



Here is an aerial view of the Vashon Wastewater Treatment Plant site taken in July 2006. Construction is nearly complete and the transition to the new facility will begin soon.

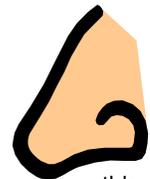
Construction work winding down, new plant start up and final touches this fall

Construction of the new Vashon Island wastewater treatment facility is now 90 percent done. All of the building structures are complete. As with any construction project, there is a “punch list” that workers are in the process of checking off for the new structures. The site is graded to its final configuration. Final modifications to the existing plant will take place in the middle of October and start up of the new facility will begin shortly thereafter. Transfer of flows from the existing plant to the new plant will begin as part of this effort. Operations staff are continuing to work with the state Department of Ecology to maintain acceptable discharge limits during this transition.

Project site improvements like landscaping and paving the access road are scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. The new wastewater treatment facility will have increased capacity and enhanced backup systems to protect public health and the environment.

Final upgrade modifications to the existing plant expected to start in mid-October—it may be smelly, but we’ll make it quick

Final upgrade of the existing plant means that we will be cleaning out some structures that have been in use since the plant originally started treating wastewater. A vactor truck will come in and suck out residue from the bottom of the aeration tanks. There will be odor associated with this operation, but we’ll complete quickly as we can and expect it to take about two days. Odors from this work will likely be detected from the road and by a few near neighbors depending on which way the wind blows.



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With startup comes a few burps in the wastewater treatment process as it gets up to speed. The wonder of wastewater treatment is in the “bugs”—tiny bacteria that eat organic material and convert it to clean water and a wonderfully nutritious soil amendment called biosolids. The “bugs” like a certain temperature and pH...and establishing the conditions they like best is part of the art of wastewater treatment. As flows are transferred during the plant start up, there may be some smells as the processes come on line and these ideal conditions for our “bugs” are established. The smells should not be as noticeable as those mentioned above with the existing tank clean out, but odor can be expected and this is an unavoidable part of establishing a functioning treatment plant.



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Wastewater Treatment Division

King Street Center, KSC-NR-0505

201 S. Jackson Street

Seattle, WA 98104-3855



Vashon Wastewater Treatment Facility Construction Update

WE'RE ALMOST DONE!

Sincere Thanks to Local Residents

The project team would like to thank the residents of Vashon for their patience in dealing with the disruptions caused by this project. We would especially like to thank all of the neighbors of the facility who have been so accommodating and helpful.

Project Funding

This project is funded in part by loans from the Public Works Trust Fund, Washington State Department of Ecology and the US Environmental Protection Agency. The completion of this project will allow the facility will meet regulatory requirements and will protect human health and the environment.

Protect your plumbing, protect your treatment plant—tips on getting rid of what you don't want or need



The Vashon plant has been receiving lots of paint this summer. Busy homeowners and businesses are doing what they need to before winter sets in, but there is a better way to dispose of left-over paint, medication and other harmful chemicals than putting them down the drain. To find out how to get rid of plastics, paint and other stuff you don't want or need, check the Web at



<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/WTD/community/oldstuff.htm>. This site tells you what can go down toilets, sinks and other household drains, what should go in the garbage and things that should be disposed of in other safe and healthy ways. If you don't have access to the Web, call 206-296-8361 and request a chart.

For More Information:

- Contact Jo Sullivan by phone at 206-296-8361 or e-mail at jo.sullivan@metrokc.gov for more information and answers to your questions and concerns or call the construction line at 206-205-9181.
- Check the Web at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/vashon/>

Alternative formats on request by calling 206-296-8361 (voice) or 711 (TTY).