

UPDATE

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CITY OF PORTLAND | SUMMER 2015

The Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant serves over 600,000 people and operates every day around the clock to treat an average of 70-million gallons of wastewater a day.



The Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant never sleeps. Even at night, highly skilled and knowledgeable plant staff monitor Portland's entire wastewater collection and treatment system from the plant's operations room.

The Treatment Plant Next Door

STEVE BEHRNDT, Wastewater Group Manager

The Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant has operated in your neighborhood for more than 60 years. While many of our neighbors have a pretty good idea what goes on here, many of you may have questions about what we do.

The City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services owns and operates this wastewater treatment facility, which is valued at more than \$1 billion. Environmental Services is your wastewater and stormwater management utility. More than 2,500 miles of pipe and nearly 99 sewage pump stations send wastewater here 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We process nearly 30 billion gallons a year and return treated water to the Columbia River.

The plant campus covers over 100 acres and more than 150 people work here. We have staff on duty every day, around the clock to operate and maintain our treatment system. A citywide

Continued inside

175,000
service laterals

2,500 miles
of pipe in the sewer and stormwater collection system

99
active sewage pumping stations

60 miles
of pressure sewers or force mains

2
wastewater treatment plants



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The Treatment Plant Next Door

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fiber optic network lets us monitor the operation of the entire collection system from our control center.

Environmental Services is a heavily regulated public utility, so we have to make sure our treatment process meets clean water standards to protect public health and water quality. Our high performance standards are reflected by our national recognition. Over the last 20 years, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies has awarded the Columbia Boulevard plant each year

The plant campus covers over 100 acres with more than 150 staff.

with a Peak Performance Award for excellence in complying with our permit requirements.

We take pride in our work

We are thankful to be part of your community, and we work hard to be a good neighbor. We also welcome visitors. If you'd like to join a treatment plant tour, call 503-823-2653 and plan a visit.

Smell & Tell

PAM ARDEN, CBWTP Citizen Advisory Committee Member since 1994

Over the years, north Portland neighborhoods along Columbia Boulevard have been “treated” to a variety of odors. When the North Portland Odor Abatement Committee (NPOAC) formed over 25 years ago, the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant (CBWTP) was one of many sources of those odors. NPOAC members were the first to point to the plant as a source of odors. The CBWTP staff responded positively and set the tone for improvements that continue today.

In 1995, the city took a monumental step by including odor scrubbing towers in the new Headworks building. Since then, every CBWTP capital improvement project has included odor control equipment, showing the plant takes being a good neighbor seriously. Still today, there's a need to call attention to foul odors. Even if the source is not the CBWTP, plant staff will investigate to find the source—on or off plant property.

If you smell a sewer odor, call 503-823-1700 or go to www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/odors to report it. You can also sign up to receive email notification of work planned at the plant that could affect the air.

News from around the Plant

BRIDGE CLOSURE



Beginning this fall, a repair project will close the Columbia Slough Bike/Pedestrian Bridge for up to 90 days.

During the bridge closure, Environmental Services will repair a section of the 30-inch diameter Inverness force main, which is suspended under the bridge.

LEASH YOUR DOG



Environmental Services encourages compliance with leash and scoop laws at the plant entrance, and along the trail.

Keeping your dog on a leash protects people, other dogs, park land and wildlife. Dog poop is a source of *E. coli* bacteria. Picking up after your dog protects public health and water quality.

LAGOON CONSTRUCTION



Construction continues on the solids lagoon north of the treatment plant.

The reconstruction project will protect groundwater and improve the solids treatment process. This summer, trucks will occasionally use the Columbia Slough Trail to enter and exit the work site between N Portland Road and the Columbia Slough Bridge. When traffic is expected to be heavy, the trail will close during the day for safety.

The city posts signs and maintains a hotline (503-823-1993) to advise trail users of periodic closures.

In-water Work on the Columbia Slough

If you use the trail system near the CBWTP campus or paddle in the Columbia Slough, you may notice some in-water work this spring and summer. Environmental Services is creating habitat in the lower slough for small salmon migrating to the Pacific Ocean. Steelhead, coho and Chinook salmon use the slough's quiet waters to take refuge from river currents and predators.

Salmon also need in-stream wood, but there isn't much of that in the slough. This project will place 35 engineered log jams upstream of the CBWTP Bridge and near the St. Johns Landfill. Logs and rootwads protect juvenile fish from predators and give juvenile fish a place to feed and rest. The project includes planting trees to shade the slough banks.



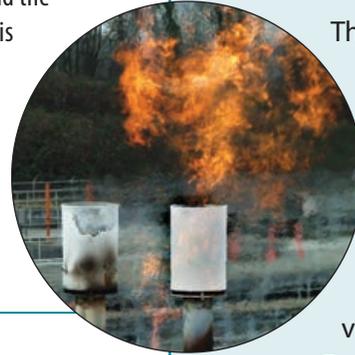
The lower Columbia Slough's habitat project will add wood to the lower slough and create habitat for endangered fish. Workers construct the log jams in the slough using boats, barges and cranes.

In-water work began in March. The project requires enough water in the slough to place the log jams. Depending on rainfall, snowmelt, tides and water depth, construction may last until September 2015. Construction will not close the lower slough to paddlers, but there may be cranes, barges and small boats in the waterway at various locations.

For more information, contact Susan Barthel, Environmental Program Coordinator, at 503-823-7268 or susan.barthel@portlandoregon.gov.

Plant to Re-use More Biogas

The Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant produces 600 million cubic feet of biogas every year. Biogas is a wastewater treatment by-product.



Methane flares at the plant

The plant is now designing a facility to convert some of that biogas into compressed natural gas vehicle fuel.

Environmental Services found that the vehicle fuel option is the most economical and environmentally sound re-use option of several studied. It will reduce diesel fuel use and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

Environmental Services is exploring several possible uses for the fuel including selling it to a utility company, selling to Portland area garbage haulers to fuel trucks, fueling city vehicles, or fueling trucks that haul biosolids for land application.

The project will cost nearly \$11 million. Environmental Services is exploring grants and financial incentives to help reduce project costs. Construction could start early next year and the facility could be operational by 2017.



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY OF PORTLAND
1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Room 1000
Portland, Oregon 97204-1912

Nick Fish, Commissioner
Michael Jordan, Director

Report a Sewer Odor

503-823-1700

The City of Portland complies with all non-discrimination laws including Title VI (Civil Rights) and Title II (ADA). To request a translation, accommodation or additional information, please call 503-823-7740, or use City TTY 503-823-6868, or Oregon Relay Service: 711.

The Bureau of Environmental Services works with Portland residents and businesses to protect water quality, public health, and the environment through wastewater collection and treatment, sewer construction and maintenance, stormwater management, and stream and watershed restoration.



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Nick Fish, Commissioner
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OUR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) provides valuable input to staff on plant operations and projects. CAC members represent a variety of interests from surrounding communities, including neighborhood, environmental, business, industry, and educational. The CAC helps plan and implement treatment plant projects so that community needs and concerns are addressed. CAC members meet quarterly.

CAC MEMBERS

Pam Arden	40-Mile Loop Land Trust
Gordon Bussey	Floating Homes Community
Matthew Denton	Portsmouth Neighborhood Association
Jerry Fadden	St. Johns Neighborhood
Mark Kennedy	University of Portland
Charles Robertson	New Columbia
Jim Robison	University Park Neighborhood

Get Involved in the Citizen Advisory Committee

For more information, or if you are interested in joining the CAC, contact Debbie Caselton at 503-823-2831 or Debbie.Caselton@portlandoregon.gov.

MORE INFORMATION: www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/cbwtp