

## RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

### WARM SPRINGS RESERVATION OF OREGON WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

A draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon Wastewater Treatment Plant was issued for Public Notice on September 15, 1999. The Public Notice initiated a 30-day public comment period expiring on October 15, 1999. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received written comments from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality dated August 30, 1999. The following is a summary of the substantive comments related to the draft permit and the EPA's responses:

1. **Comment:** The Deschutes River is water quality limited for pH below the confluence of the White River during the summer. The facilities discharge of nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) might further aggravate the pH problems in the lower Deschutes River. The increased flow from the facility might also mean an increased heat load on the Deschutes River.

**Response:** The facility discharges to Shitike Creek, 1.75 miles from the Deschutes River. Oregon's approved 1998 303(d) list indicates that the closest section of the Deschutes River that is listed for pH is approximately 50 river miles downstream from where Shitike Creek intercepts the Deschutes River (Mouth to White River). This list does not indicate that algae or nutrients are contributors to the pH problem in the segment. The facility's maximum design flow is 0.576 cfs before the upgrade (1.35 cfs after upgrades) as compared to the Shitike Creek river flow (1Q10) of 33 cfs. Therefore, the facility's discharge is only a small percentage (1.7% and 4%) of the creek's flow. The Deschutes River has a much greater flow than Shitike Creek and provides additional dilution. Because of the distance to the listed segment, the lack of relation between nutrients in the discharge and the pH problem, and the presence of adequate dilution, no changes were made to the permit. Effluent temperature data is not currently available, and the permit contains monthly temperature monitoring presently, therefore no changes will be made to the permit in relation to temperature.