoring	Annually	January 15	Electronic copy in the DEQ-approved format	As directed by DEQ
Wastewater solids annual report (see Schedule D)	Annually	February 19	Electronic copy in the DEQ-approved format	As directed by DEQ Electronic copy to DEQ Biosolids Program Coordinator
Lagoon Decommissioning or Alternative Plan and Schedule (see Schedule D.1)	One Time	Submit by 11/15/2028	Electronic copy in a DEQ-approved format	As directed by DEQ
Sludge Depth Survey Report (See Schedule D – Lagoon Solids)	One Time	Submit by 11/15/2034	Electronic copy in a DEQ-approved format	As directed by DEQ
Notes: a. All reporting requirements are to be submitted in a DEQ approved format, unless otherwise specified in writing. b. Electronic reporting information is provided on DEQ's web page (https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/wqpermits/Pages/NPDES-E-Reporting.aspx).				

2. Monitoring and Reporting Protocols

a. Electronic Submissions

When submitting electronic copies as required by table B1, the permittee must submit to DEQ the results of monitoring in an electronic format as specified below.

- i. When directed by DEQ, the permittee must submit monitoring results required by this permit via DEQ-approved web-based Electronic Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) forms.
- ii. The reporting period is the calendar month.
- iii. The permittee must submit monitoring data and other information required by this permit for all compliance points by the 15th day of the month following the reporting period unless specified otherwise in this permit or as specified in writing by DEQ.
- iv. When directed by DEQ, the permittee must submit electronic reports for any required Pretreatment Program Reports, Wastewater Solids and Biosolids Annual Report,

Recycled Water Annual Report, Sewer Overflow/Bypass Event Reports, and other required information to DEQ via designated web-based reporting process.

b. **Test Methods**

The permittee must conduct monitoring according to test procedures in 40 CFR §136 and 40 CFR §503 for biosolids or other approved procedures as per Schedule F.

c. **Detection and Quantitation Limits**

- i. Detection Level (DL) – The DL is defined as the minimum measured concentration of a substance that can be distinguished from method blank results with 99% confidence. The DL is derived using the procedure in 40 CFR §136 Appendix B and evaluated for reasonableness relative to method blank concentrations to ensure results reported above the DL are not a result of routine background contamination. The DL is also known as the Method Detection Limit (MDL) or Limit of Detection (LOD).
- ii. Quantitation Limits (QLs) – The QL is the minimum level, concentration or quantity of a target analyte that can be reported with a specified degree of confidence. It is the lowest level at which the entire analytical system gives a recognizable signal and acceptable calibration for the analyte. It is normally equivalent to the concentration of the lowest calibration standard adjusted for sample weights, volumes, preparation and cleanup procedures employed. The QL as reported by a laboratory is also sometimes referred to as the Method Reporting Limit (MRL) or Limit of Quantitation (LOQ).
- iii. For compliance and characterization purposes, the maximum acceptable QL is stated in this permit.

d. **Quality Assurance and Quality Control**

- i. Quality Assurance Plan – The permittee must develop and implement a written Quality Assurance Plan that details the facility sampling procedures. This plan should include any equipment calibration and maintenance, analytical methods, quality control activities and laboratory data handling and reporting if the permittee conducts any of their own analytical work. The QA/QC program must conform to the requirements of 40 CFR §136.7.
- ii. If QA/QC requirements are not met for any analysis, the permittee must re-analyze the sample. If the sample cannot be re-analyzed, the permittee must re-sample and analyze at the earliest opportunity. If the permittee is unable to collect a sample that meets QA/QC requirements, then the permittee must include the result in the discharge monitoring report (DMR) along with a notation (data qualifier). In addition, the permittee must explain how the sample does not meet QA/QC requirements. The permittee may not use the result that failed the QA/QC requirements in any calculation required by the permit unless authorized in writing by DEQ.
- iii. Flow measurement, field measurement, and continuous monitoring devices - The permittee must:
 - (A) Establish verification and calibration frequency for each device or instrument in the quality assurance plan that conforms to the frequencies recommended by the manufacturer.
 - (B) Verify at least once per year that flow-monitoring devices are functioning properly according to manufacturer's recommendation. Calibrate as needed according to manufacturer's recommendations.

- (C) Verify at least weekly that the continuous monitoring instruments are functioning properly according to manufacturer's recommendation unless the permittee demonstrates a longer period is sufficient and such longer period is approved by DEQ in writing.

e. **Reporting Sample Results**

- i. The permittee must report the same number of significant digits as the permit limit for a given parameter.

3. Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

- a. The permittee must monitor influent flow at the lift station and report results in accordance with the table below:

Table B2: Influent Monitoring Requirements

Item or Parameter	Units	Time Period	Minimum Frequency	Sample Type / Required Action See note a.	Report Statistic See note a.
Flow (50050)	MGD	Year-round	5/week	Metered	Annual Average Daily Maximum
BOD ₅ (00310)	mg/L	Year-round	Annually	24-hour composite	Annual Average
TSS (00530)	mg/L	Year-round	Annually	24-hour composite	Annual Average
pH (00400)	SU	Year-round	Monthly	Grab	Annual Minimum Annual Maximum
Notes: a. In the event of equipment failure or loss, the permittee must notify DEQ and repair or replace effected equipment to minimize interruption of data collection. If the equipment cannot be immediately repaired or replaced, the permittee must perform grab measurements daily. b. When submitting DMRs electronically, all data used to determine summary statistics shall be submitted in a DEQ approved format unless otherwise directed by DEQ. If submitting paper DMRs, all data collected shall be reported on each DMR.					

