

working for clean rivers

CLARIFIER

OCTOBER
2013

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Message From The Director



The BES Water Pollution Control Laboratory is now a NELAP Certified Lab. And in the world of collecting and analyzing environmental data, that's a big deal.

The certification comes from the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP), which was established in 2006. The process is rigorous.

Three auditors spent two days at the WPCL last month examining analytical areas, sample receiving, quality assurance and overall management. They found no deficiencies. The auditors told our lab managers that the WPCL staff handled the process as if they'd been through several audits and that it was unusual for a large lab to go through an initial audit with no findings.

NELAP had planned to deliver its audit report within 30 days and give the lab 30 more days to respond. But last week they notified the lab that the audit went so well that they didn't see any point in waiting two months and that the WPCL is now fully accredited. That marks the successful completion of a process that began in early 2010.

This gives our lab top marks in the search for credibility. It speaks volumes about the great work our lab staff does.

The NELAP accreditation is fitting recognition for a staff and a facility that are among the best in the nation. Congratulations to you all on a job well done.

Dean C Mann



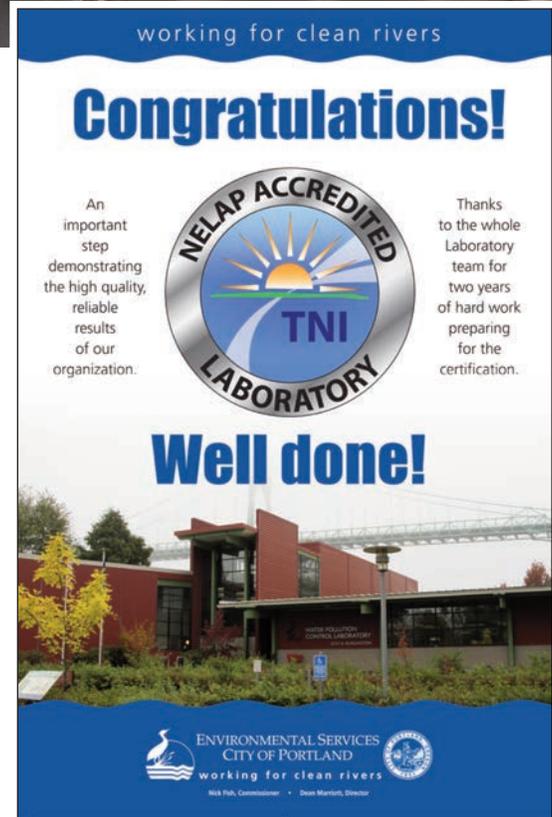
NELAP Accreditation



Front row from left: Rona Klueh, Jennifer Shackelford, Mackenzie Zirk, Cara Jung, Elizabeth Farkas, Jason Dahl. Back row from left: Kris Dennis, Sabrina Higgins, Kerstine Larsen, Nick Jenness, Chuck Lytle, Andrey Biryukov, Jeremy Biittner, Dan Van Meter. Not pictured: Kristen Thomas.)

The Environmental Services Water Pollution Control Laboratory has worked for nearly three years to become a certified NELAP laboratory. All that hard work paid off last month when lab managers received word that the WPCCL is now officially a NELAP accredited lab. Congratulations to all the WPCCL staff:

- Andrey Biryukov, Lab Analytical Specialist
- Cara Jung, Lab Analytical Specialist
- Chuck Lytle, Lab Manager
- Dan Van Meter, Lab Analyst
- Elizabeth Farkas, Lab Analytical Specialist
- Jason Dahl, Lab Technical Coordinator
- Jennifer Shackelford, Lab QA Coordinator
- Jeremy Biittner, Lab Analytical Specialist
- Kerstine Larsen, Lab Analyst
- Kris Dennis, Lab Analyst
- Kristen Thomas, Lab Production Coordinator
- Mackenzie Zirk, Lab Analyst
- Nick Jenness, Lab Analyst
- Rona Klueh, Lab Analyst
- Sabrina Higgins, Lab Analytical Specialist



check it out



CSO Video Recognition

The Environmental Services video “Portland’s CSO Program: 1991-2011” has won a first place award in the Water Environment Federation’s nationwide Storm TV Project. The competition shares creative ways to manage stormwater, improve water quality and raise public awareness of stormwater management.

