

INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Entry Date/Time	01/27/2025 9:45 AM (PT)	Announced: Yes	
Inspection Exit Date/Time	01/27/2025 1:04 PM (PT)	Access: Granted	
Weather	53°F, Overcast		
Media	Water		
Statute(s)/Program(s)	Clean Water Act, NPDES, WWTP		
Type of Inspection	Compliance Evaluation Inspection		
Permittee Name	Lummi Indian Business Council		
Facility Name	Sandy Point WWTP		
Facility Physical Address	4369 Germain Road		
City, State, Zip Code	Ferndale, Washington 98248		
County	Whatcom		
Facility GPS Coordinates	48.814547, -122.706568		
FRS ID	110009764371		
Permit Number	WA0025658		
SIC	4952 (Sewerage Systems)		
Lead Inspector:			
Raymond Andrews	EPA Region 10	andrews.raymond@epa.gov	(206) 553-4252
Supervisor Review:			
Peter Contreras	EPA Region 10	contreras.peter@epa.gov	(206) 553-6708

SECTION I – Opening Conference

I arrived at the Lummi Sandy Point WWTP (“Facility”), located at 4369 Germain Road, Bellingham, Washington, at 9:45 AM (PT) on 01/27/2025 for an announced inspection. I presented my credentials to Daniel Jeffries, Lead Operator, and informed him I was there to conduct an inspection to determine the facility’s compliance with the Clean Water Act (CWA) and its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, permit # WA0025658. This report is based on information supplied by Mr. Jeffries, my direct observations, and records and reports maintained by the permittee. In addition, information gathered prior to or after the Inspection from a review of EPA, State, and/or public records may be included in this report.

This is the first of three inspections I conducted on Lummi Tribal wastewater treatment facilities. The Sandy Point Wastewater Treatment Plant’s permit became effective on December 1, 2011, and expired on November 30, 2016. The facility’s permit has been administratively extended since its expiration.

The Gooseberry Point WWTP maintains the tribal laboratory that conducts the in-house analysis for specific parameters for all three facilities.

Attendees

Organization	Attendee Name	Title	Present in Opening Conf.	Present in Closing Conf.
EPA Region 10	Raymond Andrews	Lead Inspector	Yes	Yes
Lummi Tribal Sewer and Water District	Daniel Jeffries	Lead Operator	Yes	Yes
Lummi Sewer and Water District	Brad Solomon	Sewer Manager	Yes	No

Facility Information

Responsible Official?	Jim Heigzman, District Manager, jimh@ltswd.com
How many employees does the facility have?	The Lummi Sewer and Water District (“District”) shares three employees between its three facilities. Of the District’s three employees, two hold level one certifications and the third is in training.
What is the facility’s operation schedule?	There is an operator on site for four hours on Monday and Friday, one hour Tuesday through Thursday. The facility has on-call person on weekends and holidays that conducts morning checks. The District plans to start a daily 8-hour schedule around the end of February 2025.
What is the facility’s service population?	The facility services approximately 1,000 residents.
What is the facility’s design capacity and average daily flow?	The facility has a design capacity of 0.250 million gallons per day (mgd), and an average daily flow of 0.175 mgd.
What is the facility’s primary flow measuring device?	The facility uses two Magmeters to measure flow, one at the influent and one at the effluent.
How often is the flow measuring device calibrated?	The manufacturer specifications state the magmeters do not require calibration.
What is the facility’s receiving water?	The facility discharges directly into the Strait of Juan de Fuca which empties into Puget Sound.

How many outfalls does the facility have?	The facility has a single outfall.
How often is the outfall inspected?	An operator visually inspects the outfall daily.
Where do you sample influent? Effluent?	The influent is sampled prior to the headworks. The effluent is sampled at the outfall.
Are water samples analyzed in-house or sent out to a contract laboratory?	The facility analyzes total suspended solids (TSS), biological oxygen demand (BOD), fecal coliform, dissolved oxygen (DO), pH, and temperature in-house. A contract laboratory analyzes water samples for total Kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN), ammonia and total nitrate + nitrites (N+N).
Laboratory contact information.	Edge Analytical 805 Orchard Drive Suite 4 Bellingham, Washington 98225 (360) 715-1212
How are biosolids managed?	Biosolids are picked up by a 3rd party contractor and disposed of on an as-needed basis.
Does the facility have a failure alarm? How is an alarm addressed?	The facility uses a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system to monitor the facility. If the system detects a failure, it sends an automated to the on-call operator.
Does the facility have back-up power?	The entire facility is on back-up power. The back-up power automatically activates if the system detects a loss of main power.
What is the facility's overflow/emergency capacity?	The facility does not have an emergency or overflow capacity.
Are there any industrial users?	The facility does not have any industrial users.
Are there shared or contributing jurisdictions?	There are no shared jurisdictions.
Does the facility accept waste from septage haulers?	The facility does not accept waste from septage haulers.
Has the facility had any bypasses or hydraulic overloads in the past 5-years?	The facility has not had any bypasses or overloads in the last five years.
Has the facility been renovated or upgraded in the last 5-years?	The facility has not been renovated or upgraded in the last five years.
Are there any plans to renovate or upgrade the facility?	The District has plans for upgrades, but they are more than 5 years out.

