

Aumsville Wastewater System Updates

2004

NPDES permit stated "There is no reasonable potential for toxicity due to ammonia using the 1986 criterion. No ammonia limits based on the 1986 criteria were calculated."

2010

NPDES permit stated "Ammonia-No Limits." It also stated that once Oregon DEQ adopts the 1999 criteria for ammonia toxicity the limits would automatically be updated to 6.8ml daily limit and 3.6ml monthly average.

2011

New limits were introduced into the City's NPDES permit.

2018

March: The City had a DEQ compliance inspection and was informed that DEQ would now enforce the ammonia limit violations.

December: The City contracted Mark Walters to do an assessment of the lagoons to see if there was any way to meet the ammonia limits in the permit. Staff performed additional sampling and testing 3 days a week, 2 times per day to get a better idea of any changes that could have been made to meet the limit.

2019

Mark Walters' recommendations were to add additional treatment to the lagoons, similar to the fixed film process Westech suggested in the facility plan. These systems are untested in the Northwest and would have required us to take one of the lagoon cells offline to build the additional treatment. Limits generally would never increase and would almost always go down. This option is untested, limiting the city's ability to store during May and October, and not a good use of city funds because it doesn't factor in growth or any future limits to the permit.

Aumsville Wastewater System Updates Continued

2020

The city signed an agreement with Westech Engineering to complete the facilities plan.

The next MAO requirement to complete a mixing zone study was completed.

A feasibility study to operate the lagoons in series was not in parallel. Due to undersized transfer piping and flows it was determined to be infeasible, and not a solution to the ammonia limit problem.

The City conducted sampling to determine if Mill Creek was an option for an additional outfall that would have less strict ammonia limits that also was not successful as DEQ had said we would not be able to get an additional discharge permit to Mill Creek because it already doesn't meet water quality standards.

2021

Staff and DEQ completed a renewal of the NPDES permit with new ammonia limits of 8.3 Daily Limit and 3.3 Monthly Limit along with a compliance schedule that would eliminate the MAO. The compliance schedule was more favorable to the city for funding, along with a longer time to prepare for the improvements needed to meet the ammonia limits.

An application is submitted for congressional district funding to assist with funding.

2022

The preliminary engineering report was completed by Westech Engineering, and a loan application was submitted to USDA for funding.

January
2023

Senator Merkley's office notified the City that Aumsville's application had been selected to receive \$1.25 in Congressionally Directed Spending.

A capital project funding request was submitted to the legislative office for review. The review process is ongoing.

Aumsville Wastewater System Updates Continued

March 2023

An application for FY24 Congressional District funds was submitted to Senator Merkley's office.

An application for Community Project Funds was submitted to Congresswoman Salinas' office.

April 2023

An application was submitted for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) to DEQ. This is not a grant, but a small portion of the funds would be able to be "forgiven" and the remaining loan would be very low-interest.

The Aumsville Mayor, City Council, and city staff pushed for more community involvement in the process by creating a letter of support to seek outside funding, and by promoting community conversations.

City Staff met with the Regional Solutions Team of stakeholders to review funding options if no additional grants are received. Attendees included representatives from Business Oregon, USDA, DEQ, and Marion County. Funding options included loans from the partner agencies, some of which offer grants built into the terms.

May 2023

The Mayor, City Council President, and City Administrator appeared at the Ways and Means Committee meeting to provide testimony, urging the committee to include Aumsville's wastewater project in the budget for capital construction. More than 800 Aumsville residents were included in the written testimony as signors on a letter of support requesting the assistance of the Ways and Means Committee.

June 2023

The Ways and Means Committee approved a budget that included \$5-million in funding to the City of Aumsville for the Wastewater Treatment Facility project, bringing the total grant funding to over \$8-million.

The City continues to funding assistance from state and federal agencies.