- b. The permittee must monitor effluent at each lagoon cell and report results in accordance with Table B1 and the table below:

Table B3: Lagoon Monitoring Requirements

Item or Parameter	Units	Time Period	Minimum Frequency	Sample Type/ Required Action See note a.	Report Statistic See note b.
Lagoon Observation (each cell)	Yes/No	Year-round	Weekly	Visual	Record Observation

Item or Parameter	Units	Time Period	Minimum Frequency	Sample Type/ Required Action See note a.	Report Statistic See note b.
Lagoon Depth (each cell)	Feet	Year-round	Weekly	Measured	Minimum Annual Value

Notes:

- a. In the event of equipment failure or loss, the permittee must notify DEQ and deploy new equipment to minimize interruption of data collection. If new equipment cannot be immediately deployed, the permittee must perform grab measurements. If the failure or loss is for continuous temperature monitoring equipment, the permittee must perform grab measurements daily between 2 PM and 4 PM until continuous monitoring equipment is redeployed.
- b. When submitting DMRs electronically, all data used to determine summary statistics shall be submitted in a DEQ approved format as an attachment unless otherwise directed by DEQ. If submitting paper DMRs, all data collected shall be reported on each DMR.

4. Biosolids Monitoring Requirements

The permittee must monitor biosolids land applied or produced for sale or distribution as listed below. The samples must be representative of the quality and quantity of biosolids generated and undergo the same treatment process used to prepare the biosolids.

Table B4: Biosolids Monitoring

Item or Parameter	Minimum Frequency	Sample Type
Nutrient and conventional parameters (% dry weight unless otherwise specified): Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN) Nitrate-Nitrogen (NO ₃ -N) Total Ammoniacal Nitrogen (NH-N) Total Phosphorus (P) Potassium (K) pH (S.U.) Total Solids Volatile Solids	As described in the DEQ-approved Biosolids Management Plan, but not less than the frequency in Table B5.	As described in the DEQ-approved Biosolids Management Plan
Pollutants: As, Cd, Cu, Hg, Pb, Mo, Ni, Se, Zn, mg/kg dry weight	As described in the DEQ-approved Biosolids Management Plan, but not less than the frequency in Table B5.	As described in the DEQ-approved Biosolids Management Plan
Pathogen reduction	As described in the DEQ-approved Biosolids Management Plan, but not less than the frequency in Table B5.	As described in the DEQ-approved Biosolids Management Plan

Item or Parameter	Minimum Frequency	Sample Type
Vector attraction reduction	As described in the DEQ-approved Biosolids Management Plan, but not less than the frequency in Table B5.	As described in the DEQ-approved Biosolids Management Plan
Record of biosolids land application: date, quantity, location.	Each event	Record the date, quantity, and location of biosolids land applied on site location map or equivalent electronic system, such as GIS.

Table B5: Biosolids Minimum Monitoring Frequency

Quantity of biosolids land applied or produced for sale or distribution per calendar year		Minimum Sampling Frequency
(dry metric tons)	(dry U.S. tons)	
Less than 290	Less than 320	Once per year
290 to 1,500	320 to 1,653	Once per quarter (4x/year)
1500 to 15,000	1,653 to 16,535	Once per 60 days (6x/year)
15,000 or more	16,535 or more	Once per month (12x/year)

SCHEDULE D: SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. Lagoon Decommissioning or Alternatives Plan and Schedule

- a. The permittee must develop a plan and timeline for either decommissioning of the former three-cell lagoon system or proposing alternatives with the selected option. The plan must prevent wastewater leakage into the subsurface and include the following:
 - i. Lagoon characterization information describing the volume and contents (liquids and wastewater solids) contained in the lagoons to be decommissioned.
 - ii. Lab analysis of wastewater and solids.
 - iii. Describe how the residual process water in the facility and lagoons will be managed, stored, characterized, and disposed. The offsite discharge of lagoon effluent to ground or surface waters is prohibited without a discharge permit from DEQ.
 - iv. Name of approved disposal site, if applicable.
 - v. Provide narrative detail on how the solids will be properly disposed of based on lab characterization. All sewage sludge shall be removed, dewatered and disposed of via a DEQ approved method. Sampling of the sludge (biosolids) for pathogens, metals, nitrogen and moisture content is required prior to discharge to a permitted land application site for forage crop (animal feed) propagation. Sampling parameters for the landfill disposal of dewatered biosolids shall be made in accordance with the landfill's waste acceptance criteria.
 - vi. Name of approved disposal site, if applicable.
- b. Describe how pipes will be abandoned or removed. The following must be included in plan:
 - i. The influent sewer shall be plugged or capped. All wastewaters shall be drained from the piping and disposed of in an approved manner.
- c. All mechanical equipment, piping, valves and liner materials (e.g., plastic and clay liners) shall be removed from the lagoons and disposed of in an approved manner.
- d. Provide a final site stabilization plan that includes:
 - i. A backfill and grading plan shall be instituted to reclaim the empty basins to the original site topography. Otherwise, any abandoned basin shall require an engineered plan of surface runoff and groundwater interception control to avoid standing, stagnant water (dikes or berms must be collapsed to prevent pooling water).
 - ii. Disturbed areas should be properly stabilized and vegetated. Disturbed areas will be considered stabilized when perennial vegetation, pavement or structures using permanent materials cover all areas that have been disturbed.
 - iii. Address site security if appropriate.
- e. All sanitary debris and trash shall be removed and properly disposed in a landfill.
- f. Obtain 1200-C coverage if disturbance area is an acre or more.
- g. Submit documentation that compliance with all stormwater requirements is complete.
- h. Closure of the lagoons must be completed by the schedule outlined in the closure plan.

