



The City of Nampa must reduce the amount of phosphorus it discharges into Indian Creek in order to meet new federal requirements and improve water quality in the Lower Boise River and Snake River.

The City of Nampa's wastewater treatment plant is one of the largest in the state and treats millions of gallons of wastewater each day generated by residents, businesses and industries.

Wastewater is used water from washing machines, dishwashers, sinks, toilets, showers, bathtubs and industrial manufacturing and operating processes.

Currently, after the water is thoroughly treated at Nampa's wastewater treatment plant it is discharged into Indian Creek. Water from Indian Creek joins with the Boise River and eventually flows into the Snake River and Brownlee Reservoir.

To give comments or learn more about upgrading Nampa's wastewater treatment plant:

- www.cityofnampa.us/wastewater
- Contact Karla Nelson at the Nampa Public Works Department, (208) 468-5523, nelsonk@cityofnampa.us

Why is phosphorus a problem?

The Environmental Protection Agency and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality have identified pollution problems in the Boise River and the Snake River that will impact Nampa's wastewater treatment activities. The major pollutant of concern is phosphorus – a nutrient found in wastewater from sources such as dishwasher detergent, human waste, fertilizer, industrial discharges and agricultural uses.

Too much phosphorus in lakes and rivers can cause excessive algae blooms, which can kill fish and threaten recreational uses like swimming and fishing.

New Permit Requirements

The federal Clean Water Act requires the City of Nampa to have a permit in order to discharge treated wastewater into Indian Creek. This permit is called a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. A new or renewed NPDES permit is issued to the City by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) about every five years.

Nampa's new NPDES permit is scheduled to be issued in 2013. The City expects the permit to require Nampa to meet higher standards for treating its wastewater including phosphorus removal.

The upgrades to Nampa's wastewater treatment system could cause wastewater bills to double. Given the high cost, the City recognizes that it is vital to involve the Nampa community when evaluating upgrade options.

A professional management team is thoroughly analyzing several possible ways for Nampa to upgrade its wastewater treatment systems. A citizens advisory group and an industry advisory group are also working with the City to help determine which option is best for Nampa.

