

Testimony

Jeff Bishop, Executive Director, Port of Moses Lake

Uses of the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund and the Centennial Clean Water Fund

May 31, 2017

- Good Afternoon – I am Jeff Bishop, the Executive Director of the Port of Moses Lake 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 the Centennial Clean Water Fund.
- Some background:
- The Port of Moses Lake has one of the largest airfields in the world, and can accommodate the needs of the largest aircraft flying today. The handout you are receiving shows the location of the current wastewater treatment facilities in relation to the airport, a diagram of the current system, and a copy of a letter from the 13th District Legislators on this issue.
- The Port of Moses Lake's focus is bringing new economic opportunity to rural, Central Washington. 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 Genie, Chemi-Con, Moses Lake Industries, Mitsubishi Aircraft, SGL Carbon Fibers, AeroTEC, Aviation Technical Services and Greenpoint Technologies have located facilities at the Port – bringing over a thousand new jobs.
- And we are in the midst of bringing rail service to meet the growing needs of these companies, for recruitment of new businesses, and to access more than 1200 acres of available industrial lands next to the airport. With rail service, the Port will have the capability to connect runways, rail and roads to create new jobs in Central Washington.
- The wastewater treatment facility at the Port was initially installed in 1999 at a cost of \$4.1 million. At that time, it was designed to handle only total suspended solids.
- In 2014, the Port expanded the pumping, storage and land application capacity – at a cost of \$4.7 million. The system has storage capacity of 60 million gallons and access to 640 acres for irrigation.
- To date, the Port has invested \$11.8 million in the system. It serves customers that provide about 1,500 jobs in our rural, central Washington community.
- We are in the planning process to integrate pretreatment to the facility, which would allow our current customers to expand their businesses, and bring another 800-1000 jobs to the community.

- We urge DOE to amend the rules on uses 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 – and we were encouraged that DOE acknowledged that there were no statutory restrictions on facilities like ours being eligible to compete for funding under these programs.
- And we were in support of DOE’s original recommendation 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 DOE, in the final rules, to incorporate their original recommendation to allow publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities to become eligible for funding under the Water Pollution Control Revolving Funds and the Centennial Clean Water Fund.
- This change will:
 - Assist in our efforts to create new jobs and economic opportunity in Central Washington.
 - Allow our facility to compete for federal funding programs that use eligibility under state programs as a criterion for project funding.
 - Assist in meeting the goals for clean water in our communities.
- Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments today.

For More Information Contact:

