

Response to Comments

City of Kamiah Water Treatment Plant

NPDES Permit Number: ID0028461

February 19th, 2026

On January 6th, 2026, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 (EPA) issued a public notice for the proposed reissuance of City of Kamiah Water Treatment Plant Draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. ID0028461. The public comment period closed February 5th, 2026.

During the public comment period, the EPA received comments from the following:

- Stuart Bryant, City of Kamiah Drinking Water Operations

This document presents the comments received and provides corresponding responses to those comments. As a result of comments received, no revisions were made to the permit:

Comment 1. Outfall Process

“I believe I should clarify how we generate our outfall: (ref page 9 of Fact Sheet as written)

Clarifier rinses do tend to average **4 times a day per filter** -*presently*. The description in page 9 seems to miss that *there are two filters* discharging around 7,000 gallons *each, generally with a maximum of four* times per day. Thus, the **clarifiers generate more like 56,000 gallons per day in total on the higher end**. Some times of the year this number of clarifier rinses drops to just two per filter per day (28,000 gallons per day total) as longer runs are not required to meet consumption demand, so average monthly is somewhat less than the 56,000 gallons per day.

The filter beds **backwash**, however, discharge about **18,000 gallons per backwash, each**. We might **average as much as seven total per week during spring runoff** (present worst case of 126,000 per WEEK), but once our filters get their media replaced by next fall we expect that the *annual average* should return to less than four cycles per week even during the greatest system demand. Even without the maintenance we should have fewer backwashes during warmer months. Spring runoff conditions generally last two to three weeks per year, although the return to normal can be somewhat gradual some years depending upon weather patterns (precip and snow melt). Bottom line is that our discharge volumes reported have been pretty accurate. Please note that the *filter drain down is integral to these backwashes and not a separate event*. Backwash water is treated water, and not combined with raw water.”

Response. EPA Region 10 does not revise fact sheets issued with draft permits after the public comment period. Instead, EPA Region 10 corrects information and provides any additional explanation in the response to comments document. EPA acknowledges the corrected process provided by the commenter. The corrected process does not affect the conditions in the Permit. No changes were made to the Permit as a result of this comment.

Comment 2. Source Water pH levels

“..... We have been collecting raw water (river) pH..... We have several months data, and it does get surprisingly low (approaching 6) at times when the river flow is up. Will probably be early February before I can send these. We are down to just two licensed operators these days between both DW & WW systems when four is customary and five preferred. This staffing shortage seems to (be) more common than not in our area. We have one DW apprentice in process and a likely WW apprentice in the wings. Growing our own seems to be the only real solution. This requires a lot of time & patience. “

Response:

The EPA appreciates Mr. Bryant’s effort to accurately represent the conditions of the source/receiving water for the WTP, the Clearwater River. In this case, due to the nature of the treatment process of the facility, the EPA cannot allow for any sort of intake credit for pH. However, as stated in the permit, the facility will now take and submit influent pH recordings in from the Clearwater River to fully document the year-round conditions within the river. This data will help inform future permitting actions.

No changes were made to the Permit as a result of this comment.