SECTION II – Observations

There were no observations made of facility operations made that were an Area of Concern.

SECTION III – Records Review

Records may not be in sequential order.

Record: Other - Operations and Maintenance Plan		AOC: Yes
Ref #: RA1-RR-005	Reviewed By: Raymond Andrews	Reviewed Date: 02/13/2025
At the time of the inspection, I requested to review the facility's Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Plan. The facility did not have an O&M Plan.		
Record: Other - EPA's Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS) Database		AOC: Yes
Ref #: RA1-RR-004	Reviewed By: Raymond Andrews	Reviewed Date: 02/13/2025
Post inspection, I reviewed information submitted by the facility to EPA's Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS) Database for the time period from February 2020 through January 2025. I found the facility was late in submitting DMR data and exceeded effluent limitations 1118 times over a 18-month period. Tables showing the late DMR data and effluent exceedances are included in Appendix 2. Data in ICIS shows the facility was under an Administrative Compliance Order (ACO) which was initiated in 2002 and closed in 2022; however, ICIS also indicated EPA never received the facility's Annual Reports for 2020 and 2021 or the construction compliance schedule required by the ACO. Since the ACO has been closed, I do not consider these as areas of concern. Part I.B.1 of the Permit states, in part, "The permittee must limit and monitor discharges from outfall 001 as specified in Table 1...The permittee must comply with the effluent limits in the tables at all times..."		
Record: DMR Reports		AOC: No
Ref #: RA1-RR-003	Reviewed By: Raymond Andrews	Reviewed Date: 02/13/2025
Post inspection, I reviewed facility Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) from January 2022 through December 2024. I did not note any areas of concern.		
Record: Other - Emergency Response and Public Notification Plan		AOC: Yes
Ref #: RA1-RR-002	Reviewed By: Raymond Andrews	Reviewed Date: 01/27/2025
At the time of inspection, I reviewed the facility's Emergency Response and Public Notification Plan (ERP). The plan was undated. The ERP was also out of date. It contained contact names that are no longer valid, i.e, District Manager, Dale Anderson. The ERP did not explain how notification to the public would be carried out. The Plan did not explain how emergency operations would be carried out.		
Record: Other - Quality Assurance Plan		AOC: Yes
Ref #: RA1-RR-001	Reviewed By: Raymond Andrews	Reviewed Date: 01/27/2025
At the time of the inspection, I reviewed the Quality Assurance Plan (QAP), dated March 7, 2016. The QAP needs an update. There is no indication the QAP was reviewed annually. The QAP was not prepared in the required format. The QAP did not contain the minimum requirements, i.e., it was missing: • Details on the number of samples, type of sample containers, preservation of samples, holding times, analytical methods, analytical detection and quantitation limits for each target compound, type and number of quality assurance field samples, precision and accuracy requirements, sample preparation requirements, sample shipping methods, and laboratory data delivery requirements. • Map(s) indicating the location of each sampling point. • Qualification and training of personnel. • Name(s), address(es) and telephone number(s) of the laboratories used by the Permittee.		

SECTION IV – Sampling Activity

No sampling was conducted.

SECTION V – Areas of Concern

Areas of Concern may not be in sequential order.

The presentation of Areas of Concern does not constitute a formal compliance determination.

