



SEPTEMBER 10TH 2026

MILL CITY / GATES PLANT PROFILE

ABOUT THE PLANT

This is a new plant, owned by Marion County, treating domestic sewage from Mill City and Gates, plus hauled septage — about 2,900 people today, designed for 4,124. Average daily flow is 0.22 MGD; it's built to handle 0.26 MGD max month and a 0.68 MGD peak hour. It's a sequencing batch reactor plant. Raw sewage and septage come in through a mechanical drum screen with a bypass bar screen, then grit removal, and then a lift station feeds the two SBRs. Waste sludge is pumped to the solids holding tanks, gets dewatered on the volute press, and goes to landfill. Decanted secondary effluent moves to the post-equalization basin — it has its own aeration — then gets pumped through one of three tertiary sand filters, disinfected by UV, and sent out to the six rapid infiltration basins. What makes this site different is the back end. There's no pipe to the river. Effluent goes to groundwater through the RIBs, about 1,900 feet from the North Santiam River, and under the Maui Decision that counts as a functional-equivalent discharge — so this plant runs on an NPDES permit, and all six RIBs together are Outfall 001. That drives what you watch. UV is the only disinfection allowed; chlorine and chlorine compounds are prohibited, even for maintenance. Effluent limits are tight: BOD₅ and TSS at 10 mg/L May through October, 30 mg/L in the winter, 85% removal year-round, pH 6.5–8.5, and E. coli at a geometric mean of 126. The plant is designed to hit 10 mg/L BOD and TSS, 1 mg/L ammonia, and 1 mg/L nitrate, and there's a 5 mg/L nitrate limit at the edge of the waste management area, backed by quarterly upgradient/downgradient well sampling.



**DATE: SEPTEMBER
10TH 2026**

**START: 10:00 AM
END TIME: 12:00
NOON.**

**LOCATION: 49400
FAIRVIEW ST., MILL
CITY, OREGON**

0.2 WW CEUS

**FREE LUNCH
FOLLOWING THE
TOUR! PLEASE RSVP
TO
METZEL@AUMSVILLE.US**

WCOS OF PNCWA
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Oregon 97325

[West Central Oregon
Operator Section - Home](#)

RSVP to
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