

Columbia Grain

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Company Description

Columbia Grain is one of the most automated and integrated grain export facilities in the world. Columbia Grain is located on 40 acres and has a storage capacity of 109,000 metric tons. A high speed cleaning facility adjacent to the Terminal 5 storage elevator allows for grain cleaning to customer specification, giving Northwest producers access to any market in the world.



Sustainable Practices/Recent Investments

Columbia Grain has conducted regular storm water monitoring and testing for approximately the last 10 years. In addition to regular sampling and laboratory testing of the two Willamette River outfalls, Columbia Grain also makes use of an outside service who regularly sweeps the paved areas to minimize dust accumulation into the property drains that access the river outfalls. Routine cleanout and “diapering” of those same drains is also done regularly to maintain cleanliness and exposure to the river. A number of years ago, Columbia Grain replaced all of the required hydraulic fluids that operate the dock’s hydraulic systems located over the river with a non-toxic fluid that is not harmful to plants or animals in the event that small discharges were to take place over the water.

In 2007, Columbia Grain completed replacement of five of the eighteen dust collection bag house systems on the site. These new applications replaced technology from the mid 1970s for the original grain elevator. These new systems include more modern technology and efficiencies to minimize the amount of particulate matter generated into the air. Funds have been allocated to make the same investment in an additional two bag house systems, for a total of seven replacement systems. A process change that also reduces dust emission is the application of vegetable oil (fit for human consumption) applied directly to the grain stream.