AOC Reference #: RA1-RR-005	Records Review: Other - Operations and Maintenance Plan
Permit Requirement Part II.B of the permit states, in part, "...by 180 days after the effective date of this permit, the Permittee must provide written notice to EPA that an operations and maintenance plan for the wastewater treatment facility has been developed and implemented. The plan must be kept up to date as changes occur in operation and maintenance of the wastewater treatment facility. The plan must be retained on site and made available upon request to EPA."	
AOC: The facility did not have an O&M Plan.	
AOC Reference #: RA1-RR-004	Records Review: Other - EPA's Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS) Database
Permit Requirement Part I.B.1 of the Permit states, in part, "The permittee must limit and monitor discharges from outfall 001 as specified in Table 1...The permittee must comply with the effluent limits in the tables at all times..."	
AOC: The facility exceeded effluent limitations 1118 times over an 18-month period. The effluent exceedances are list in a table in Appendix 2.	
AOC Reference #: RA1-RR-004	Records Review: Other - EPA's Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS) Database
Permit Requirement Part III.B of the Permit states, in part, "The Permittee must summarize monitoring results each month on the Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) form..."	
AOC: The facility was late in submitting DMR data. The late data is in a table in Appendix 2.	
AOC Reference #: RA1-RR-002	Records Review: Other - Emergency Response and Public Notification Plan
Permit Requirement Part II.E.1.c of the Permit states, at a minimum, the ERPN must, in part, "Ensure immediate notification to the public..."	
AOC: The ERPN did not appear to explain how notification to the public would be carried out.	
AOC Reference #: RA1-RR-002	Records Review: Other - Emergency Response and Public Notification Plan
Permit Requirement Part II.E.1.d of the Permit states, at a minimum, the ERPN must, in part, "Ensure that appropriate personnel are aware of and follow the plan and are appropriately trained..."	
AOC: The ERPN contains contact names that are no longer valid.	

AOC Reference #: RA1-RR-002	Records Review: Other - Emergency Response and Public Notification Plan
Permit Requirement Part II.E.1.e of the Permit states, at a minimum, the ERPN must, "Provide emergency operations."	
AOC: The Plan did not explain how emergency operations would be carried out.	
AOC Reference #: RA1-RR-001	Records Review: Other - Quality Assurance Plan
Permit Requirement Part II.C of the Permit states, in part, "The Permittee must also certify to EPA that the QAP is being implemented and is reviewed with staff annually. Annual reviews will be registered with EPA by submittal of the staff attendance sheet used for the review sessions, along with a cover letter confirming the QAP review and identifying the enclosed attendance record. The annual QAP review letter and attendance sheet must be submitted with the January DMR of each subsequent year."	
AOC: There was no documentation showing the QAP was reviewed annually.	
AOC Reference #: RA1-RR-001	Records Review: Other - Quality Assurance Plan
Permit Requirement Part II.C.6 of the Permit states, "Throughout all sample collection and analysis activities, the Permittee must use the EPA-approved QA/QC and chain-of-custody procedures described in the most recent versions of Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans (EPA/QA/R-5) and Guidance for Quality Assurance Project Plans (EPA/QA/G-5). The QAP must be prepared in the format that is specified in these documents."	
AOC: The QAP was not prepared per the reference documents "Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans (EPA/QA/R-5)" and "Guidance for Quality Assurance Project Plans (EPA/QA/G-5)".	
AOC Reference #: RA1-RR-001	Records Review: Other - Quality Assurance Plan
Permit Requirement Part II.C.7 of the Permit states, "At a minimum, the QAP must include the following: a) Details on the number of samples, type of sample containers, preservation of samples, holding times, analytical methods, analytical detection and quantitation limits for each target compound, type and number of quality assurance field samples, precision and accuracy requirements, sample preparation requirements, sample shipping methods, and laboratory data delivery requirements. b) Map(s) indicating the location of each sampling point. c) Qualification and training of personnel. d) Name(s), address(es) and telephone number(s) of the laboratories used by or proposed to be used by the Permittee."	
AOC: The QAP was missing all elements required in Part II.C.7 of the Permit.	

SECTION VI – Closing Conference

I held a closing conference with facility personnel at 1:04 PM (PT) on 01/27/2025 for the inspection. During the closing conference, I discussed the observations and Areas of Concern identified during the inspection. Observations and Areas of Concern have not yet been evaluated for a formal compliance determination.

SECTION VII – List of Appendices

1. Photo Log
2. Area of Concern Tables

APPENDIX 1: Photo Log



Screw Press			IMG-202501271020572057102922.jpg
01/27/2025 10:20 AM	No CBI	No PII	Photographer: Raymond Andrews
Screw press at headworks. Ultrasonic sensor activates press when water gets to about 20 inches deep.			



Screw Press Trench			IMG-202501271022472247123518.jpg
01/27/2025 10:22 AM	No CBI	No PII	Photographer: Raymond Andrews
The influent pipe is below surface level and the sensor is above.			



Aeration Basin			IMG-202501271025332533143005.jpg
01/27/2025 10:25 AM	No CBI	No PII	Photographer: Raymond Andrews
Influent flows to the aeration basin after it goes through the clarifiers.			



