



# News Release

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## **Record-breaking year for wastewater treatment plant perfection**

**OLYMPIA** – A record 78 of the state’s 283 wastewater treatment plants reported perfect performances in 2007 to keep Washington’s waters clean.

The number is up dramatically this year, according to records at the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology). When the regulatory agency began keeping track of perfect records starting in 1995, only 14 plants were in full compliance with the requirements of their wastewater permits. In recent history, the number of perfect performers has consistently climbed from 33 in 2004 up to 48 in 2005 and to 56 in 2006.

Representatives from Ecology will present “Outstanding Performance Awards” to the wastewater treatment plant operators at public events in the coming weeks.

The awards honor operators of treatment plants that had no spills into Washington’s waters during 2007. Award winners also passed every environmental test and analyzed all samples according to requirements laid out by Ecology.

“Effective wastewater treatment is the cornerstone to restore Puget Sound and maintain water quality across the state,” said Kelly Susewind, interim manager of Ecology’s water quality program. “This behind-the-scenes work grows more crucial every day as our state’s population grows, putting more pressure on our waters.”

Wastewater treatment plant operators face around-the-clock challenges. Their plants collect household sewage and industrial waste all day, every day. They treat the sewage and then discharge clean, treated water into waterways or spread the water onto land. Ecology monitors each plant’s effectiveness by requiring they meet conditions of permits that limit the contaminants the plants may discharge into lakes, rivers or marine waters or onto the ground.

Plant operators must be certified by the state and follow the requirements of their state permits. They commonly conduct up to thousands of water-quality monitoring tests during the course of a year. They also must assure that no wastewater is spilled at the plant.

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

Highlights this year include super-achievers Manchester with 13 consecutive years of perfection, Newport with 11 years, and Port Townsend with 10 years. In addition, 13 sewer plants are getting the honor for the first time.

## **Outstanding wastewater-treatment plant awards - Page 2 of 6**

On the flip side, Ecology's 13-year record also indicates that 139 of the state's plants have never achieved 100-percent compliance.

For a complete list of the state's outstanding wastewater treatment plant award winners for 2007, go to:

[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/wastewater/op\\_cert/kudos.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/wastewater/op_cert/kudos.html)

### **2007 Outstanding Wastewater Treatment Plant Award Winners**

#### **Asotin County**

Town of Asotin Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 1999, 2006.

#### **Benton County**

City of Benton City Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous award in 2006.

City of Kennewick Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 2002 - 2003.

City of West Richland Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 2005-2006.

#### **Clark County**

City of Camas Wastewater Treatment Plant. First-time award.

Clark County Public Works' Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 1997, 1999-2001, 2003.

City of Vancouver Westside Treatment Facility. Previous awards in 1997, 1999-2001, 2003-2006.

City of Vancouver Marine Park Treatment Facility. Previous awards in 1996-1997, 1999-2001, 2003, 2005-2006.

#### **Cowlitz County**

Cowlitz County's Toutle Sewage Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 2002, 2004-2006.

City of Kalama Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous award in 2006.

#### **Douglas County**

Douglas County Sewer District No. 1 Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous award in 2006.

Town of Mansfield Wastewater Treatment Plant. First-time award.

#### **Grant County**

City of Grand Coulee Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 1999, 2001-2005.

#### **Grays Harbor County**

City of Aberdeen Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous award in 2004.

City of Elma Wastewater Treatment Plant. First-time award.

City of Hoquiam Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 1997, 1999, 2003-2004.

## **Outstanding wastewater-treatment plant awards - Page 3 of 6**

City of Montesano Wastewater Treatment Plant. First-time award.

City of Ocean Shores Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 1999, 2003-2006.

### **Island County**

Holmes Harbor Water District's Holmes Harbor Water District Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 2000, 2002, 2004.

City of Langley Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 1996-1997, 2001, 2004.

City of Oak Harbor Wastewater Treatment Facilities. Previous awards in 1999, 2001, 2004, 2006.

Penn Cove Water and Sewer District's Penn Cove Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 1998, 2000-2001, 2006.

### **Jefferson County**

City of Port Townsend Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 1995-1996, 1998-2006. The Department of Ecology plans special recognition for the city for 10 consecutive years of full compliance.

City of Port Townsend Biosolids. Previous awards in 2004-2005.

Olympic Water and Sewer's Port Ludlow Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 1995, 1999, 2001-2003.

Washington Department of Corrections' Olympic Corrections Center Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous award in 2006.

### **King County**

City of Duvall Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous award in 2003.

Lakehaven Utility District's Redondo Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 2000, 2002-2005.

City of North Bend Wastewater Treatment Plant. First-time award.

Southwest Suburban Sewer District's Miller Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 1998-1999, 2002-2006.