2. Emergency Response and Public Notification Plan

The permittee must develop an Emergency Response and Public Notification Plan ("plan"), or ensure the facility's existing plan is current and accurate, per Schedule F, Section B, and Condition 8 within 6 months of permit effective date. The permittee must update the plan annually to ensure all information contained in the plan, including telephone and email contact information for applicable public agencies, is current and accurate. An updated copy of the plan must be kept on file at the facility for DEQ review. The latest plan revision date must be listed on the plan cover along with the reviewer's initials or signature.

3. Exempt Wastewater Reuse at the Treatment System

Recycled water used for landscape irrigation within the property boundary or in-plant processes at the wastewater treatment system is exempt from the requirements of OAR 340-055 if all of the following conditions are met:

- a. The recycled water is an oxidized and disinfected wastewater.
- b. The recycled water is used at the wastewater treatment system site where it is generated or at an auxiliary wastewater or sludge treatment facility that is subject to the same NPDES or WPCF permit as the wastewater treatment system.
- c. Spray and/or drift from the use does not migrate off the site.
- d. Public access to the site is restricted.

4. Wastewater Solids Annual Report

The permittee must submit a Wastewater Solids Annual Report each year documenting removal of wastewater solids from the facility during the previous calendar year. The permittee must use the DEQ approved wastewater solids annual report form. This report must include the volume of material removed and the name of the permitted facility that received the solids.

5. Biosolids Management Plan

Prior to distributing biosolids to the public, the permittee must develop and maintain a Biosolids Management Plan and Land Application Plan meeting the requirements in OAR 340-050-0031. The permittee must submit these plans and any significant modification of these plans to DEQ for review and approval with sufficient time to clear DEQ review and a public notice period prior to removing biosolids from the facility. The permittee must keep the plans updated. All plan revisions require written authorization from DEQ and are effective upon permittee's receipt of DEQ written approval. No significant modifications can be made to a plan for an administratively extended permit (after the permit expiration date). Conditions in the plans are enforceable requirements under this permit.

a. Site Authorization

The permittee must obtain written authorization from DEQ for each land application site prior to its use. Conditions in site authorizations are enforceable requirements under this permit. The permittee is prohibited from land applying biosolids to a DEQ-approved site except in accordance with the site authorization, while this permit is effective and with the written approval of the property owner. DEQ may modify or revoke a site authorization following the procedures for a permit modification described in OAR 340-045-0055.

b. Public Participation

- i. DEQ will provide an opportunity for public review and comment on any significant plan modifications prior to approving or denying. Public review is not required for minor modifications or changes to utilization dates.
- ii. No DEQ-initiated public notice is required for continued use of sites identified in the DEQ-approved biosolids management plan.
- iii. For new sites that fail to meet the site selection criteria in the biosolids management plan or that are deemed by DEQ to be sensitive with respect to residential housing, runoff potential, or threat to groundwater, DEQ will provide an opportunity for public comment as directed by OAR 340-050-0015(10).
- iv. For all other new sites, the permittee must provide for public participation following procedures in its DEQ-approved land application plan.

6. Wastewater Solids Transfers

- a. *Within state.* The permittee may transfer wastewater solids including Class A and Class B biosolids, to another facility permitted to process or dispose of wastewater solids, including but not limited to: another wastewater treatment facility, landfill, or incinerator. The permittee must satisfy the requirements of the receiving facility. The permittee must report the name of the receiving facility and the quantity of material transferred in the wastewater solids annual report identified in Schedule B.
- b. *Out of state.* If wastewater solids, including Class A and Class B biosolids, are transferred out of state for use or disposal, the permittee must obtain written authorization from DEQ, meet Oregon requirements for the use or disposal of wastewater solids, notify in writing the receiving state of the proposed use or disposal of wastewater solids, and satisfy the requirements of the receiving state.

7. Lagoon Solids

By the date listed in Table B1, the permittee must submit to DEQ a sludge depth survey report. The report must include a comparison of the design sludge depth to the actual sludge depth. If the actual sludge depth exceeds the design sludge depth, the permittee must submit a plan to reduce or remove the sludge. Prior to the removal of accumulated solids from the lagoon, the permittee must submit to DEQ a biosolids management plan as required in condition 5. The permittee must follow the conditions in the approved plan.

8. Operator Certification

- a. Definitions
 - i. “Supervise” means to have full and active responsibility for the daily on site technical operation of a wastewater treatment system or wastewater collection system.
 - ii. “Supervisor” or “designated operator”, means the operator delegated authority by the permittee for establishing and executing the specific practice and procedures for operating the wastewater treatment system or wastewater collection system in accordance with the policies of the owner of the system and any permit requirements.
 - iii. “Shift Supervisor” means the operator delegated authority by the permittee for executing the specific practice and procedures for operating the wastewater treatment system or wastewater collection system when the system is operated on more than one daily shift.
 - iv. “System” includes both the collection system and the treatment systems.
- b. The permittee must comply with OAR 340-049, “Regulations Pertaining to Certification of Wastewater System Operator Personnel” and designate a supervisor whose certification corresponds with the classification of the collection and/or treatment system as specified in the DEQ Supervisory Wastewater Operator Status Report. DEQ may revise the permittee’s classification in writing at any time to reflect changes in the collection or treatment system. This reclassification is not considered a permit modification and may be made after the permit expiration date provided the permit has been administratively extended by DEQ. If a facility is re-classified, a certified letter will be mailed to the system owner from the DEQ Operator Certification Program. Current system classifications are publicized on the DEQ Supervisory Wastewater Operator Status Report found on the [DEQ Wastewater Operator Certification Homepage](#).
- c. The permittee must have its system supervised on a part-time or full-time basis by one or more operators who hold a valid certificate for the type of wastewater treatment or wastewater

collection system the operator is supervising and at a grade equal to or greater than the wastewater system's classification.