Two Primary Clarifiers			IMG-20250127102636263693004.jpg
01/27/2025 10:26 AM	No CBI	No PII	Photographer: Raymond Andrews



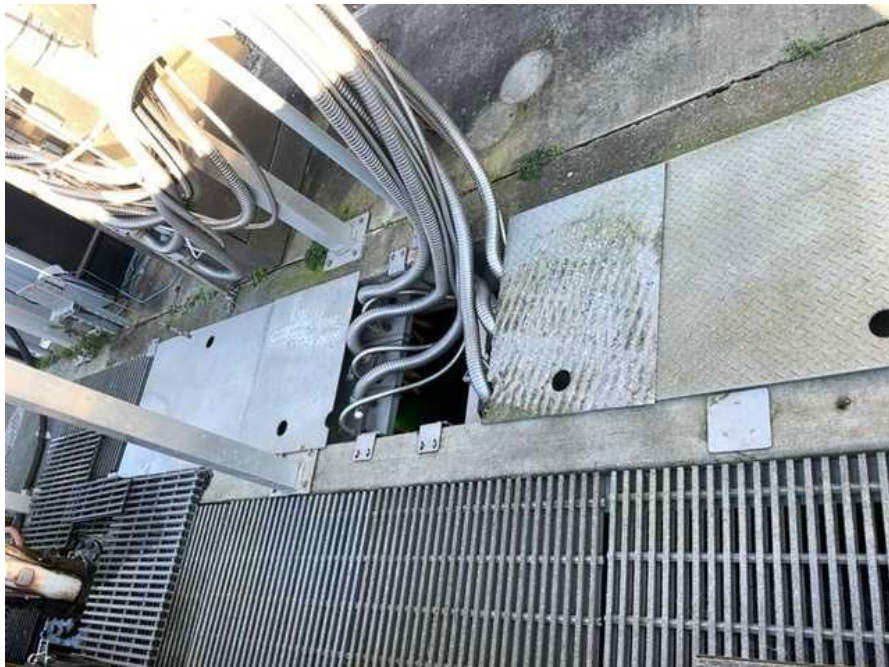
Two Rotational Biological Reactor (RBCs)			IMG-20250127102941294194084.jpg
01/27/2025 10:29 AM (PT)	No CBI	No PII	Photographer: Raymond Andrews
The RBCs do most of the biological work breaking down solids.			



Rotational Biological Reactor (RBC)			IMG-202501271032173217132709.jpg
01/27/2025 10:32 AM (PT)	No CBI	No PII	Photographer: Raymond Andrews
In profile.			



Secondary Clarifier			IMG-202501271033573357167232.jpg
01/27/2025 10:33 AM	No CBI	No PII	Photographer: Raymond Andrews
This is one of two secondary clarifiers. The influent is split between the two clarifiers.			



UV Disinfection			IMG-202501271035463546144512.jpg
01/27/2025 10:35 AM	No CBI	No PII	Photographer: Raymond Andrews
The UV bulbs are cleaned monthly.			



Effluent Auto Sampler			IMG-202501271037413741122223.jpg
01/27/2025 10:37 AM	No CBI	No PII	Photographer: Raymond Andrews
The effluent auto-sampler collects timed samples. A sample is collected every hour over a 24-hour period. Note: The back-up thermometer is to the left of the collection jar.			



Outfall Intake			IMG-202501271038543854100488.jpg
01/27/2025 10:38 AM	No CBI	No PII	Photographer: Raymond Andrews



Digester			IMG-202501271041284128156897.jpg
01/27/2025 10:41 AM	No CBI	No PII	Photographer: Raymond Andrews
Biosolids are transferred to the digester, where they stay for at last 90 days. The aeration runs in cycles of 40 minutes on and 20 minutes off.			



Influent Auto-sampler			IMG-202501271045124512118851.jpg
01/27/2025 10:45 AM	No CBI	No PII	Photographer: Raymond Andrews
The influent auto-sampler collects timed samples. A sample is collected every hour over a 24-hour period. Note: The back-up thermometer is behind and to the left of the collection jar.			

