Message

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Sent: 2/4/2019 10:28:37 PM
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Subject: Draft mercury variance document for the Rock Creek AWWTF
Attachments: Second Draft Rock CR Variance for EPA review.dotx

Hello Rochelle and Lindsay,

Attached is DEQ's draft variance document for the Rock Creek AWWTF for your review and comment. As you may recall, DEQ sent an initial draft in 2018 and we had discussions with EPA R10 and HQ. I agreed to write a second draft, responding to the comments we could, and EPA was going to discuss some of our questions in order to provide additional guidance. With this draft, DEQ would like to understand more clearly what additional documentation is necessary to support the variance and meet federal regulations. DEQ requests that EPA provide comments back to me on the Rock Creek variance document by the end of February.

DEQ is concerned about the timeline for the four CWS variances because the modified permit for the CWS facilities cannot be completed until all four variances are granted by DEQ and approved by EPA. DEQ plans to go out for public comment on the modified permit and the four variances on May 1, 2019. DEQ is also concerned about ensuring that the variance process is clear and efficient so that variances may be completed in a timely manner in the future.

DEQ is simultaneously working on a multiple discharger variance for mercury for the Willamette Basin, which we plan to take to the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission for adoption in November 2019 or January 2020. The Willamette Mercury MDV is needed in order to complete the Willamette basin permits scheduled for renewal in FY 2021.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns. I realize that EPA is behind on many things due to the long shut down, but we hope that this project can continue to move forward reasonably soon.

Thank you!
Debra

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