- d. The permittee's wastewater system may be without the designated supervisor for up to 30 consecutive days if another person who is certified at no more than one grade lower than the classification of the wastewater system supervises. The permittee must delegate authority to this operator to supervise the operation of the system.
- e. If the wastewater system has more than one daily shift, the permittee must have another properly certified operator available to supervise operation of the system. Each shift supervisor must be certified at no more than one grade lower than the system classification.
- f. The permittee is not required to have a supervisor on site at all times; however, the supervisor must be available to the permittee and operator at all times.
- g. The permittee must notify DEQ in writing of the name of the system supervisor by completing and submitting the Supervisory Wastewater System Operator Designation Form through Your DEQ Online. *NOTE: This form is different from the Delegated Authority form. The permittee may replace or re-designate the system supervisor with another properly certified operator at any time and must notify DEQ in writing within 30 days of replacement or re-designation of the operator in charge by submitting an updated Supervisory Wastewater System Operator Designation Form through Your DEQ Online.
- h. When compliance with item (c) of this section is not possible or practicable because the system supervisor is not available or the position is vacated unexpectedly, and another certified operator is not qualified to assume supervisory responsibility, the Director may grant a time extension for compliance with the requirements in response to a written request from the system owner. The Director will not grant an extension longer than 120 days unless the system owner documents the existence of extraordinary circumstances.

SCHEDULE F: WPCF GENERAL CONDITIONS

SECTION A. STANDARD CONDITIONS

1. Duty to Comply with Permit

The permittee must comply with all conditions of this permit. Failure to comply with any permit condition is a violation of Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 468B.025 and grounds for an enforcement action. Failure to comply is also grounds for DEQ to modify, revoke, or deny renewal of a permit.

2. Property Rights and Other Legal Requirements

Issuance of this permit does not convey any property rights of any sort, or any exclusive privilege, or authorize any injury to persons or property or invasion of any other rights, or any infringement of federal, tribal, state, or local laws or regulations.

3. Liability

DEQ or its officers, agents, or employees may not sustain any liability on account of the issuance of this permit or on account of the construction or maintenance of facilities or systems because of this permit.

4. Permit Actions

After notice by DEQ, this permit may be modified, suspended, or revoked in whole or in part during its term for cause including but not limited to the following:

- a. Violation of any term or condition of this permit, any applicable rule or statute, or any order of the Commission;
- b. Obtaining this permit by misrepresentation or failure to disclose fully all relevant facts.

5. Transfer of Permit

This permit may not be transferred to a third party without prior written approval from DEQ. DEQ may approve transfers where the transferee acquires a property interest in the permitted activity and agrees in writing to fully comply with all the terms and conditions of this permit and the rules of the Commission. A transfer application and filing fee must be submitted to DEQ.

6. Permit Fees

The permittee must pay the fees required by Oregon Administrative Rules.

SECTION B. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF POLLUTION CONTROLS

1. Proper Operation and Maintenance

At all times the permittee must maintain in good working order and properly operate as efficiently as possible all treatment or control facilities or systems installed or used by the permittee to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit.

2. Standard Operation and Maintenance

All waste collection, control, treatment, and disposal facilities or systems must be operated in a manner consistent with the following:

- a. At all times, all facilities or systems must be operated as efficiently as possible in a manner that will prevent discharges, health hazards, and nuisance conditions.
- b. All screenings, grit, and sludge must be disposed of in a manner approved by DEQ to prevent any pollutant from the materials from reaching waters of the state, creating a public health hazard, or causing a nuisance condition.
- c. Bypassing untreated waste is generally prohibited. Bypassing may not occur without prior written permission from DEQ except where unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage.

3. Noncompliance and Notification Procedures

If the permittee is unable to comply with conditions of this permit because of surfacing sewage; a breakdown of equipment, facilities or systems; an accident caused by human error or negligence; or any other cause such as an act of nature, the permittee must:

- a. Immediately take action to stop, contain, and clean up the unauthorized discharges and correct the problem.
- b. Immediately notify DEQ's Regional office so that an investigation can be made to evaluate the impact and the corrective actions taken, and to determine any additional action that must be taken.
- c. Within 5 days of the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances, the permittee must submit to DEQ a detailed written report describing the breakdown, the actual quantity and quality of waste discharged, corrective action taken, steps taken to prevent a recurrence, and any other pertinent information.

Compliance with these requirements does not relieve the permittee from responsibility to maintain continuous compliance with the conditions of this permit or liability for failure to comply.

4. Wastewater System Personnel

The permittee must provide an adequate operating staff that is duly qualified to carry out the operation, maintenance, and monitoring requirements to assure continuous compliance with the conditions of this permit.

5. Public Notification of Effluent Violation or Overflow

If effluent limitations specified in this permit are exceeded or an overflow occurs that threatens public health, the permittee must take such steps as are necessary to alert the public, health agencies and other affected entities (e.g., public water systems) about the extent and nature of the discharge in accordance with the notification procedures developed under General Condition B.6. Such steps may include, but are not limited to, posting of the river at access points and other places, news releases, and paid announcements on radio and television.