APPENDIX 2: Area of Concern Tables

Effluent Exceedances

Month	Parameter	DMR Value	Permit Limit	Unit	Limit Type	# Violations
Feb 2020	Solids, susp % rmv	83	85	%	Mo Av Mn	29
Jul 2020	Solids, total susp	67	45	mg/L	Wkly Avg	7
Jul 2020	Solids, susp % rmv	74	85	%	Mo Av Mn	31
Dec 2020	Solids, susp % rmv	84	85	%	Mo Av Mn	31
Mar 2021	Solids, susp % rmv	83	85	%	Mo Av Mn	31
Aug 2021	Solids, susp % rmv	84	85	%	Mo Av Mn	31
Sep 2021	Solids, total susp	31	30	mg/L	Mo Avg	30
Sep 2021	Solids, total susp	47	45	mg/L	Wkly Avg	7
Sep 2021	Solids, susp % rmv	80	85	%	Mo Av Mn	30
Nov 2021	BOD, 5-day, % rmv	84	85	%	Mo Av Mn	30
Nov 2021	Solids, susp % rmv	73	85	%	Mo Av Mn	30
Dec 2021	Solids, susp % rmv	78	85	%	Mo Av Mn	31
Jan 2022	BOD, 5-day, 20°C	42	30	mg/L	Mo Avg	31
Jan 2022	BOD, 5-day, 20°C	61	45	mg/L	Wkly Avg	7
Jan 2022	BOD, 5-day, 20°C	68	63	lb/d	Mo Avg	31
Jan 2022	BOD, 5-day, 20°C	105.3	94	lb/d	Wkly Avg	7
Jan 2022	Solids, total susp	59	30	mg/L	Mo Avg	31
Jan 2022	Solids, total susp	89	45	mg/L	Wkly Avg	7
Jan 2022	Solids, total susp	101	63	lb/d	Mo Avg	31
Jan 2022	Solids, total susp	199.4	94	lb/d	Wkly Avg	7
Jan 2022	BOD, 5-day, % rmv	76	85	%	Mo Av Mn	31
Jan 2022	Solids, susp % rmv	64	85	%	Mo Av Mn	31
Mar 2022	BOD, 5-day, 20°C	56	45	mg/L	Wkly Avg	7
Mar 2022	Solids, total susp	69	45	mg/L	Wkly Avg	7
Mar 2022	BOD, 5-day, % rmv	82	85	%	Mo Av Mn	31
Mar 2022	Solids, susp % rmv	80	85	%	Mo Av Mn	31
Apr 2022	Solids, total susp	32	30	mg/L	Mo Avg	30
Apr 2022	Solids, susp % rmv	82	85	%	Mo Av Mn	30
May 2022	Solids, susp % rmv	84	85	%	Mo Av Mn	31
Sep 2022	Solids, total susp	35	30	mg/L	Mo Avg	30
Sep 2022	Solids, total susp	60	45	mg/L	Wkly Avg	7
Sep 2022	Solids, susp % rmv	76	85	%	Mo Av Mn	30
Dec 2022	BOD, 5-day, 20°C	52	45	mg/L	Wkly Avg	7
Dec 2022	BOD, 5-day, 20°C	114.1	94	lb/d	Wkly Avg	7
Dec 2022	Solids, total susp	90	30	mg/L	Mo Avg	31
Dec 2022	Solids, total susp	107	63	lb/d	Mo Avg	31
Dec 2022	Solids, total susp	196	45	mg/L	Wkly Avg	7
Dec 2022	Solids, total susp	256.8	94	lb/d	Wkly Avg	7
Dec 2022	BOD, 5-day, % rmv	70	85	%	Mo Av Mn	31
Dec 2022	Solids, susp % rmv	83	85	%	Mo Av Mn	31
Jan 2023	BOD, 5-day, % rmv	81	85	%	Mo Av Mn	31
Jan 2023	Solids, susp % rmv	75	85	%	Mo Av Mn	31

Effluent Exceedances

Month	Parameter	DMR Value	Permit, Limit	Unit	Limit Type	# Violations
Oct 2023	Solids, total susp	59	45	mg/L	Wkly Avg	7
Oct 2023	Solids, susp % rmv	69	85	%	Mo Av Mn	31
Jan 2024	Solids, susp % rmv	64	85	%	Mo Av Mn	31
Dec 2024	BOD, 5-day, 20°C	107.5	94	lb/d	Wkly Avg	7
Dec 2024	BOD, 5-day, % rmv	84	85	%	Mo Av Mn	31
Dec 2024	Solids, susp % rmv	81	85	%	Mo Av Mn	31

Late DMR Parameters

Monitoring Period End Date	DMR Due Date	Parameter	DMR Value Received Date
August 31, 2020	September 10, 2020	Nitrogen, ammonia total [as N]	October 16, 2020
August 31, 2020	September 10, 2020	Nitrogen, ammonia total [as N]	October 16, 2020
August 31, 2020	September 10, 2020	Nitrite + Nitrate total [as N]	October 16, 2020