The Environmental Services video reviews Portland’s successful 20-year program to control combined sewer overflows to the Columbia Slough and Willamette River (www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/CSOVideo).

Organizations, government entities, consulting firms, and equipment manufacturers around the nation submitted 75 video entries. A panel of 20 judges reviewed the entries and selected winners in four categories. The Environmental Services video placed first in the Nonprofit and Government Programs category. You can watch all the videos in the competition on [WEF’s YouTube channel](#) under the StormTV Project playlist.



[View Portland’s CSO Program: 1991-2011 at www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/CSOVideo](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/CSOVideo)



New video highlights green roof benefits

Property owners around Portland are transforming rooftops into green spaces with economic, environmental, and social benefits. A new Environmental Services video titled Green Roofs: The Nature of Portland’s Rooftops, showcases the beauty of green roofs and the many benefits they provide to building owners, residents and local communities.

Green roofs are important parts of Portland’s stormwater management infrastructure because they absorb rain to reduce stormwater runoff volume. For new construction, green roofs help buildings meet stormwater management requirements. They also can have a positive impact on the property owner’s bottom line.

Green roofs double, and sometimes triple, the life of the roof’s waterproof membrane. They are an amenity for building tenants and residents, and they improve the view for tenants of neighboring buildings. Commercial properties with green roofs are more desirable and competitive in a tight real estate and rental market. And green roofs can increase leasable or saleable space on new construction through Portland’s Floor Area Ratio (FAR) bonuses.

There are more than 550 green roofs in Portland that cover more than 1.5 million square feet of rooftop and manage more than 34 million gallons of rainfall annually.

The new green roof video features Thom Ross discussing a green roof retrofit of a commercial space, Agustin Enriquez discussing the green roof on The Janey Apartments, and Elizabeth Hart discussing the benefits of green roofs to hospitals and their patients.



[View Green Roofs: The Nature of Portland’s Rooftops at www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/GreenRoofVideo](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/GreenRoofVideo)

➔ New Enforcement Rules

On September 23, BES adopted a group of new administrative rules for Pollution Prevention Services enforcement programs. After almost three years of work, the bureau now has new and consistent enforcement tools, violation classes, and penalty assessments for the Pretreatment and Sanitary Discharge, Septage Hauler, Storm Sewer Discharge, Public Works Enforcement, FOG, Title 10 Discharge Enforcement and Maintenance Inspection programs.

The rule development and revision effort made a number of code changes in July to make BES enforcement-related sections consistent. It also created an overarching BES Enforcement Program administrative rule that lays the foundation for enforcement actions related to the non-financial programs listed above.

The bureau has filed the administrative rules with the City Auditor and they should be posted on the Portland Planning Documents (PPD) website within the next few weeks. Until then, you can find the final administrative rules and code changes on the BES intranet at www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/61133. The Environmental Policy Division will post a project summary document on the same page within a few weeks.

Congratulations to the project team and Pollution Prevention staff for completing such a complex and comprehensive project.

PROGRAMS WITH CHANGES

- Pretreatment and Sanitary Discharge
- Septage Hauler
- Storm Sewer Discharge
- Public Works Enforcement
- FOG
- Title 10
- Discharge Enforcement
- Maintenance Inspection



Pump Station Construction Underway

Construction crews are several weeks into construction of the SW 86th Avenue Pump Station. They are constructing the new facility next to the existing Fanno Pump Station.

Last month work crews cleared the site and installed a temporary, 12-foot sound wall to reduce construction noise for neighbors. They are currently installing the underground wet well.

The SW 86th Avenue facility will increase capacity to ensure that the Fanno system can handle all wastewater flows during large rain storms. The new pump station will operate year-round. The existing pump station will operate in the winter to manage higher wastewater flows. The new pump station should be ready for operation by late 2015.



