



News Release

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46 wastewater-treatment plants earn recognition

OLYMPIA – Forty-six of Washington’s 305 wastewater-treatment plants will receive awards for helping keep Washington’s waters clean through perfect compliance with their wastewater-discharge permits.

Representatives from the state Department of Ecology (Ecology) will present “Outstanding Wastewater Treatment Plant” awards to the plant operators at public events over the next couple of months.

These awards honor operators of treatment plants that had no spills into Washington’s waters during 2005. Award winners also passed every environmental test and analyzed all samples according to requirements laid out by Ecology.

“I am impressed by the extraordinary effort demonstrated by the staff at these 46 treatment plants,” said Dave Peeler, who manages Ecology’s water-quality program. “They deserve our thanks for their outstanding dedication to keeping Washington’s waters clean.”

Wastewater-treatment plants treat household sewage and industrial waste all day, every day. Discharges from the plants are sent into waterways or spread on land. Ecology issues permits that limit the contaminants the plants may discharge into lakes, rivers or marine waters or onto the ground.

In addition to treating the water, plant operators must conduct up to thousands of water-quality monitoring tests during the course of a year. They also must assure that no waste water is spilled.

Ecology reviewed every treatment plant’s tests, reports and on-site inspections to determine which facilities met all conditions of their permits.

Last year, 44 treatment plants were recognized. The 46 award winners for this year are:

Benton County – West Richland Wastewater Treatment Plant

Chelan County – Chelan Wastewater Treatment Plant

Clallam County – Forks Wastewater Treatment Plant

Clark County – Vancouver Marine Park Treatment Facility, Vancouver Westside Treatment Facility, Woodland Wastewater Treatment Plant, Ridgefield Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Cowlitz County – Toutle Sewage Treatment Plant.

Douglas County – Waterville Wastewater Treatment Plant*

Grant County – Grand Coulee Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Grays Harbor County –Ocean Shores Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Jefferson County – Port Townsend Wastewater Treatment Plant, Port Townsend Biosolids Wastewater Treatment Plant.

King County – Lakota Wastewater Treatment Plant, Miller Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, Redondo Wastewater Treatment Plant, Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Kitsap County – Bremerton Westside Wastewater Treatment Plant, Central Kitsap County Wastewater Treatment Plant, Kitsap County Sewer District #7 Wastewater Treatment Plant, Manchester Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Kittitas County – Cle Elum Wastewater Treatment Plant*, Ellensburg Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Lewis County – Centralia Wastewater Treatment Plant, Lake Mayfield Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Okanogan County – Okanogan Wastewater Treatment Plant, Omak Wastewater Treatment Plant, Oroville Wastewater Treatment Plant*.

Pacific County – Naselle Youth Camp Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Pend Oreille County – Newport Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Pierce County – Chambers Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, Taylor Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant, Wilkeson Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Skagit County – LaConner Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sedro-Woolley Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Skamania County – North Bonneville Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Snohomish County – Lake Stevens Sewer District Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Walla Walla County – Waitsburg Wastewater Treatment Plant*, Walla Walla Wastewater Treatment Plant

Whatcom County – Bellingham Wastewater Treatment Plant, Birch Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant, Seattle City Light - Newhalem Wastewater Treatment Plant , Seattle City Light - Diablo Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Yakima County – Moxee Wastewater Treatment Plant, Naches Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sunnyside Wastewater Treatment Plant*.

*=First-time award winner.

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For more information: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/wastewater/index.html>

Ecology's Web site: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov>

Broadcast version

The state has identified forty-six "Outstanding Wastewater Treatment Plants" for 2005, out of about three hundred facilities in Washington that treat household sewage and industrial waste water.

The winners of this award met all the requirements of their environmental permits last year and had no spills into Washington's waters.

The Department of Ecology says this means they did an outstanding job of preventing pollution and protecting the state's water quality.

The winners are located in 23 of Washington's 39 counties.