

Document Code No.: PUT-8-15-1-PR

Title: Discharge of Contaminated Groundwater to the Sanitary Sewer System

Effective Date: 30 days after filing with ARMMS

Authorities: King County Code, Chapter 28.82 and Chapter 28.84


Keywords: Contaminated groundwater, sanitary sewer

Sponsoring Agency: Department of Natural Resources and Parks,
Wastewater Treatment Division



King County

Signature:

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Date signed:

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I. Purpose

This rule implements the provisions of King County Code (K.C.C.), Chapter 28.84, regarding the discharge of contaminated groundwater to the King County sanitary sewer system.

Applicability and Audience This rule applies to any person, as defined in K.C.C., Section 28.82.600, actively pumping, treating, and discharging contaminated groundwater from industrial-generating activities, such as groundwater remediation sites, directly or indirectly into any public sewer, private sewer, or side sewer tributary to the King County sanitary sewer system. This rule also applies to any person conveying contaminated groundwater from subsurface drainage structures associated with commercial and industrial activities.

II. Definitions

Unless otherwise stated herein, the terms, words, and phrases defined in this rule are exclusive to this rule. The terms, words, and phrases, when used in this rule, shall mean the following:

“AKART,” as defined in K.C.C., Section 28.82.025, means all known, available, and reasonable methods of prevention, control, and treatment. For purposes of this public rule, it represents the most current methodology that can be reasonably required for preventing, controlling, or abating the pollutants and controlling pollution associated with a discharge.

“Clean water,” as defined in K.C.C., Section 28.82.110, is water in its natural state or water that, after use for any purpose, is not substantially changed or contaminated as to chemical or biochemical qualities.

“Contaminated groundwater” is groundwater that contains contaminants, pollutants, or hazardous substances that do not occur naturally or occur at levels greater than natural background. Contaminated groundwater may contain pollutants, including but not limited to, gasoline, petroleum hydrocarbons, halogenated organic compounds, metals, pH, and other chemical compounds.

“Contaminated groundwater discharge” refers to the discharge of contaminated groundwater from subsurface drainage structures and groundwater remediation sites.

“Groundwater,” as defined in K.C.C., Section 28.82.320, is water in a saturated zone or stratum beneath the surface of land or below a surface water body.

“Indirect discharge,” “waste discharge,” or “discharge,” as defined in K.C.C., Section 28.82.350, refers to the act of introducing or depositing wastes from any nondomestic source regulated under Section 307(b), (c), or (d) of the Clean Water Act into a publicly owned treatment works treatment plant, public sewer, private sewer, or side sewer tributary to the metropolitan sewerage system.

“Industrial user,” as defined in K.C.C., Section 28.82.370, is a source or potential source of indirect discharge. The source does not include domestic users, defined in K.C.C., Section 28.82.260, as persons who contribute wastewater into the metropolitan sewerage system or publicly owned treatment works plant from a residential dwelling unit.

“Industrial waste,” as defined in K.C.C., Section 28.82.380, is any liquid, solid, or gaseous substance, or combination thereof, resulting from any process of industry, government agency, manufacturing, commercial food processing, business, agriculture, trade, or research, including, but not limited to, the development, recovery, or processing of natural resources, leachate from landfills or other disposal sites, decant water, contaminated nonprocess water, and contaminated stormwater and groundwater.

“Local public agency,” as defined in K.C.C., Section 28.82.450, is any legally constituted city, town, county, special district, or other public agency under whose jurisdiction local sewerage facilities may be constructed or operated.

“POTW” stands for “publicly owned treatment works,” as defined in K.C.C., Section 28.82.700.

“Public sewer,” as defined in K.C.C., Section 28.82.690, is a sewer or combined sewer, exclusive of side sewers, owned or operated, or to be owned or operated, by the County or a local public agency. For the purposes of this public rule, “public sewer” is synonymous with “sanitary sewer system.” A sanitary sewer system is used for collecting and conveying wastewater.

“Subsurface drainage structures” are structures such as foundation drains, footing drains, and other below-grade structures for purposes of hydraulic relief and prevention of groundwater seepage or intrusion into buildings.

III. Policy

The King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) owns, operates, and maintains wastewater facilities for the conveyance, treatment, recycling, and discharge of industrial and other wastewaters. WTD operates its publicly owned treatment works in a manner that protects worker safety, conveyance and treatment infrastructure, public health, and the environment. WTD is required to prevent pollutants from entering the King County sanitary sewer system that may interfere with, or pass through, its treatment systems to the environment, advancing opportunities to recycle and reclaim wastewater and biosolids generated during the treatment process.

It is WTD’s policy to prevent clean water from discharging into the sanitary sewer system. This includes uncontaminated groundwater from subsurface drainage structures. Clean water consumes hydraulic capacity, complicates combined sewer

overflow control (depending on location), and increases WTD conveyance and treatment costs.

The King County Industrial Waste Program (KCIW) focuses on permitting, sampling, and inspecting industrial users that pose the greatest risk to the King County sanitary sewer system while recognizing the cumulative impact of smaller industrial users.

King County's rule concerning the discharge of contaminated groundwater to the sanitary sewer system is described below.

- A. All industrial users proposing to discharge contaminated groundwater to the King County sanitary sewer system shall:
1. Receive approval to discharge contaminated groundwater to the sanitary sewer system from their respective local public agency before submitting an application to KCIW.
 2. Submit a complete permit and discharge authorization application to KCIW, which may include, but not be limited to, appropriate site plans, hydrogeologic information, groundwater quality analytical data, discharge volume measurement plan, pretreatment calculations, and design criteria for review and approval. Discharges to the sanitary sewer system shall not commence before receiving approval from KCIW.
 3. Comply with the applicable requirements of K.C.C., Section 28.84.060.
 4. Comply with all requirements of the most recent version of King County Local Discharge Limits Public Rule and all waste discharge permit or discharge authorization requirements.
 5. Pay all appropriate sewer use, KCIW, and other WTD fees for discharging contaminated groundwater to the King County sanitary sewer system.
- B. KCIW may restrict the discharge of contaminated groundwater from active remediation sites to the sanitary sewer system subject to site-specific discharge restrictions, factors, and conditions. KCIW may require the industrial user to evaluate alternative treatment and disposal methods based on site-specific factors. This evaluation may include an AKART analysis.
- C. KCIW may allow the discharge of contaminated groundwater from subsurface drainage structures, subject to site-specific discharge restrictions, factors, and conditions. If approved, the discharge of contaminated groundwater from subsurface drainage structures is on a temporary basis. KCIW may require the industrial user to evaluate alternative treatment and disposal methods based on site-specific factors. Additional studies and reports may also be required.

IV. Implementation Plan

This rule supersedes and replaces the public rule, "Discharge of Contaminated Ground Water to the Sanitary Sewer" (PUT-8-15), and becomes effective 30 days after filing with

the King County Department of Executive Services, Records and Licensing Services Division, Archives, Records Management and Mail Services Section. WTD is responsible for the implementation of this rule.

V. Maintenance

- A. This rule will be maintained by WTD or its successor agency.
- B. This rule will remain in effect until it is repealed or replaced.

VI. Consequences of Noncompliance

Persons failing to comply with this rule shall be subject to all legal remedies, including those set forth in K.C.C., Section 28.84.060.