



Press Release

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● For immediate release

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Council Votes to Dismiss EPA Lawsuit

The Post Falls City Council voted to dismiss a lawsuit against the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at the February 17th City Council meeting. The decision to end the lawsuit, brought by Post Falls and the Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board (HARSB), comes after five years of negotiations with the EPA.

Post Falls and HARSB both discharge treated wastewater to the river and jointly filed suit against the EPA, claiming the agency had approved a cleanup plan developed by the Washington Department of Ecology disproportionately harming Idaho dischargers compared Washington dischargers.

The suit, which requested the original cleanup plan be declared void, was maintained during the negotiation process for the new permit that became effective on Dec. 1.2014.

Environmental Manager John Beacham informed the council that the newly issued permit was not protested and includes a compliance schedule and other requirements which appear to be achievable.

The City has developed a 20-year plan to meet stricter treatment standards imposed by the EPA. Late last summer the City Council approved a rate increase to fund upgrades to the

February 25, 2015

treatment plant to meet the mandated water quality standards for the Spokane River. Priorities for 2015 include constructing a system that will equalize daily flow variations, a new headworks, a backup disinfection upgrade, a solids storage and loading facility, and an odor control biofilter.

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