Construction on the SW 86th Avenue Pump Station



Meet Your PEERs

PEER Resource volunteers are available to all Environmental Services employees to listen and offer support about problems in the workplace. PEER volunteers take special training in listening and communication skills, legal, labor, and employee assistance issues. They are available at the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Water Pollution Control Laboratory, the Portland Building, Pioneer Tower and the Guilds Lake office. Alice Coker is the PEER Resource Program coordinator. Contact Alice for more information at 3-7914 or alice.coker@portlandoregon.gov.

The PEER Program recently recruited new volunteers and some current volunteers renewed their commitment. In the next few Clarifiers, we'll get to know your PEER volunteers.



Michael Sisler

Michael is a drafter for Engineering Services on the 11th floor of the Portland Building. He started with the city in 2007 and brings a hard-nosed attitude to problem-solving and work. He hopes to help others express themselves more and to help direct them towards solutions if solutions are in order. He's lived in many parts of the United States and the mix of culture shocks has made him very open and understanding. In his spare time he likes to defy gravity and hang out with his dog. You can contact Michael at 3-7102.



Marc Peters

Marc joined the Willamette Watershed Team in 2007 as an Environmental Specialist. His focus is on water quality issues and effectiveness monitoring for a variety of projects within the watershed. He enjoys collaborating with staff throughout the bureau, as well as from other partner agencies on efforts to improve natural resources throughout the city. He became a PEER volunteer in 2013 and is looking forward to assisting his co-workers in any way possible. You can reach Marc at 3-9389.



Gudmun Sangolt

Gudmun has worked with BES Wastewater Group since November 2000. He started out in the Millwright Apprenticeship Program and is now a Planner/Scheduler for the Wastewater Group. In a previous life he was educated as a Marine Engineer and worked on Cruise Ships, Chemical Tankers, etc. The most varied work group he has worked with consisted of people from 43 different nations trying to achieve common goals. He is now enjoying himself immensely working for the City of Portland in the Wastewater Division. You can reach Gudmun at 3-2459.

!! Another Shakeout

The "Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill" is coming on Thursday, October 17. At 10:17 a.m. on 10/17 to be exact. Environmental Services is one of the local government agencies in Multnomah County registered to participate in the drill. The goal is to remind you that if an earthquake strikes, you should "Drop, Cover, and Hold On." Get more information at www.shakeout.org/oregon.

DROP, COVER, AND HOLD ON

1. DROP to the ground.
2. Take COVER by getting under a sturdy desk or table.
3. HOLD ON to your shelter and be ready to move with it until the shaking stops.



Wellness Tip

A new Swedish study shows that adding magnesium to your diet can reduce your risk of stroke by up to 8%. That's probably due to magnesium's ability to lower blood pressure. Good dietary sources of magnesium include: nuts, like almonds and cashews, and seeds, including pumpkin seeds; green leafy vegetables like kale, spinach, and broccoli; whole grains found in brown rice, oat cereals and whole grain breads; fish such as oysters, scallops and halibut.



Learn more about your coworkers on the BES intranet at TEAM BES.

Read about your teammates and review past profiles on the BES intranet at www.portlandonline.com/bes/teambes.



Contact your PEERs

PEERs are specially trained Environmental Services staff volunteers who are available to offer bureau employees support, guidance and referral. [Click here to learn more or to contact a PEER volunteer.](#)



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY OF PORTLAND
working for clean rivers



Our Mission

Environmental Services serves the Portland community by protecting public health, water quality and the environment.

We provide sewage and stormwater collection and treatment services to accommodate Portland's current and future needs.

We protect the quality of surface and ground waters and conduct activities that plan and promote healthy ecosystems in our watersheds.

Our Vision

To be recognized as a trusted service provider and innovative environmental leader through a demonstrated commitment to clean rivers, healthy watersheds and our community.

Environmental Services: www.portlandoregon.gov/bes
Nick Fish, Commissioner Dean Marriott, Director

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