6. Emergency Response and Public Notification Plan

The permittee must develop and implement an emergency response and public notification plan that identifies measures to protect public health from overflows, bypasses or upsets that may endanger public health. At a minimum the plan must include mechanisms to:

- a. Ensure that the permittee is aware (to the greatest extent possible) of such events;
- b. Ensure notification of appropriate personnel and ensure that they are immediately dispatched for investigation and response;
- c. Ensure immediate notification to the public, health agencies, and other affected public entities (including public water systems). The overflow response plan must identify the public health and other officials who will receive immediate notification;
- d. Ensure that appropriate personnel are aware of and follow the plan and are appropriately trained;
- e. Provide emergency operations; and
- f. Ensure that DEQ is notified of the public notification steps taken.

SECTION C. MONITORING AND RECORDS

1. Inspection and Entry

The permittee must at all reasonable times allow authorized representatives of DEQ to:

- a. Enter upon the permittee's premises where a waste source or disposal system is located or where any records are required to be kept under the terms and conditions of this permit;
- b. Have access to and copy any records required by this permit;
- c. Inspect any treatment or disposal system, practices, operations, monitoring equipment, or monitoring method regulated or required by this permit; or
- d. Sample or monitor any substances or permit parameters at any location at reasonable times for the purpose of assuring permit compliance or as otherwise authorized by state law...

2. Averaging of Measurements

Calculations of averages of measurements required for all parameters except bacteria must use an arithmetic mean; bacteria must be averaged as specified in the permit.

3. Monitoring Procedures

Monitoring must be conducted according to test procedures specified in the most recent edition of **Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater**, unless other test procedures have been approved in writing by DEQ and specified in this permit.

4. Representative Sampling

Sampling and measurements taken as required herein must be representative of the volume and nature of the monitored discharge when discharging or land applying. Monitoring points must not be changed without notification to and the approval of DEQ.

5. Retention of Records

The permittee must retain records of all monitoring and maintenance information, including all calibrations, copies of all reports required by this permit, and records of all data used to complete the application for this permit, for a period of at least 3 years from the date of the sample, measurement, report or application. DEQ may extend this period at any time.

SECTION D. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. Plan Submittal

Pursuant to Oregon Revised Statute 468B.055, unless specifically exempted by rule, construction, installation, or modification of disposal systems, treatment works, or sewerage systems may not commence until plans and specifications are submitted to and approved in writing by DEQ. All construction, installation, or modification shall be in strict conformance with DEQ's written approval of the plans.

2. Change in Discharge

Whenever a facility expansion, production increase, or process modification is expected to result in a change in the character of pollutants to be discharged or in a new or increased discharge that will exceed the conditions of this permit, a new application must be submitted together with the necessary reports, plans, and specifications for the proposed changes. A change may not be made until plans have been approved and a new permit or permit modification has been issued.

3. Signatory Requirements

All applications, reports, or information submitted to DEQ must be signed and certified by the official applicant of record (owner) or authorized designee.

4. Twenty-Four Hour Reporting

The permittee must report any noncompliance that may endanger health or the environment. Any information must be provided orally (by telephone) to DEQ or to the Oregon Emergency Response System (1-800-452-0311) as specified below within 24 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances.

a. Overflows.

Oral Reporting within 24 hours.

- i. For overflows other than basement backups, the following information must be reported to the Oregon Emergency Response System (OERS) at 1-800-452-0311. For basement backups, this information should be reported directly to DEQ.

The location of the overflow;

The receiving water (if there is one);

An estimate of the volume of the overflow;

A description of the sewer system component from which the release occurred (e.g., manhole, constructed overflow pipe, crack in pipe); and

The estimated date and time when the overflow began and stopped or will be stopped.

The following information must be reported to DEQ's Regional office within 24 hours, or during normal business hours, whichever is first:

- a) The OERS incident number (if applicable) along with a brief description of the event.

(2) Written reporting within 5 days.

- i. The following information must be provided in writing to DEQ's Regional office within 5 days of the time the permittee becomes aware of the overflow:

a) The OERS incident number (if applicable);

b) The cause or suspected cause of the overflow;

c) Steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent reoccurrence of the overflow and a schedule of major milestones for those steps;

d) Steps taken or planned to mitigate the impact(s) of the overflow and a schedule of major milestones for those steps; and

e) (for storm-related overflows) The rainfall intensity (inches/hour) and duration of the storm associated with the overflow.

DEQ may waive the written report on a case-by-case basis if the oral report has been received within 24 hours.

b. Other instances of noncompliance.

- (1) The following instances of noncompliance must be reported:
 - i. Any unanticipated bypass that exceeds any effluent limitation in this permit;
 - ii. Any upset that exceeds any effluent limitation in this permit;
 - iii. Violation of maximum daily discharge limitation for any of the pollutants listed by DEQ in this permit; and
 - iv. Any noncompliance that may endanger human health or the environment.
- (2) During normal business hours, DEQ's Regional office must be called. Outside of normal business hours, DEQ must be contacted at 1-800-452-0311 (Oregon Emergency Response System).
- (3) A written submission must be provided within 5 days of the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances. The written submission must contain:
 - i. A description of the noncompliance and its cause;
 - ii. The period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times;
 - iii. The estimated time noncompliance is expected to continue if it has not been corrected;
 - iv. Steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent reoccurrence of the noncompliance; and
 - v. Public notification steps taken, pursuant to General Condition B.6.
- (4) DEQ may waive the written report on a case-by-case basis if the oral report has been received within 24 hours.

