King County
Brightwater
TREATMENT SYSTEM

Project Timeline

1997: King County Executive Ron Sims issues a plan to examine a range of alternatives for additional sewage treatment capacity to meet projected growth in northeast King and south Snohomish counties by 2010.

1998: Sims approves a siting study to locate a new regional treatment plant in north King or south Snohomish County.

1999: The King County Council approves the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP), a 30-year comprehensive plan that calls for building Brightwater as well as dozens of other projects to add new capacity to keep pace with population growth.

1999-2000: Almost 100 possible treatment plant sites are identified for Brightwater.

- Snohomish and King County Executives invited Tribal governments, mayors of all cities in siting area, business & environmental leaders to participate in a Siting Advisory Committee.
- A community site nomination process begins.

2001

Treatment plant candidate sites are narrowed to six, five of which are in south Snohomish County.

Site screening criteria and candidate systems are developed. Screening and site selection criteria is adopted by the King County Council.

Two final candidate systems (including pipeline routes) are announced by Snohomish and King County Executives, then adopted by King County Council.

2002-2003

The environmental review of the two candidate systems begins under the State Environmental Policy Act, or SEPA. Activities during this time include:

- Public scoping meetings.
- Design guideline workshops and community task forces.
- Public hearings on Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and formal comment period.
- Issuance of a Draft and Final EIS.
- Public technical seminars with opportunities for comment.

December 2003: The King County Executive Selects the Brightwater Route 9 Alternative, which has a 13-mile conveyance pipeline along State Route 522, Northeast 195th Street and the King-Snohomish County line, and a mile-long outfall off Point Wells.

2004
Brightwater's baseline budget is established at $1.789 billion (in current dollars) at 30 percent design assuming a 5 percent inflation rate to the time of expenditure.

March: USGS finds evidence of seismic fault on Route 9 site

2004-2005
County obtains federal and state permits, including the US Army Corps of Engineers permit finalized in June 2005

Many local permits are granted

King County purchases land and easements for the plant and pipelines

2005
Residents near the Route 9 site request that King County conduct additional seismic studies and King County published a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement in July.

King County finalizes mitigation agreements with 11 jurisdictions and agencies totaling $140 million. Snohomish County's agreement in October called for King County to pay $70 million for mitigation to address impacts of construction and operation of the Brightwater Treatment Plant, including environmental restoration, education and community space, trails, sidewalks, and bike paths.

December: First tunnel contract awarded.

2006
April: Brightwater officially breaks ground on systemwide construction

December: Independent analysis confirms no active faults on critical portions of the Brightwater site.

2007
All major Brightwater construction contracts are awarded by this point.

2008
Construction is fully under way at the Brightwater treatment plant, on all four tunnels and the marine outfall.

November: Mining on the first 2.8 mile East Tunnel is completed as boring machine "Luminita" holes through at the treatment plant site.

December: Brightwater outfall completed 23 percent below budget and about a year ahead of schedule.

2009

The Brightwater outfall project receives several prestigious awards from the Seattle Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Construction Management Association of America, the Washington State Chapter of the American Public Works Association, the Consulting Engineers of British Columbia, and Engineering News Record Magazine."

June: Two tunnel boring machines, "Rainier" and "Helene", mining the two Central Tunnels are idled after being damaged.

2010

June: Tunnel boring machine "Elizabeth" completes mining on the 4-mile West Tunnel. "Helene" completes the 2-mile eastbound Central Tunnel after successful repairs..

September: Mining resumes on the remaining 2-mile segment of the westbound Central Tunnel delayed by tunnel boring machine failure and the need to secure a new contractor.

2011

May: Clean water system testing at the treatment plant and IPS occurs for ten days 24 hours a day.

September: Brightwater begins treating wastewater and celebrates a public grand opening on Sept. 24.

2012

The Brightwater tunnel is scheduled for completion in September, and the entire system becomes operational and treated effluent will be discharged to Puget Sound.

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