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**DISTRICT OF SOOKE  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT  
AND COLLECTION SYSTEM**

**OPERATED BY  
EPCOR WATER SERVICES INC.**



**OPERATIONS REPORT  
DECEMBER 2015  
REGISTRATION NUMBER 17300**



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## INTRODUCTION

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The Sooke wastewater collection system and treatment plant are owned by the District of Sooke and operated by EPCOR Water Services Inc. The system services the core area of Sooke.

The system consists of:

- 54 km of collection system piping
- 522 manholes
- 7 pump lift stations (Sooke Road, West Coast Road, Helgesen Road, Sunriver, Prestige Hotel, Mariner's Village and Treatment Plant)
- A secondary treatment wastewater plant with disinfection
- A marine discharge through a 1.7 km long, 30m deep outfall

The treatment plant uses a Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR) treatment process with UV disinfection to provide secondary wastewater treatment. Plant treatment removes over 95% of the total suspended solids and high levels of other contaminants, providing significant environmental benefits to the District of Sooke and the receiving waters.

The treatment plant has a design capacity of 3,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day (annual average daily flow), and a peak wet weather flow capacity of 6,900 m<sup>3</sup>/day. The plant is expandable by an additional 3,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day (average daily flow).

Construction of the Sooke collection system and wastewater treatment plant began in 2004 and the system was commissioned in December 2005. Individual domestic and commercial connections began in May 2006 and continued throughout 2006 and 2007, with the majority completed by December 2006. Additional connections have continued since that time for new construction in the specified sewer area.



## OPERATIONS

### Wastewater Treatment Plant

In December, effluent quality was good with the TSS (total suspended solids) averaging 22 mg/L and CBOD averaging 18 mg/L. (MWR limit is  $\leq 45$  mg/L and WSER limit is  $\leq 25$  mg/L quarterly average). The results, as detailed in this report, are obtained from samples tested at an independent ISO/IEC 17025 accredited lab.

December 1 In response to “toxic shock” received in November operators are wasting healthy sludge from SBR# 2 to SBR# 1. This effort being carried out to try to “re-seed” SBR# 1 as it has experienced a complete bacterial die-off.

Exhaust fans in headworks building not working. Troubleshooting found a VFD reset to be necessary in the motor control center (MCC) room.

Lock cylinder in one of the headworks room doors not working. Locksmith called.

December 2 Operators continuing to waste sludge in hand from SBR# 2 to SBR# 1 in the “re-seeding” process.

Arranged for disposal of spent COD reagent vials.

Arranged permit for disposal of granulated activated carbon with Hartland Landfill.

Condensation in headworks building completely gone now that exhausts fans are operating correctly.

Electrical contractor called to plant as grit classifier motor making loud noises. Motor disassembled and taken to electrical shop for rebuild.

December 3 Centrifuge replacement meeting held at WWTP with centrifuge supplier, District of Sooke staff, EPCOR lead hand and senior manager.

Operators cleaned UV lamps and sleeves in bank “B” of UV channel.

Rebuilt grit classifier motor was installed and tested.

December 4 Plumbing contractor replaced corroded water line fittings in headworks building.

SBR# 1 still in poor condition due to toxic shock/bacterial die-off. Effluent TSS at 21 mg/L and COD 100mg/L indicating unconsumed organic matter due to lack of biological process. These effluent results still well within regulatory limits for discharge and microscopic analysis improving as number of bacteria is increasing.



Operators wasting sludge in hand from SBR# 2 to SBR# 1 which is continuing to re-seed SBR# 1 with healthy bacteria.

December 7 Re-seeding process continuing.

December 8 Centrifuge replacement meeting held.

Lead hand operator travelled to observe newly commissioned centrifuge at Ladysmith WWTP.

December 9 SBR# 2 showing signs of poor settle. Operators monitoring sludge volumes in both basins.

December 10 Operations dealing with issues resulting from toxic shock to WWTP.

December 14 Centrifuge showing signs of age as biosolids quality is down. Operations using all possible centrifuge adjustments to make best possible biosolids quality. Also, sludge “dewaterability” has been adversely affected by reduced biological activity which is the direct result of toxic shock from foreign substance entering wastewater stream.

December 15 Monthly EPCOR Incident Management meeting attended by lead hand operator.

Operators have centrifuge making best quality biosolids cake possible under current conditions.

December 17 Operators completed eight hour online training course.

December 18 Operators increased biosolids handling to create digester sludge storage room for upcoming holidays.

December 22 Centrifuge making acceptable quality biosolids cake.

