

11.12.2021

NOTICE OF COUNTY COURT HEARING
Record number 217-21-000436-PLNG

CROOK COUNTY
NOV 15 2021
PLANNING DEPT



Your Honor and Crook County Planning Commission,
Please see below for recent Knife River Oregon violation examples. Despite Knife River testimony and looking online, Knife River seems to consider violations as simply a cost of doing business.

Many thanks for your consideration,
Don and Mona Pomraning

Examples of Knife River Violations

Feb 14, 2018

OR DEQ FINES KNIFE RIVER CORP

DEQ fines Gresham gravel mine \$35k for several water quality violations
Gresham, OR (2/13/2018) — The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has
fined Knife River Corporation Northwest \$35,509 for violating its stormwater permit
and allowing pollutants to enter Fairview Creek from its Gresham Sand and Gravel
mine.

Inspectors from DEQ and the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral
Industries discovered in September 2017 that Knife River had changed its system
for washing sediment from tires and undercarriages of mining trucks. Wastewater
from this washing system was combining with stormwater and draining into
Fairview Creek.

The wastewater from Knife River's washing system may contain oil, metals and
other pollutants that can contaminate waterways and threaten the health of

Oregon's people and environment. Knife River corrected the violation in November 2017 by re-routing the wheel wash water to an onsite infiltration pond.

Knife River also failed to conduct the daily inspections required by its stormwater permit between September 2014 and September 2017. These inspections are critical to ensuring the mine is minimizing industrial contaminants in the stormwater that discharges to Fairview Creek.

View the enforcement letter: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/nr/021318gravel.pdf>

Contact: Contact: Laura Gleim, Public Affairs Specialist, Portland, 503-229-6488, gleim.laura@deq.state.or.us

DEQ issues 15 penalties in February for environmental violations

- Mar 26, 2021



The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality issued 15 penalties totaling \$1,443,639 in February for various environmental violations. A detailed list of violations and resulting penalties is at <https://go.ora.gov/xEQjn>.

Fines ranged from \$1,650 to \$458,266. Alleged violations included a rubber producer operating without an air quality permit, a company discharging highly chlorinated water from a construction project, and cities not properly treating their wastewater.

DEQ issued civil penalties to the following organizations: (Only highlighted Knife River, dpomraning)

- Knife River Corporation, \$25,000, Coos Bay, water quality (Clarification: Violation, reducing water quality to below standards)

Organizations or individuals must either pay the fines or file an appeal within 20 days of receiving notice of the penalty. They may be able to offset a portion of a penalty by funding a supplemental environmental project that improves Oregon's environment. Read more about these projects here: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Regulations/Pages/SEP.aspx>.

Penalties may also include orders requiring specific tasks to prevent ongoing violations or additional environmental harm.

DEQ works with thousands of organizations and individuals to help them comply with laws that protect Oregon's air, land and water. DEQ uses education, technical assistance, warnings and penalties to change behavior and deter future violation.

DEQ issues penalties to Knife River and Pacific West

- Oct 29, 2015

COQUILLE — The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has issued civil penalties of \$159,144 and \$16,800 to LTM, Incorporated (dba Knife River Materials) and Pacific West Timber Company, LLC, respectively, for violations resulting from the discharge of sediment into a tributary of the Middle Fork of the Coquille River.

The violations resulted from the excavation of approximately 200,000 cubic yards of material from alongside Highway 42 in Coos County in 2014, by Knife River Materials under a contract with the Oregon Department of Transportation, according to the DEQ. The material was then deposited and graded onto a sloped property (known as the Skull Ridge site) owned by Pacific West Timber Company. An unnamed tributary of the Middle Fork of the Coquille River flows across the property.

In November 2014, some of the material shifted, triggering a slope failure extending into the head waters of the tributary and depositing sediment into the tributary in two locations, according to the DEQ report. On three occasions in early 2015, significant erosion was observed by representatives of the DEQ and the Oregon Department of Forestry.

The erosion resulted in the accumulation of sediment and turbidity in the tributary.

The Middle Fork of the Coquille River provides habitat for a variety of fish, including Coho salmon, which are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Sediments discharged into streams cover up food sources, smother fish eggs and other aquatic life living in stream beds. It also impairs fish vision making it more difficult for them to feed and avoid predators.

The DEQ has ordered both companies to implement measures to permanently stabilize the material to prevent further illegal discharges and harm to waters of the state. If future discharges

occur, both may again be subject to civil penalties. The companies have until Nov. 4 to appeal the penalties.