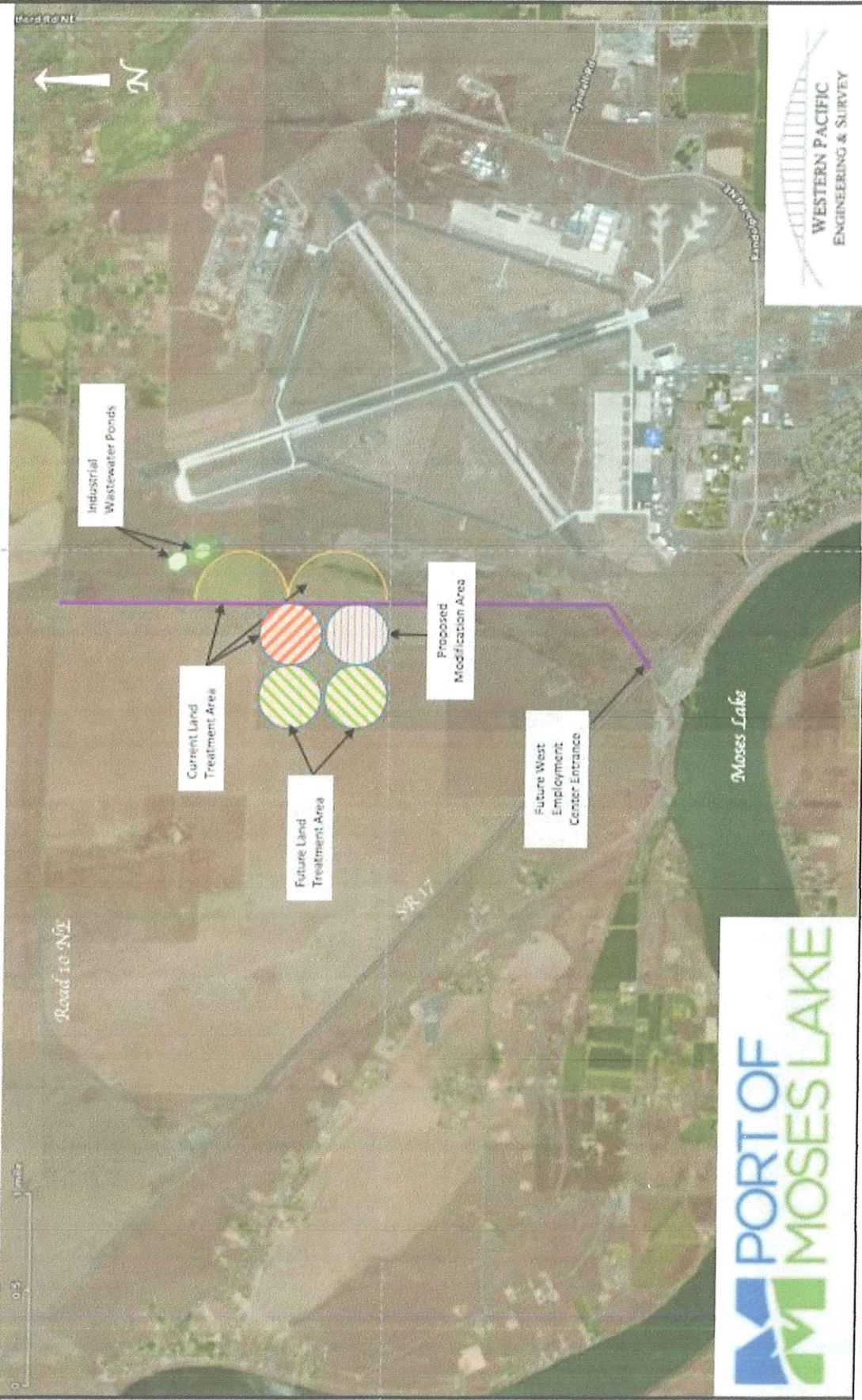
Jeff Bishop, Executive Director

Port of Moses Lake

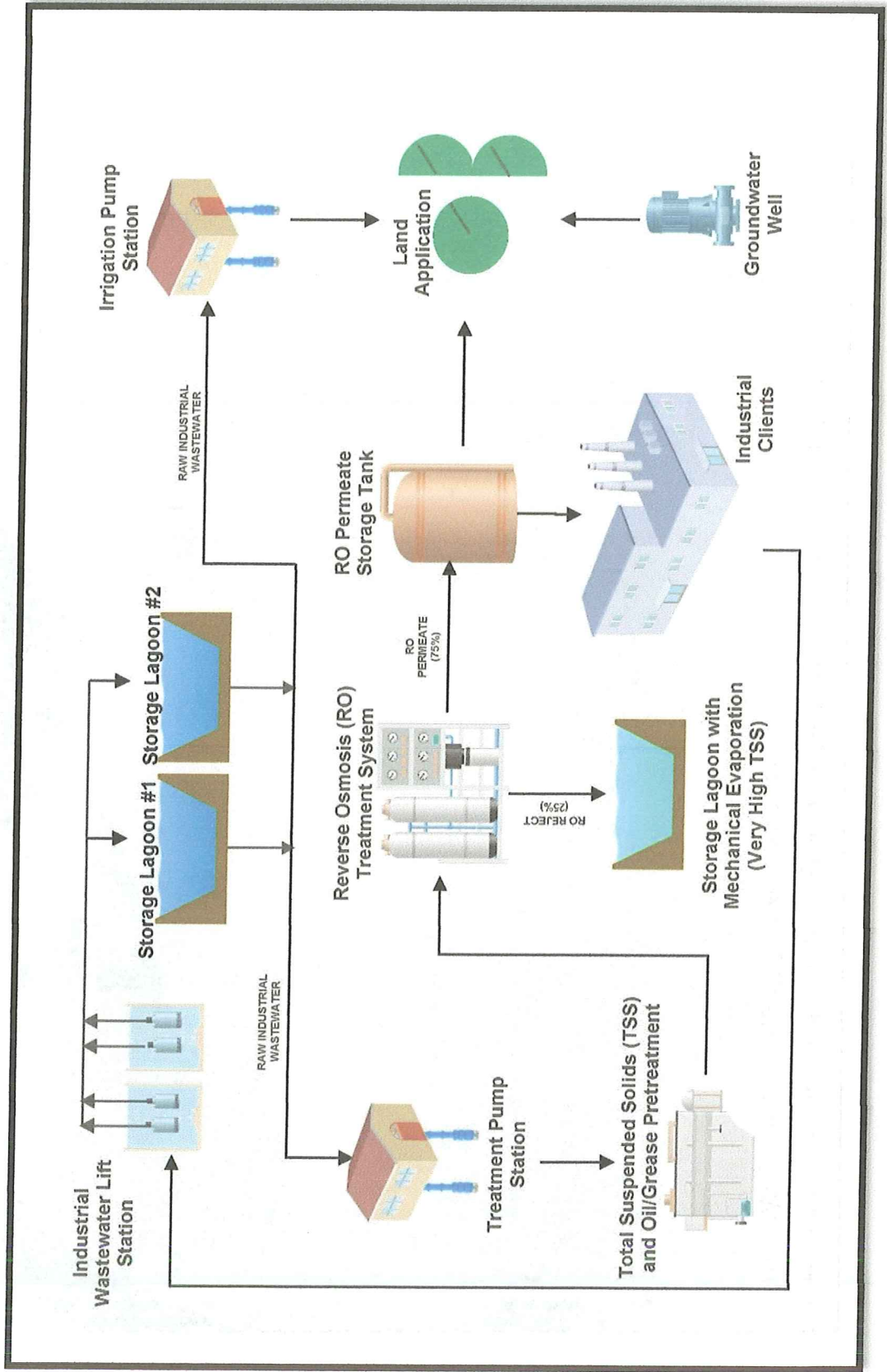
jbishop@portofmoseslake.com

509.762.5363 www.PortofMosesLake.com

Port of Moses Lake Industrial Wastewater System Land Treatment Areas & Future West Employment Center Entrance



Wastewater Infrastructure





Washington State Legislature

May 26, 2017

Daniel Thompson
Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

RE: Comments to Ecology's proposed rulemaking for uses of the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund (Chapter 173-98 WAC) and Centennial Clean Water Fund (Chapter 173-96A WAC)

Dear Mr. Thompson,

We represent the 13th Legislative District, which is home to two of the five publicly owned industrial wastewater treatment facilities in Washington State. The facilities in the 13th Legislative district are operated by the City of Quincy and the Port of Moses Lake. These treatment facilities are currently not eligible to compete for funding from the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund (CWSRF) or the Centennial Clean Water Fund (CCWF).

We urge the Department of Ecology, in the rule-making cited above, to modify the rules to the CWSRF and CCWF to allow for publicly owned industrial wastewater treatment facilities to be eligible for funding under both programs.

The City of Quincy and the Port of Moses Lake have invested in wastewater treatment facilities to bring new industries and jobs to rural central Washington. Historically, publicly owned industrial wastewater treatment facilities have not been eligible for funding programs such as the CWSRF and the CCWF unless they can demonstrate that the project directly benefits residential taxpayers. However, DOE has acknowledged that there are no statutory, or other constraints, preventing these facilities from being eligible for assistance under these programs.

Indeed, last summer, DOE recommended expanding the eligibility for these funding programs to publicly-owned industrial wastewater treatment facilities. DOE's recommendation was rejected by the handful of their advisory committee members that attended the meeting to review DOE's