December 31 Started, ran and tested on-site standby power generator.

## **Wastewater Collection System**

### **Lift Stations**

The lift stations operated well throughout the month of December.

December 10 Routine lift station checks done at Sunriver, Helgesen and West Coast Road lift stations. Hi level floats were tipped at these lift stations and alarm dial-outs to monitoring company were confirmed. Inspection of West Coast Rd. lift station found large accumulation of debris on low level float. Debris removed.



December 18 Have recently experienced two instances of Hi level alarms at Sooke Road lift station. In both instances, when operators arrived, lift station wetwell level has been high and pumps are not running. SCADA trends show pumps starting and stopping repeatedly but only removing a small volume of water each cycle. First method of troubleshooting has been to replace LIT.

December 19 On-call operator found pump# 2 in fault condition at Sunriver lift station

December 21 Electrical contractor called in to troubleshoot fault condition of pump# 2 at Sunriver lift station.  
Fault condition has been diagnosed as a failed VFD.

SCADA trends show excessive pump starts and stops at Helgesen Road lift station. Operators inspected check valves in valve chamber and found them to be working properly. Rainwater is entering the lift station and thought to be the cause.

December 22 Routine lift station checks completed at Prestige Hotel and West Coast Road. Debris accumulation noted on low level float at West Coast Road lift station and had to be removed. Scheduled wetwell cleaning with vacuum truck contractor.

December 24 Lift station check done at Mariner's Village, Sooke Road, Sunriver and Helgesen lift stations. Sooke Road - witnessed white liquid flowing into wetwell. No chemical odour noted. With Sunriver lift station pump# 2 currently out of order (VFD repairs), hi level float tipped, confirming alarm dial-out and pump# 1 taking control of lift station.

West Coast Road lift station displayed a PLC health alarm and returned to normal minutes later.

December 25 Simulated a fault condition with pump# 1 at Sunriver lift station, tipped Hi level float to test call-out alarm. Alarm dial-out was confirmed and pump# 1 faults were cleared, resets made and returned to auto-control.

December 29 Lift station checks made at West Coast Road, Sooke Road, Sunriver and Helgesen Road lift stations.

December 30 Started and ran standby power generators at Sooke Road, Sunriver, Helgesen Road and West Coast Road lift stations. Generators were operated four and a half hours.

Scheduled wetwell cleanings with vacuum truck contractor for Helgesen Road and West Coast Road lift stations. Both lift stations have excessive accumulations of grease and debris beyond what would be considered typical since last cleaning. Cleanings to take place starting midnight Jan. 06.16

December 31 Added fuel stabilizer to standby power generators at Sooke Road, Sunriver, Helgesen Road and West Coast Road lift stations.



December 31 No further issues at Sooke Road lift station since LIT replacement of Dec. 18.

### Plant and Operator Classification

The Wastewater Treatment Plant is a Class III plant, classified under EOCP # 1358 and is operated under MOE Guidelines. The Sooke WWT plant is operated in compliance with the MWR and meets the certification requirements.

The collection system is a Class II Wastewater Collection System, classified under EOCP # 1827 in accordance with the Environmental Operators Certification Program. Previously, the collection system was determined to be a Class III facility. The collection system classification is reviewable every five years and was recently reviewed. Discrepancies were noted in a previous classification application and most recent application information has resulted in a change to the collection system classification.

**Table 1– Operator Certification**

Name	Position	Qualifications
Shawn Pearson	Lead Operator	BC EOCP Certified: Level III Wastewater Treatment & Level II Wastewater Collection System
Jesse Forcier	Operator	BC EOCP Certified: Level I Wastewater Treatment

## QUALITY

The District of Sooke Liquid Waste Management Plan was approved by the Ministry of Environment in June 2011. Contained in the approved plan is a proposed Operational Certificate (OC). The OC provides more extensive standards and guidelines for the operation of the wastewater treatment plant than is contained in the plant registration that was submitted by the District to the Ministry in 2002 or in the general guidelines provided in the Municipal Waste Regulations (MWR). The Operational Certificate will be finalized in the future and will become the standard for the plant operation.

The Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations (WSER), under the Federal Fisheries Act, was gazetted on July 18, 2012. The Government of Canada worked with the provinces and engaged municipalities and others to establish the country’s first national standards for wastewater treatment. It establishes limits for deleterious substances in the wastewater plant effluent that can be released into the natural environment.

Table 2 contains the WSER, MWR and the proposed OC requirements for information.