Southwest Suburban Sewer District's Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 1999, 2002, 2005.

### **Kitsap County**

City of Bremerton Westside Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards: 1999, 2005-2006.

Kitsap County Public Works Wastewater Division's Central Kitsap (Kitsap Co) Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 1997, 1999, 2005-2006.

Kitsap County Public Works Wastewater Division's Manchester (Kitsap Co) Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 1995-2006.

## **Outstanding wastewater-treatment plant awards - Page 4 of 6**

Kitsap County Public Works Wastewater Division's Kingston (Kitsap Co) Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous award in 2006.

City of Port Orchard and West Sound Utility District's Joint Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous award in 1996.

### **Kittitas County**

Kittitas County Water District Number 6's Community of Vantage Wastewater Treatment Plant. First-time award.

### **Klickitat County**

Public Utility District Number 1 of Klickitat County's Town of Wishram Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous award in 2003.

Public Utility District Number 1 of Klickitat County's Community of Lyle Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous award in 2006.

### **Lewis County**

Lewis County Water & Sewer District #6's Lake Mayfield Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 2003-2006.

### **Okanogan County**

City of Brewster Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous award in 2006.

City of Tonasket Wastewater Treatment Plant. First-time award.

### **Pacific County**

City of Ilwaco Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous award in 2006.

Washington Department of Social and Health Services' Naselle Youth Camp. Previous awards in 1998, 2004-2005.

### **Pend Oreille County**

City of Newport Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 1995, 1997-2006.

### **Pierce County**

City of Gig Harbor Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 1998, 2001, 2006.

Washington Department of Corrections' McNeil Island Sewage Treatment Plant. Previous award in 2006.

City of Tacoma Wastewater Treatment Plant # 1. Previous awards in 2004, 2006.

City of Tacoma Wastewater Treatment Plant # 3. Previous award in 2006.

City of Eatonville Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 1997-2000, 2006.

### **San Juan County**

Orcas Village Wastewater Treatment Plant operated by Eastsound Water and Sewer District. Previous awards in 1997-2000, 2006.

## **Outstanding wastewater-treatment plant awards - Page 5 of 6**

Eastsound Wastewater Treatment Plant operated by Eastsound Water and Sewer District. Previous awards in 1998-2000, 2002.

Town of Friday Harbor Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 1998-1999.

Washington Water Service Company's Rosario Wastewater Treatment Plant. First-time award.

### **Skagit County**

City of Burlington Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous award in 1999.

City of Mount Vernon Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 1997, 2000, 2004, 2006.

City of Sedro-Woolley Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 1997-1999, 2001-2003, 2005-2006.

Skagit County Sewer District #2 – Big Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 2001-2004.

### **Skamania County**

City of North Bonneville Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 1999, 2005-2006.

### **Snohomish County**

City of Arlington Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 1998, 2000-2001, 2003.

Lake Stevens Sewer District Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 1995, 1999, 2001, 2005-2006.

City of Lynnwood Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous award in 2004.

City of Marysville Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous award in 2006.

City of Stanwood Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous award in 2006.

Warm Beach Christian Camp and Conference Center's Warm Beach Campground Wastewater Treatment Plant. First-time award.

### **Thurston County**

Carlyon Beach Homeowners Association Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous award in 2002.

Washington Department of Corrections' Cedar Creek Correction Center Wastewater Treatment. First-time award.

### **Walla Walla County**

City of Walla Walla's (contract operator CH2M Hill OMI) Walla Walla Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 1998, 2002-2003, 2005.

### **Whatcom County**

City of Bellingham Post Point Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 1995-1998, 2002, 2005-2006.

City of Ferndale Wastewater Treatment Plant. First-time award.

## **Outstanding wastewater-treatment plant awards - Page 6 of 6**

Seattle City Light's Newhalem Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 1995-1997, 2001-2003, 2005-2006.

Seattle City Light's Diablo Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 1998-1999, 2001-2005

### **Whitman**

City of Colfax Wastewater Treatment Plant. First-time award.

### **Yakima County**

City of Grandview Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 2003, 2006.

City of Moxee Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 1999, 2005-2006.

Town of Naches Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous awards in 2004-2006.

City of Selah Wastewater Treatment Plant. First-time award.

City of Sunnyside Wastewater Treatment Plant. Previous award in 2005.

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

**Ecology's website:** <http://www.ecy.wa.gov>

### **Broadcast version**

The Ecology Department says a record 78 sewer treatment plants in Washington had perfect track records in 2007.

Sewer, or "wastewater treatment" plants play a vital role in protecting water quality because they treat household and industrial waste before they discharge clean, treated water into waterways or spread the water onto land.

This is the highest recorded total of plants that have met all the requirements of their environmental permits last year and had no pollution spills into Washington's waters.

Ecology will be giving each of them awards in the coming weeks.