recommended changes to the rules (only 39% of the advisory committee members attended the meeting).

Accordingly, the draft rules under consideration does not include this important element; however, the final rule can make this important change. Adopting a rule that will allow these facilities to become eligible for funding from these two programs will benefit the state in meeting water quality objectives and assist in job creation in rural central Washington.

Additionally, with this change in the rules, these facilities will be more competitive when applying for federal funds, which, in many instances are a critical investment requirement and component of projects.

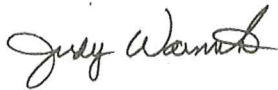
For example, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the availability of approximately \$1 billion in credit assistance for water infrastructure projects under the new Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program. *Unfortunately, eligibility for these federal funds is strongly dependent upon a jurisdiction first being eligible for state level grant funds.* In 2016, DOE acknowledged that publicly-owned industrial wastewater treatment facilities are not prohibited from using federal sources of funding provided to the state for these two water pollution control accounts. Hence, the need to change the current rules.

We urge the final rules to include DOE's original recommendation to allow publicly owned industrial wastewater treatment facilities to be eligible for grants under the CWSRF and CCWF programs.

The change will assist in further job creation in rural Central Washington, and leverage available state and federal funds to achieve our common goal for clean water.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,



Senator Judy Warnick
13th Legislative District



Representative Tom Dent
13th Legislative District



Representative Matt Manweller
13th Legislative District