**Table 2 – Summary of Regulatory Requirements**

Parameters or Description	WSER		MWR		Proposed OC	
	Limits	Frequency	Limits	Frequency	Limits	Frequency
Ammonia-Nitrogen			NA	Quarterly (Grab)	NA	Quarterly (grab)
Ammonia (un-ionized) as N at 15°C (WSER)	<1.25 mg/L	Monthly (until June 30, 2014)	NA	NA	NA	NA
CBOD	≤25 mg/L (Quarterly Average)	Monthly (Grab)	≤45 mg/L	Monthly (Grab)	≤45 mg/L	Monthly (Grab)
Fecal Coliforms	NA		<200 CFU/100 ml * Geometric Mean	5 samples 30 days	NA	6 x / year
<i>Enterococci</i>	NA		NA	NA	NA	6 x / year
pH			6.0 - 9.0		6.0 - 9.0	Monthly (Grab)
Receiving Environment Testing			Required	Annually	As per Receiving Environment Monitoring Plan	1/year
Operator Certification			Required notification to regulator when there is a change in operator with the highest certification level in the plant	NA	Required notification to regulator when there is a change in operator with the highest certification level in the plant	NA
Reports, Annual			As requested by Director	As requested by Director	1/year	Within 120 days of calendar Year
Reports, General	Quarterly	Within 45 days after the end of the quarter	Data submission 2 times per year		Quarterly	Within 31 days of quarter ends
Flow Measurement		Daily Total			NA	Daily Total
Flow, Average			To be determined	2/week	3,000 m <sup>3</sup> /day	2/week
Flow, Maximum			To be determined	2/week	6,900 m <sup>3</sup> /day	2/week
Total Phosphorus			NA	Quarterly (Grab)	Not Required	NA
Effluent TSS	≤25 mg/L (Quarterly Average)	Monthly (Grab)	≤ 45 mg/L	Monthly (Grab)	≤ 45 mg/L	Monthly (Grab)
Post of Outfall Sign			Required		Erect sign above high water mark.	NA
Out fall Inspection			Required	Every 5 years	Required	Every 5 years. Next Due 2018
Biosolids Management			NA		Shall be transported to an approved receiving facility	NA

\*<200 CFU/100 mL on a geometric mean of the last 5 samples in 30 days at the edge of the dilution zone for recreational water use and <14 CFU/100 mL for shellfish bearing waters. \*\* All regulated tests are conducted by an ISO/IEC 17025 accredited laboratory. "Grab" refers to a grab sample, which is a single sample that represents the composition of the water at that specific time and place.

**Table 3 – Performance Measures – District of Sooke O&M Key Performance Indicators**

**Water Quality & Environmental Performance Measures**

Activity	Actual Values	Actual Values	Target Values
	December	YTD	Annual
Effluent Quality & Violations to Operational Certificates	0	0	0
Laboratory QA/QC Activities	95	553	200
Proactive Environmental/Quality Initiatives	1	5	5
Completion of Required Regulatory Reporting	100%	100%	100%
Activity	Actual Value	Actual Value	Acceptable Value
	December	YTD	Annual
Releases *	0	0	2

**People & Safety Performance Measures**

Activity	Actual Values	Actual Values	Target Values
	December	YTD	Annual
Lost Time Accidents	0	0	0
Staff Training (hours)	15	283	40 hrs/ employee
Safety Preventative Activities	26	146	30

**Customer Service Performance Measures**

Activity	Actual Values	Actual Values	Target Values
	December	YTD	Annual
Service Outages < 24 hours	100%	100%	90% Complete
Community Related Activities	1	8	4

\* Uncontrolled discharges of wastewater that are reportable to Provincial Emergency Plan under legislation, excluding abnormal circumstances





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**Table 4 – Monthly Quality Summary**