SECTION E. DEFINITIONS

1. *BOD₅* means five-day biochemical oxygen demand.
2. *TSS* means total suspended solids.
3. *FC* means fecal coliform bacteria.
4. *NH₃-N* means Ammonia Nitrogen.
5. *NO₃-N* means Nitrate Nitrogen.
6. *NO₂-N* means Nitrite Nitrogen.
7. *TKN* means Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen.
8. *Cl* means Chloride.
9. *TN* means Total Nitrogen.
10. "*Bacteria*" includes but is not limited to fecal coliform bacteria, total coliform bacteria, and *E. coli* bacteria.
11. *Total residual chlorine* means combined chlorine forms plus free residual chlorine.
12. *mg/l* means milligrams per liter.
13. *ug/l* means micrograms per liter.
14. *kg* means kilograms.
15. *GPD* means gallons per day.
16. *MGD* means million gallons per day.
17. *Grab sample* means an individual discrete sample collected over a period of time not to exceed 15 minutes.
18. *Composite sample* means a combination of samples collected, generally at equal flow or time intervals over a 24-hour period.
19. *Week* means a calendar week of Sunday through Saturday.
20. *Month* means a calendar month.
21. *Quarter* means January through March, April through June, July through September, or October through December.



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Water Pollution Control Facilities Permit Renewal Fact Sheet Crane High School

Permittee	Crane High School Harney County School District #UH1J & #4 PO Box 828 Crane, Oregon 97732
Existing Permit Information	Site RID Number: 29837 FIS ID Number: 310326 Permit Number: 101705 Expiration Date: TBD
Permittee Contact	Matthew Hawley, Harney County School District (541) 493-2641 PO Box 828 Crane, Oregon 97732
Facility Name & Location	Facility Name: Crane High School Address: 43277 Crane-Venator Lane Crane, Oregon 97732 Lat, Long: 43.418727, -118.574213 County: Harney
LLID:	LLID: 1182852433540
Receiving Stream/Basin:	Nearest stream: Crane Creek at RM 16.86 Sub Basin Name: Harney/Malheur Lakes WRD Basin Name: Harney Lake/Malheur Lake
Proposed Action:	Permit Renewal Application Number: 952321 YDO Submittal Number: 103106 Date Application Received: June 10, 2029, updated in YDO on August 13, 2026
Source Category:	Domestic Wastewater
Sources Covered:	Sewage Treatment Evaporative Lagoons
Permit Type:	WPCF-Dom-E
Permit Writer	Anna Morgan-Hayes (541) 246-4562 Date Prepared: 10-1-2026

WPCF Permit Renewal Fact Sheet Crane High School

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WPCF Permit Renewal Fact Sheet Crane High School

1. Introduction

As required by Oregon Administrative Rule 340-045-0037, this fact sheet describes the basis and methodology used in developing the permit. The permit is divided into several sections:

- Schedule A – Waste discharge limitations
- Schedule B – Minimum monitoring and report requirements
- Schedule C – Compliance conditions and schedules
- Schedule D – Special conditions
- Schedule F – General conditions

A summary of the major changes to the permit are listed below:

- The addition of influent monitoring for 5-day biochemical oxygen demand, total suspended solids, and pH.
- The addition of a lagoon sludge depth survey.
- A condition requiring the facility submit a lagoon decommissioning plan and schedule.
- The addition of a requirement to submit an electronic discharge monitoring report (DMR) annually.
- An increase in perimeter and depth monitoring at the lagoons.

2. Facility Description

2.1 Wastewater Facility

Harney County School District owns and operates the non-overflow lagoon system that serves the Crane High School and Elementary School. The system is located in Crane, Oregon, approximately 30 miles southeast of Burns in Harney County. In addition to the expected facilities associated with a high school and elementary school, Crane also maintains a dormitory for students from the far corners of Harney County. These students must live more than a hundred miles from the only school available so daily commutes are not practical, particularly during the winter months. The school also includes an automotive shop which may contribute high strength waste to the wastewater system.

The treatment system to be decommissioned consists of one pump station with duplex pumps and a $\frac{3}{4}$ acre, 1.2-million-gallon lagoon. The lagoon is divided into three cells. Wastewater is disposed of via evaporation and infiltration. No irrigation takes place. Should land application or some other form of disposal become necessary, the permit must be modified to include the alternative. The population served at the school is 330, with 58 full-time occupants in the months of June, July, and August.

The school district is planning to construct water and wastewater system improvements including furnishing and installing a submersible pump and pitless adapter unit in one well; constructing a new well pump station including booster pumps; constructing a new wastewater lift station; constructing approximately 2.65 acres of wastewater lagoons and evaporative ponds including earthwork, lining of the lagoons and evaporative ponds, piping, and control structures.

Figure 2-1: Crane High School Site Map



Figure 2-2: Crane High School Wastewater Process Flow Diagram (Water and Wastewater System Improvements, Anderson Perry, 2026)

