

We Clean Water

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Metropolitan Wastewater MANAGEMENT COMMISSION



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September 23, 2020

RE: Notice of Bike Path Closure – MWMC Renewable Natural Gas Upgrades Project

Dear Property Owner:

You are receiving this letter to notify you of an update to the alignment of the distribution pipe for the Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) project currently underway at the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission (MWMC) Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant at 410 River Avenue in Eugene. A portion of the bike path around the treatment plant, along the southwest corner and west side of the facility, is scheduled to be closed starting Monday, October 5, 2020 while the pipeline is being constructed. This letter is going to properties like yours in close proximity to the plant and distribution pipe.

A new renewable natural gas line will connect biogas purification facilities and Northwest Natural's (NWN) receipt point facility on the treatment plant grounds to an existing NWN natural gas transmission line on River Road. The distribution pipe will now run along the bike path on the southwest corner of the plant and along Corliss Lane, west to River Road. This exciting project will inject RNG produced from biogas, a byproduct of the wastewater treatment process, into NWN's pipeline system to be used as a renewable vehicle fuel.

While the pipeline is being constructed, the bike path along the southwest corner and west side of the treatment plant will be closed for up to several weeks. A detour is available along River Avenue and around the east side of the wastewater treatment plant. The closure will not affect the portion of the path connecting to the Ruth Bascom Riverbank Path System. .

Please see the back of this letter for a map of the project area, including the updated alignment of the distribution pipe, bike path closure, and detour available, along with some frequently asked questions.

If you have any questions about this letter or the overall project, please contact me at 541.682.8683 or mvaneckhout@springfield-or.gov.

Sincerely,

Mark Van Eeckhout
Civil Engineer, Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission

What is taking place?

- The MWMC is working to turn biogas into Renewable Natural Gas (RNG).
- MWMC goals for the project are to utilize nearly 100% of the biogas to produce RNG, reduce flaring of the biogas (unused energy), achieve a cost-effective revenue stream, and reduce associated greenhouse gas emissions.
- While construction of the pipeline connecting the processing plant to NW Natural's (NWN) natural gas transmission line is underway fall 2020, the bike path along the southwest corner and west side of the treatment plant will be closed for up to several weeks.

What is the benefit?

- The production of RNG will result in a greenhouse gas reduction of up to 7,500 metric tons of CO₂ annually as a result of reducing flaring from facility operations.

Next Steps?

- Construction of the processing plant is currently underway, and a pipeline to connect to NWN's utility grid is scheduled to be built fall 2020. The MWMC is partnering with NWN to inject RNG into their pipeline. It is anticipated the RNG will start being produced in 2021.

What is Biogas?

- Biogas is a byproduct of the wastewater treatment process comprised of methane (CH₄) and carbon dioxide (CO₂).
- RNG is comprised of remaining methane after CO₂ is removed from the biogas.

Is it safe?

- The MWMC has preventative measures in place to ensure safe handling of RNG for the community and for the staff at the wastewater treatment plant.