	Influent				Effluent																			Biosolids Shipped				
	CBOD mg/L	TSS mg/L	NH3-N mg/L	TP	Flow m <sup>3</sup> /day			CBOD mg/L			TSS mg/L			NH3-N mg/L			Un-ionized NH3-N mg/L			TP			FC CFU/100mL			Kg	# of Loads	
	Ave	Ave	Ave	Ave	Min	Max	Ave	Min	Max	Ave	Min	Max	Ave	Min	Max	Ave	Min	Max	Ave	Min	Max	Ave	Min	Max	Geo Mean			
<b>Regulatory Limit</b>						14400	3000		≤45**	≤25 *		≤45**	≤25 *						<1.25									
<b>January</b>	152	168	28	5.2	1931	5443	2613	<4	5	5	5	6	5	1.14	2.50	1.68	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	2.18	3.28	2.72	10	64	29	72990	8	
<b>February</b>	70	86	37	7.8	1767	3543	2313	<4	<4	<4	5	6	6	0.17	2.19	1.00	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	2.33	4.35	3.25	4	96	19	41270	4	
<b>March</b>	163	156	39	7.0	1574	3305	2220	<4	<4	<4	3	4	4	0.17	1.69	0.72	0.00021	<0.05	0.025	2.57	3.64	3.19	22	68	38	50410	5	
<b>April</b>	214	239	43	8.3	1718	2485	1973	<4	5	4	<5	11	7	0.13	0.61	0.37	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	3.25	4.37	3.89	6	76	19	68000	7	
<b>May</b>	138	230	43	13.7	1516	1800	1643	<4	6	5	<5	8	7	0.08	0.51	0.28	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	3.54	4.52	4.07	16	160	37	68810	7	
<b>June</b>	340	195	45	14.0	1439	1709	1559	<4	6	5	<4	14	9	0.10	0.46	0.27	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	3.52	6.80	4.54	18	72	33	40320	4	
<b>July</b>	269	346	63	10.7	1387	1644	1514	<4	7	5	7	17	11	0.26	0.35	0.21	nr	nr	nr	2.35	8.40	4.75	8	260	43	29860	3	
<b>August</b>	314	456	49	20.0	1410	1765	1500	<4	6	5	4	21	12	0.23	4.04	1.26	nr	nr	nr	2.80	9.60	5.85	4	2090	27	29880	3	
<b>September</b>	354	306	59	9.9	1439	1717	1564	<4	7	5	4	8	6	0.10	0.87	0.42	nr	nr	nr	3.57	7.60	4.61	<2	32	11	47140	4	
<b>October</b>	395	346	53	8.8	1406	3662	1689	<4	5	5	<5	6	5	0.16	1.00	0.63	nr	nr	nr	1.50	4.35	3.41	<2	16	5	80550	8	
<b>November</b>	175	150	33	6.6	1940	6042	2829	<4	6	5	<4	6	5	0.73	1.12	0.96	nr	nr	nr	1.30	1.30	1.78	2	470	33	58560	6	
<b>December</b>	139	230	35	5	1959	5246	2984	8	28	18	16	31	22	0.21	2.21	1.36	nr	nr	nr	1.01	4.66	3.20	12	2030	184	69750	7	
<b>Total</b>																											657540	66
<b>Annual</b>	227	242	44	9.8	1387	6042	2033	<4	28	6	<4	31	8	0.08	4.04	0.76	0.00021	<0.05	<0.05	1.01	9.60	3.77	<2	2090	32			

\* WSER- Quarterly average, \*\*MWR and proposed OC, nr = not required

**Table 5 – Quarterly WSER Compliance Reporting Table - Effluent**

	CBOD mg/L	TSS mg/L	Un-ionized NH <sub>3</sub> -N * mg/L	Effluent Flow m <sup>3</sup>
	Quarterly Average	Quarterly Average	Maximum	Quarterly Total
Regulatory Limit	≤25	≤25	<1.25	
Q1	5	5	<0.05	214,585
Q2	5	8	<0.05	156,895
Q3	5	9	nr	140,258
Q4	9	11	nr	225,689

\* Un-ionized NH<sub>3</sub>-N tested with pH at 15°C and is not required (nr) after June 30/2014

**Table 6 – Influent Water Quality**

		INFLUENT										
		IN HOUSE				EXTERNAL						
	Effluent flows	pH	TSS	NH <sub>3-N</sub>	COD	COD	CBOD	TSS	NH <sub>3</sub>	TP	Conductivity	Surfactants
Dec.	m <sup>3</sup> /d		mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	µS/cm at 25 C	mg/L
1	2080											
2	1959											
3	2375	7.8	240	43	723	605	161	260	39	5.7	647	1.9
4	2637	7.8	210	37	588							
5	2558											
6	2749											
7	2749	7.6	165	27	431							
8	3950											
9	5246	7.4	95	14	325							
10	3903											
11	3280	7.6	160	26	424							
12	2870											
13	3319											
14	3020	7.6	160	26	481							
15	2789											
16	2665	7.5	220		520	499	116	200	32	5.1		
17	2632											
18	3609	7.7	125		315							
19	3463											
20	3153											
21	3186	7.6	120	25	354							
22	3073											
23	3234	7.7	110	24	394							
24	3732											
25	3078	7.3	105	16	321							
26	2611											
27	2655											
28	2626	7.4	80	25	299							
29	2577											
30	2370	7.6	140	32	455							
31	2351											
<b>Min</b>	1959	7.3	80	14	299	499	116	200	32	5.1	647	1.9
<b>Max</b>	5246	7.8	240	43	723	605	161	260	39	5.7	647	1.9
<b>AVG</b>	2984	7.6	148	27	433	552	139	230	35	5.4	647	1.9



