

**From:** [Richard Harris](#)  
**To:** [DEEP WQS](#); [Louise Washer](#)  
**Subject:** Sanitation of waste water treatment effluent discharges with ultraviolet lights  
**Date:** Thursday, April 04, 2019 1:14:43 PM

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Gentlemen,

I fully applaud your efforts to extend effluent UV disinfection by two months to all WWTPs north of I 95. As the ex director of Harbor Watch at Earthplace, Westport, I had the experience of monitoring this system at several WWTPs on a weekly basis. Case in point was the Ridgefield WWTP (throughput .7mgd) where it continuously achieved a zero bacteria count in the effluent discharge during the summer months as proven in our own state approved bio laboratory at Earthplace.

But your revised program should extend to all year because trout season extends from 4/15 all the way through to 2/28 of the following year. Other people do use the waterways year round in kayaks and canoes and most children pay little attention to seasonality. Conventional wisdom in support of lights off says seasonally the water gets cold, nobody swims in or drinks the water during the winter months, bacteria die off more quickly and the costs for running the lights are just too high.

Most of these WWTPs are out in direct sunlight and solar panels would seem to be one possible answer to the too-much-energy problem. It seems pointless to me to develop a safe, non-polluting system that is highly efficient and then not use it. The idea of purposely discharging bacteria into a waterway in this day and age seems counter intuitive. I appreciate your willingness to review and consider comments on this issue.

Sincerely,  
Richard Harris.