



Department of Natural Resources and Parks Wastewater Treatment Division

April 7, 2017

West Point Treatment Plant Restoration Near-Field Effluent Mixing Water Quality Analysis

The following analysis addresses the effects of the West Point wastewater treatment effluent discharge of contaminants to concentrations in the near-field zone of initial mixing at the West Point outfall located in Puget Sound approximately 3,600 feet offshore at a depth of 240 feet below mean lower low water. The outfall pipe terminates in a diffuser section 600 feet long that releases effluent from 200 individual ports. Initial mixing of effluent with seawater occurs as a result of the pressurized discharge from the diffuser ports with substantial velocity and turbulence, transport away from the diffuser with tidal flow, and buoyant rising of effluent upward through the water column due to the generally lower density and higher temperature of effluent compared to surrounding seawater. Modeling of the effluent discharge was conducted by King County in 2013 using Ecology-specified procedures for renewal of the West Point NPDES permit to determine the size of the initial zone of mixing. For protection of aquatic life from harm due to chronic exposures (i.e., long-term) to contaminants, the modeling is based on typical tidal flow and effluent discharge rates resulting in effluent dispersion throughout a volume of water with approximate dimensions of 1,460 feet along the axis of the diffuser pipeline, 860 feet in a north-south direction of tidal flow, and the full 240 feet depth of water. Mixing under the chronic flow conditions results in a 188:1 dilution ratio of seawater to effluent. For protection of aquatic life from harm due to acute exposure (short-term), the modeling of peak daily effluent discharge into minimal tidal flow conditions results in a smaller mixing volume that is 686 feet long, 86 feet wide, and the full 240 feet deep. Mixing under the acute flow conditions results in a 28:1 dilution ratio of seawater to effluent.

Conservative estimates of the maximum concentrations for each contaminant at the edge of the zone of initial mixing are calculated with the dilution ratios above for acute and chronic exposure scenarios using the estimated 95th percentile discharge concentration and 90th percentile receiving water concentration. This analysis is conducted for those constituents detected in West Point effluent for which Washington has adopted marine water quality criteria for protection of aquatic life, consisting of the majority of the trace metals, cyanide, ammonia, and chlorine. The damage to West Point facilities (and effluent quality) is a temporary and short-term incident, and the duration of wastewater discharge with reduced quality until normal operations are restored is anticipated to be approximately four months or less. Therefore, this analysis does not consider the effects of the reduced level of treatment at West Point on changes in water quality concentrations for constituents that are regulated for human health protection because human health criteria are established for lifetime (70 year) exposure assumptions.

The following near-field mixing water quality analysis was conducted for West Point incident data collected from February 28th through March 8th. As a result of the reduced level of treatment (and specifically the reduced level of suspended solids removal), the maximum concentration of either current effluent sample values, or historical influent samples from the past five years were used for the analysis. The use of influent sample concentrations (if higher than effluent concentrations) provides an additional conservative assumption of the maximum concentrations that may be present in the effluent given the low level of solids removal occurring at this time. The analysis method, and all other variables used in the spreadsheet calculations, are consistent with Ecology protocols used for development of West Point's current NPDES permit. **Table 1** below shows the calculated receiving water concentrations in comparison to the equivalent concentrations developed for the NPDES permit renewal (see **Table 2**), and percent change under the current reduced level of treatment relative to the Table 2 values for historical comparison.

The near-field mixing water quality analysis for data collected at West Point during the period of reduced treatment indicates:

- The undiluted (i.e., "end of pipe") maximum concentrations for arsenic, cadmium, chromium, nickel, and selenium that may be present in the West Point effluent are lower than their respective water quality criteria.
- Concentrations in the initial zone of mixing for most of the contaminants may be higher as a result of the reduced level of treatment compared to conditions that typically exist with normal West Point operations. Concentrations range from 10-100% higher than conditions based on historical effluent data.
- The analysis indicates that the concentrations of all constituents that may exceed water quality criteria in the undiluted effluent are anticipated to all be lower than the applicable acute and chronic water quality criteria in the initial zone of mixing.

Table 1. Analysis of Contaminant Concentrations in Initial Zone of Mixing and Comparison to Historical Conditions.

Constituent	Aquatic Life Criteria		Analysis of Constituent Concentrations in Initial Zone of Mixing									
			Current Conditions (worst-case assumed or measured)				Historical (NPDES Permit)		% Difference (current compared to historical)		Criteria Exceeded at Edge of Mixing Zone	
	Acute Criteria (ug/L)	Chronic Criteria (ug/L)	95% Effluent Conc. (ug/L)	Ambient Puget Sound Conc. (ug/L)	Acute Conc. (ug/L)	Chronic Conc. (ug/L)	Acute Conc. (ug/L)	Chronic Conc. (ug/L)	Acute (%)	Chronic (%)	Acute	Chronic
Ammonia	8923	1340	13800	85	883	204	1189	249	-35%	-22%	N	N
Arsenic	69	36	2.75	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.4	-7%	0%	N	N
Cadmium	42	9.3	1.12	0.072	0.109	0.078	0.076	0.073	30%	6%	N	N
Chromium	1100	50	10	0.14	0.49	0.19	0.20	0.15	60%	23%	N	N
Copper	4.8	3.1	86.5	0.5	3.0	0.9	1.2	0.6	62%	32%	N	N
Lead	210	8.1	15.3	0.01	0.52	0.08	0.13	0.02	75%	71%	N	N
Mercury	1.8	0.025	0.218	0.0002	0.0068	0.0014	0.0007	0.0003	90%	79%	N	N
Nickel	74	8.2	8	0.43	0.70	0.47	0.63	0.46	10%	2%	N	N
Selenium	290	71	1.22	0	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.01	23%	17%	N	N
Silver	1.9	n/a	1.22	0.03	0.06	0.03	0.03	0.03	47%	15%	N	n/a
Zinc	90	81	274	1.0	10.2	2.4	2.7	1.2	74%	50%	N	N
Cyanide	9.1	2.8	16.3	0	0.58	0.09	0.02	0.00	97%	97%	N	N
Chlorine	13	7.5	349	0	12.5	1.9	10.6	1.6	15%	16%	N	N