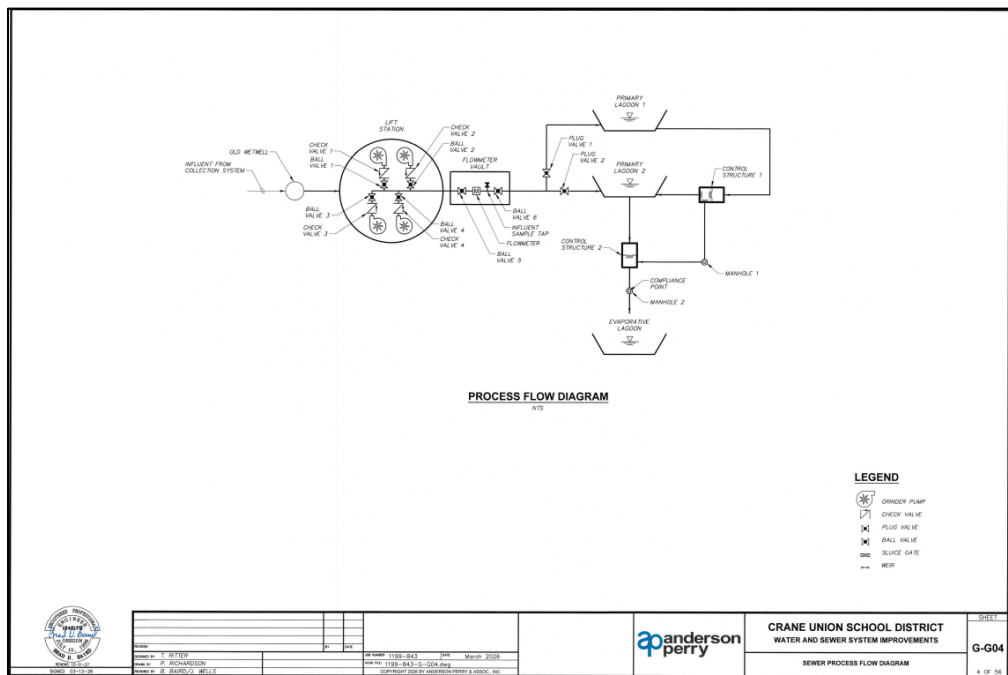


Figure 2-3: Crane High School Wastewater Site Plan (Water and Wastewater System Improvements, Anderson Perry, 2026)

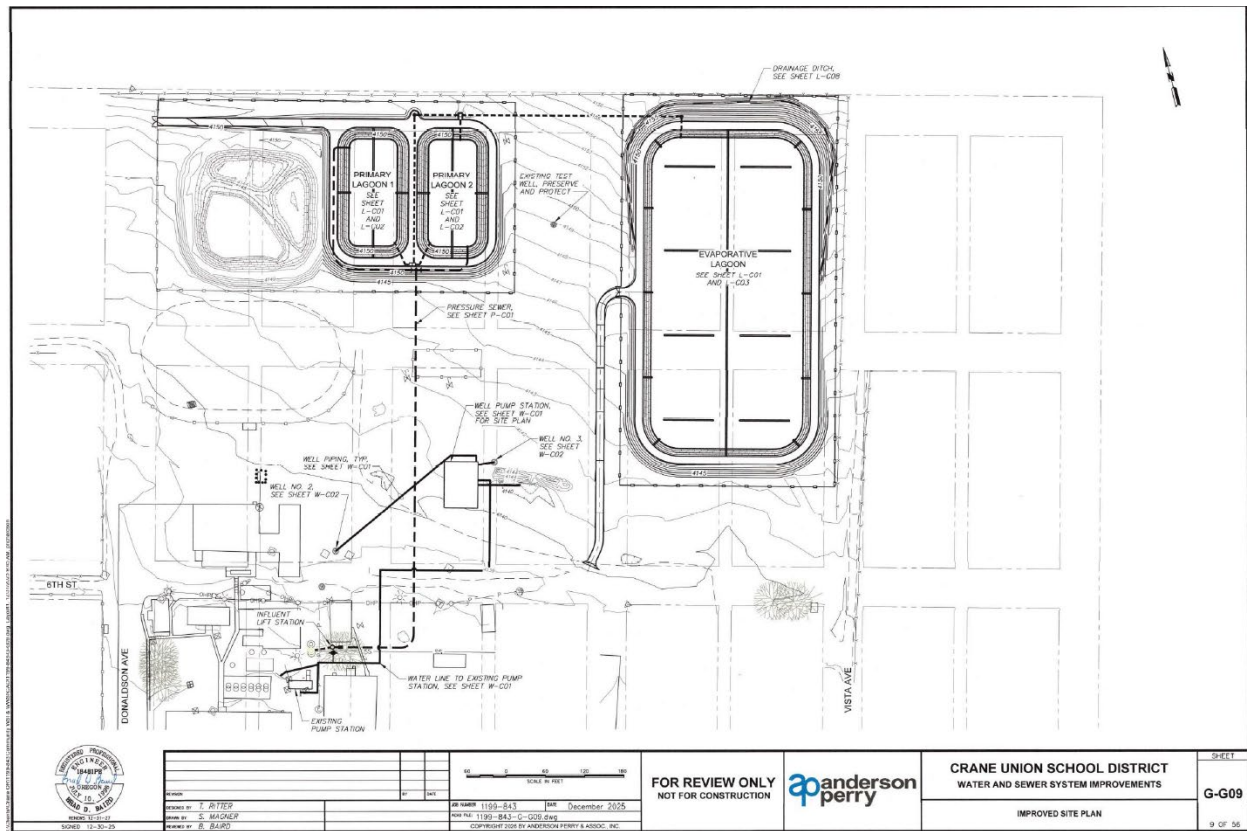


Table 2-1: List of Outfalls

Outfall Number	Type of Waste	Lat/Long	Design Flow¹ (mgd)	Existing Flow² (mgd)
001	Domestic Wastewater	43.418727, -118.574213	<0.01	0.00737
1. Design Flow = average design flow (Water and Wastewater System Improvements, Anderson Perry, 2026) 2. Existing Flow = existing average daily flow based on the average wastewater flows from institutional sources as provided in Metcalf and Eddy Wastewater Engineering: Collection and Pumping of Wastewater (<i>Water and Wastewater System Improvements</i>, Anderson Perry, 2026).				

2.2 Compliance History

The facility was last inspected in 2009 and no compliance issues were observed. At the time of this permit renewal, the facility is in compliance with permit conditions.

