

# Port of Moses Lake – Oral Testimony

---

Good afternoon, I am Jeffrey Bishop, the Executive director of the Port of Moses Lake. I am here today to encourage these rules be amended to allow publicly owned industrial wastewater facilities to be eligible for support from the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund and Centennial Clean Water. I did submit my business card earlier that has my address and my email address on it.

Some background. The Port of Moses Lake has one of the largest air fields in the world and can accommodate the needs of the largest flying aircraft of today.

The handout that we submitted for the record shows the location of our current wastewater treatment facility in relationship to the airport. A diagram of the current system and a copy of the letter from the 13<sup>th</sup> District Legislators on this issue. The Port of Moses Lake's focus is bringing new economic opportunity to rural Central WA. Our airport facilities have a long history of serving unique needs for the aerospace industry including aircraft testing, certification, pilot training, emergency preparedness, and military training.

But the port is much more. In recent years new industries like Tarex, through their subsidiary Genie; Chemecon, through their subsidiary; US Chemecon; Toma Chemical and its subsidiary, Moses Lake Industries; Mitsubishi Aircraft, subsidiary of Mitsubishi; SGL Carbon Fibers, a joint project of SGL and BMW; Aerotech Aviation Tech Services; and Green Point Tech Services have located their facilities at the Port bringing well over a thousand new jobs in the high tech, clean tech, and renewable source sector. We are in the midst of bringing new rail service to meet the growing needs of these companies for improvement of new business and to access more than 1,200 acres of available industrial lands that were recently re-permitted through the Plan Action Process of the state environmental policy act. With this rail service, the Port will have the capability to connect our runways to rail and more roads to create more jobs in Central Washington.

The wastewater treatment facility for the Port of Moses Lake was initially installed in 1999 at a cost of only \$4.1 million dollars. At that time it was designated to handle only total dissolved solids. In 2014, the Port expanded pumping, storage and land application capacity at an additional cost of \$4.7 million dollars. The system has storage capacity of a 60 million gallons and access to over 640 acres of land for irrigation. To date, the Port has invested \$11.8 million in the system, and because of the fact that we were not eligible to access these funds, that had to be done with Port reserves.

This serves customers that provide now approximately over 2,500 jobs in our rural Central WA community. We are currently in the planning process to integrate pretreatment to the facility which will allow our current customers to expand their businesses and bring another 800 to 1,000 jobs to our community, providing that we can get authority from DOE.

We urge the DOE to limit rules on issues of the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund and the Centennial Clean Water Fund to allow publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities to be eligible for funding under these programs.

The Port of Moses Lake is one of only five publicly owned wastewater facilities in Washington state designed to handle industrial waste, and we are encouraging the DOE to acknowledge that there are no statutory restrictions on facilities like ours being eligible to compete for funding under these programs. We were in support of the DOE's original recommendations to amend these rules to allow facilities such as ours to become eligible. However, these draft rules do not include this important change. We urge the DOE in the final rules to incorporate their original recommendations to allow publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities to become eligible for funding under the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund and the Centennial Clean Water Fund.

Thank you very much.