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Table 7 – Daily Water Quality of Effluent

Dec.	SBR 1 EFFLUENT													SBR 2 EFFLUENT												
	IN HOUSE				EXTERNAL									IN HOUSE				EXTERNAL								
	pH	TSS	NH <sub>3-N</sub>	COD	COD	TSS	CBOD	NH <sub>3</sub>	Temp	pH	TP	Enter-ococci	FC	pH	TSS	NH <sub>3-N</sub>	COD	COD	TSS	CBOD	NH <sub>3</sub>	Temp	pH	TP	Enter-ococci	FC
	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	°C		mg/L	CFU/100mL	CFU/100mL		mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	°C		mg/L	CFU/100mL	CFU/100mL	
1																										
2																										
3	6.5	21	2.1	105	113	31	28	2.21		6.45	4.66		2000	6.4	12	<0.4	56	60	17	10	0.21		6.46	3.21		68
4	6.6	24	1.9	113										6.5	9	<0.4	97									
5																										
6																										
7	6.6	27	1.3											6.5	12	1.0										
8																										
9	6.7	28	0.9	83									1470	6.4	15	0.5	42									510
10																										
11	6.6	23	3.5	63										6.3	14	1.0	54									
12																										
13																										
14	6.4	25	2.0	101										6.6	8	1.4	58									
15																										
16	6.6	20		82	99	24	24	2.17	25	6.58	3.93	4800	2030	6.4	12		58	56	16	8	0.84	25	6.59	1.01	40	68
17																										
18	6.5	13	3.3	73										6.4	11	1.2	55									
19																										
20																										
21	6.5	10	1.5	57									154	6.4	7	<0.4	41									68
22																										
23	6.5	11	2.6	59										6.4	9	<0.4	54									
24																										
25	6.4	12	2.5											6.4	8	<0.4										
26																										
27																										
28	6.4	9	0.6	59										6.4	7	<0.4	46									
29													56													12
30	6.4	8	<0.4	42										6.3	8	0.6	52									82
31																										
Min	6.4	8	<0.4	42	99	24	24	2.17	25	6.45	3.93	4800	56	6.3	7	<0.4	41	56	16	8	0.21	25	6.46	1.01	40	12
Max	6.7	28	3.5	113	113	31	28	2.21	25	6.58	4.66	4800	2030	6.6	15	1.4	97	60	17	10	0.84	25	6.59	3.21	40	510
AVG	6.5	18	1.9	76	106	28	26	2.19	25	6.52	4.30	4800	552	6.4	10	1.0	56	58	17	9	0.53	25	6.53	2.11	40	74

Note: Monthly average reported for fecal coliforms is a geometric mean. WSER limit is <25 mg/L quarterly average TSS/CBOD. pH is regular at 25 °. External testing done by an ISO/IEC 17025 accredited Labs, EXOVA , Surrey, BC.,

**Table 8: Acronyms**

Acronyms /Abbreviations	Description
ATS	Automatic Transfer Switch
AVE or AVG	Average
BC EOCP	British Columbia Environmental Operators Certification Program
BOD	Biochemical Oxygen Demand
BO/PO	Blow off /pump out
CBOD	Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand
CFU/100mL	Colony Forming Units Per 100 milliliters
COD	Chemical Oxygen Demand
FC	Fecal Coliforms
F/M ratio	Food-to-microorganism ratio
HMI	Human Machine Interface
IC	Inspection Chamber
I/I	Inflow & Infiltration
LIT	Level Indicator Transmitter
LPS	Low pressure system
m <sup>3</sup> /day	Cubic meters per day (flow)
mg/L	Milligram per liter
MDL	Method detection limit
MSR	Municipal Sewage Regulation
MWR	Municipal Wastewater Regulation
NH <sub>3</sub>	Ammonia
OC	Operational Certificate
PLC	Programmable Logic Controller
Q	Yearly Quarter
SBR	Sequencing Batch Reactor
SCADA	Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (system)
SSA	Specified Sewer Area
TP	Total Phosphorus
TSS	Total Suspended Solids
VFD	Variable Frequency Drive
WWC	Wastewater Collection System
WSER	Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant
YTD	Year to Date