2.3 Biosolids

The term wastewater solids includes sewage sludge and biosolids. Sewage sludge refers to solids from primary, secondary, or advanced treatment of domestic wastewater that have not been treated or determined to be suitable for land application as fertilizer or soil amendment. The term biosolids refers to domestic wastewater treatment facility solids that have undergone adequate treatment and are suitable for application to the land as a fertilizer or soil amendment. Land application of biosolids must be performed in accordance with a DEQ-approved biosolids management plan (BSMP) and site authorization letter. Alternatively, a BSMP and site authorization are not required for disposal of wastewater solids in a landfill.

2.4 Groundwater

The threat to groundwater by foregoing leak detection and a secondary lining for the proposed wastewater facility has a low potential for adversely impacting area groundwater quality. Based on the observed irregular shape of the lagoon from aerial images and the appearance of vegetation around its border, the lagoon appears not to have been regularly maintained and could be compromised. The lagoon's decommissioning supports prevention of possible wastewater leakage into the subsurface.

2.5 Recycled Water

The permit holder does not currently operate a recycled water program.

2.6 Wastewater Classification

The previous permit and fact sheet established that the facility was “unclassified” at the time of permit writing, however, there are no records of approval for a variance from the Oregon Administrative Rule. The permittee may request a variance in accordance with OAR 340-049-0075, but the conditions for wastewater classifications will remain in the permit. OAR 340-049 requires all permitted municipal wastewater collection and treatment facilities receive a classification based on the size and complexity of the systems. DEQ evaluated the classifications for the treatment and collection system, which are publicly available at: <https://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/opcert/Docs/OpcertReport.pdf>.

3. Schedule A: Effluent Limit Development

No discharge to state waters is permitted. All wastewater is treated in facultative and evaporative lagoons.

3.1 Biosolids

Schedule A of the permit requires the facility to apply biosolids according to their biosolids management plan. In addition, Schedule A requires the following:

- Apply at or below agronomic rates
- The permittee must have written site authorization for each location from DEQ before land applying and abide by the restrictions for each site.
- Prior to application, the permittee must ensure that biosolids meet one of the pathogen reduction standards under 40 CFR 503.32.
- The permittee must not apply biosolids containing pollutants in excess of the ceiling concentrations for the nine metals shown in Schedule A of the permit.

3.2 Groundwater

DEQ may evaluate the need for a full assessment of the facility’s impact on groundwater quality if there is any evidence of an adverse impact resulting from the facilities operation or the facility fails to operate in accordance with permit conditions. Schedule A of the proposed permit includes a condition prohibiting adverse impacts to groundwater.

4. Schedule B: Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

Schedule B of the permit describes the minimum monitoring and reporting necessary to demonstrate compliance with the proposed effluent limits. Detailed monitoring frequency and reporting requirements are in Schedule B of the proposed permit. The required monitoring, reporting and frequency for many of the parameters are based on DEQ’s monitoring and

reporting matrix guidelines, permit writer judgment, reporting requirements for similar facilities of this type and size and to ensure the needed data is available for the next permit renewal.

The monitoring data provide DEQ with information to evaluate the performance of the wastewater treatment facility for influent, the lagoons, and effluent. The authority to require periodic reporting by permittees is found at ORS 468.065(5).

Monitoring requirements for influent pH, BOD₅ (5-day biochemical oxygen demand) and total suspended solids (TSS) sampling are included in the permit for the Crane High School to track influent loading to the system and as monitoring for performance of the treatment system.

5. Schedule C: Compliance Schedule

The permittee is expected to meet all limits and therefore a compliance schedule is not needed.

6. Schedule D: Special Conditions

The proposed permit contains the following special conditions. The conditions include the following:

6.1 Lagoon Decommissioning or Alternatives Plan and Schedule

A condition requiring the permittee to submit a plan and timeline for decommissioning the former three-cell lagoon system or present alternatives to decommissioning.

6.2 Emergency Response and Public Notification Plan

A requirement to develop and submit an emergency and spill response plan or ensure the current one is current per General Condition B.8 in Schedule F.

6.3 Exempt Wastewater Reuse at the Treatment System

A condition that exempts the permit holder from the recycled water requirements in OAR 340-055, when recycled water is used for landscape irrigation at the treatment facility or for in-plant processes, such as in plant maintenance activities.

6.4 Wastewater Solids Annual Report

This condition requires the permittee to submit a Wastewater Solids Annual Report each year documenting removal of wastewater solids from the facility during the previous calendar year.

6.5 Biosolids Management Plan

A requirement to manage all biosolids in accordance with a DEQ-approved biosolids management plan and land application plan. The biosolids management plan and the land application plan must meet the requirements in OAR 340-050-0031 and describe where and how the land application of biosolids is managed to protect public health and the environment.

6.6 Wastewater Solids Transfers

A condition that allows the facility to transfer treated or untreated wastewater solids to other in-state or out-of-state facilities that are permitted to accept the wastewater solids.

6.7 Lagoon Solids

A condition requiring the permittee to submit a sludge depth survey report to ensure lagoon solids are maintained within design standards and accumulations do not negatively affect treatment capabilities.

6.8 Operator Certification

The permit holder is required to have a certified operator consistent with the size and type of treatment plant covered by the permit per OAR 340-049-0005. This special condition describes the requirements relating to operator certification.

7. Schedule F: WPCF General Conditions

This schedule includes conditions and definitions that are applicable to all WPCF permits in Oregon of this type.

8. Next Steps

Crane High School has submitted a complete WPCF permit application. DEQ will proceed with a Category II permitting action for public notification as per OAR 340-045-0027.