

Salmon Creek Treatment Plant Odor Control Improvement Project

July 2020

Frequently Asked Questions and Responses

Does the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant Currently Have Any Odor Control Systems?

Yes, the SCTP has two odor control systems for two very specific high concentration odor sources. Those systems were installed over 10 years ago.

What Odor Control Improvements Can We Expect With The Current Odor Control Project?

In addition to the existing odor control systems, two new systems are being constructed – one for the front portion of the facility, where wastewater enters the Treatment Plant, and one for the back (west) side, where solids are processed. Based on computer modeling and engineering work, treating air from these areas was determined to provide the most benefit to neighbors and the environment. This approach was also reviewed with the Southwest Clean Air Agency to ensure the facility will be fully compliant with air regulations well into the future.

How Will the Odor Control Systems Work – How is Odor Removed and How is the Treated Air Released?

The two new odor control systems have been selected based on the type of odors present at the two locations in the facility. The system for the front portion of the facility is based on a biological reactor and the system for the solids handling area is based on activated carbon. These systems are very typical in the industry for meeting these needs. No treatment system removes 100% of the odors that flow through it. For these units, the air will pass through one time from bottom to top, and the systems have been engineered large enough to remove the majority of odors. Once treated, the remaining air is pushed through a nozzle on the top of the unit which creates a high velocity air stream that directs the flow up higher into the atmosphere where it is widely dispersed.

Will There Still Be Odors After the Project is Complete?

The new odor control systems will treat the primary sources of odor, but several of the processing tanks in the middle of the site will still be uncovered and therefore could still generate mild odor sources. There will also be times where a tank or processing facility is taken off-line for cleaning and maintenance that may present a short-term odor source, including our annual biosolids hauling activity that typically takes place from mid-August to mid-September each year. The odor control improvement project is intended to significantly reduce, but not completely eliminate, all the odor sources from the facility.

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Frequently Asked Questions, Continued

What is the Timeline For the Odor Control Project?

Construction is currently underway for the odor control project. At the time of the open house, the contractor was preparing the foundations for the odor control systems. The odor control equipment is very specialized and will be customized for this specific facility. The detailed mechanical design work for the systems is happening now and is being reviewed by our engineers. Once approved, the equipment will be fabricated and delivered to the site. The fabrication process takes several months. At this time, it is anticipated the equipment will be delivered over the winter and be operating by spring of 2021. Once the equipment is approved for fabrication, we will have a more certain delivery date and we can refine the expected timeline.

Has Construction Been Delayed Due to COVID-19?

To date, we are not aware of any specific impacts from the pandemic. However, it is critical to get the equipment approved and into fabrication. If manufacturing facilities are required to shut down in the future due to the pandemic, it is possible it could have an impact on the project schedule. Once all the specialized equipment is on site, our contractor will be able to assemble the systems and begin operation.

Are Any Current Odors Related Specifically to the Construction Process?

There have not been any new odor issues related to construction. Any odors residents are currently noticing would be part of our normal operation and maintenance activities. In a few weeks, we will have our annual biosolids hauling activity, that can also be a source of short-term truck traffic and odors. These activities are related to normal plant operations and are not necessarily tied to the ongoing construction activity.

Will the New Odor Control Systems be Noisy?

The new odor control systems will use large fans to move the air through the treatment systems. The fans will be installed in large enclosures that are acoustically (sound) treated to minimize off-site noise. One existing fan from the front portion of the plant, that nearby residents sometime hear, is also being relocated into the new enclosures. Similar to odor control, we are working to minimize noise from the facility; however, we cannot completely eliminate all noise from an industrial facility of this nature.

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