

## **CITY STAFF PRESENTED “OUTSTANDING AWARD”**

The Department of Ecology selected the City of Montesano Wastewater Treatment Plant to receive an “Outstanding Treatment Plant” award for their work and efforts in 2007. The Montesano Wastewater Treatment Plant is run by dedicated operators who ensure outstanding compliance and the protection of Chehalis River water quality.

Herb Vaughn and Kevin Hegel lead other Public Works staff to comply with effluent limits; provide consistent and accurate monitoring, reporting, and spill prevention plans; and perform pretreatment and other regulatory activities. The Wastewater Treatment Plant treats an average of just over 250,000 gallons of wastewater each and every day of the year.

The three main parameters monitored and treated are: Biological Oxygen Demand “BOD”, Total Suspended Solids “TSS”, and Fecal Coliform.

Montesano’s staff sends treated effluent into the Chehalis River that is of a higher quality than the river water itself! The BOD permit limit is 167 lbs./day. Montesano’s average is only 10 lbs./day. The TSS limit is also 167 lbs./day, while Montesano’s average is only 4 lbs./day. The fecal coliform limit is 200 parts per milliliter (ppml). Montesano’s average is less than 1 ppml.

Herb Vaughn is the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator. Herb has been employed with the City of Montesano for over 30 years, beginning work in the early 1970’s in the City Forest operations. He worked in the Water Department and is presently the only licensed City Plant Operator. Herb supervises all other employees that help out at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Kevin Hegel has been employed with the City almost 13 years. Kevin is the back-up operator and also helps run the plant. Kevin’s primary responsibility is to oversee the Step Tank collection system which transfers the wastewater from each residence and business in town to the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The 2007 “Outstanding Wastewater Treatment Plant Award” is another example of the high quality of service provided to the Montesano community by experienced, dedicated and professional staff. The award was presented to Herb Vaughn and Kevin Hegel by the Department of Ecology at the May 13, 2008 City Council meeting in Montesano.