

**Document Code No.:** PUT-8-14-1-PR

**Title:** Discharge of Construction Wastewater 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:** Industrial wastewater, construction wastewater

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



**King County**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

DocuSigned by:

  
11/18/2020

## I. Purpose

This rule implements the provisions of King County Code (K.C.C.), Chapter 28.84, regarding the discharge of construction wastewater into 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, discharging construction wastewater from active construction sites directly or indirectly into any public sewer, private sewer, or side sewer tributary to the King County sanitary sewer system.

## 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:

“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.

“Combined sewer system,” as defined in K.C.C., Section 28.82.120, is a conduit or system of conduits in which both wastewater and stormwater are transported.

“Construction dewatering,” as defined in K.C.C., Section 28.82.160, is the act of pumping groundwater or stormwater away from an active construction site. For purposes of this public rule, construction dewatering water includes contaminated and uncontaminated stormwater and groundwater. Construction dewatering water does not include process wastewater.

“Construction wastewater” is wastewater generated as a result of construction activities and includes process wastewater and construction dewatering water from active construction areas.

“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.

“NPDES” stands for “National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.” NPDES is the national program for issuing, modifying, revoking and reissuing, terminating, monitoring, and enforcing permits, and enforcing pretreatment requirements, under sections 307, 402, 318, and 405 of the Federal Clean Water Act, for the discharge of pollutants to surface waters of the state from point sources. These permits are referred to as “NPDES permits” and, in Washington State, are administered by the Washington State Department of Ecology.

“Polymer slurry” is one or more hydrophilic superabsorbent polymers, such as polyethylene glycol, polyvinyl alcohol, or carboxymethylcellulose, that produce a thick, viscous slurry when mixed with water.

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

“Process wastewater,” as defined in K.C.C., Section 28.82.660, is any water that, during manufacturing or processing, comes into direct contact with, or results from production or use of, any raw material, intermediate product, finished product, byproduct, or waste product. For purposes of this public rule, if stormwater commingles with process wastewater and material stockpiles, the commingled water is considered process wastewater. Process wastewater includes, but is not limited to, wheel wash water, concrete wastewater, treated slurry wastewater, and well development wastewater.

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

“Relief” refers to temporary discharges to the King County sanitary sewer system from an active construction site that fails to comply with the Washington State Department of Ecology National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System construction stormwater permit requirements.

“Stormwater drainage system” is a means of conveyance designed and used for collecting and conveying stormwater to a surface waterbody. This does not include systems that are part of a combined or separated sanitary sewer system.

### 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 stormwater and groundwater from construction sites. Clean water consumes hydraulic capacity, complicates combined sewer overflow control (depending on the 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 sewer system, while recognizing the cumulative impact of smaller industrial users.

King County’s rule concerning the discharge of construction wastewater to the sanitary sewer from construction activities is described below.

- A. When applicable, industrial users shall apply for construction stormwater permits (NPDES and state waste discharge) through the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) for authorization to discharge construction dewatering water from construction sites to the stormwater drainage system or to the ground.
  1. The stipulation to seek coverage under a NPDES construction stormwater permit from Ecology does not apply where construction dewatering water is generated from construction activities that is discharged to a combined sewer system, when no storm sewer system exists to drain to surface waters, or a direct discharge to surface waters is not possible. The stipulation to seek coverage under a state waste discharge permit from Ecology does not apply when construction dewatering water generated from construction activities cannot be feasibly discharged to the ground and infiltrated to groundwater.

2. If the requirements of the Washington State Department of Ecology construction stormwater permit for the discharge of construction dewatering water generated at a construction site are infeasible due to site constraints or other regulatory factors, then the industrial user may apply to KCIW to receive a discharge authorization for construction dewatering discharges to the King County sanitary sewer system.
- B. All industrial users proposing to discharge construction wastewater, including but not limited to process wastewater, to the King County sanitary sewer system shall:
1. Obtain approval to discharge construction wastewater to the sanitary sewer system from the respective local public agency prior to submitting an application to KCIW.
  2. Submit a complete application to KCIW that may include, but is not limited to, appropriate site plans, hydrogeologic information, 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.
- C. Industrial users with existing construction stormwater permits for the discharge of construction dewatering water to the stormwater system or to the ground may submit a request to KCIW to obtain a permit or discharge authorization that provides a provision for temporary relief for the discharge of construction dewatering water to the sanitary sewer system when unable to meet their construction stormwater permit limits. KCIW may restrict the discharge of construction dewatering water for purposes of relief in terms of duration, volume, and other parameters to protect workers, public safety, and conveyance infrastructure. Requests for temporary relief to discharge the construction dewatering water to the sanitary sewer system may be denied for various reasons, including but not limited to, inadequate best management practices, maintenance activities, or insufficient treatment. Industrial users requesting temporary relief to discharge construction dewatering water to the sanitary sewer system must obtain approval from the respective local public agency prior to submitting a relief request to KCIW.
- D. KCIW may restrict the discharge of construction wastewater subject to site-specific discharge restrictions, factors, and conditions.
- E. Industrial users may not dispose of untreated liquid wastes generated at projects using synthetic polymer slurries as a drilled shaft stabilizing fluid to the sanitary

sewer system unless they are treated and denatured in accordance with the instructions provided by KCIW.

- F. All industrial users discharging construction wastewater to the King County sanitary sewer system shall pay all appropriate sewer, industrial waste, and other fees.

#### **IV. Implementation Plan**

This rule supersedes and replaces the public rule, "Discharge of Construction Dewatering to the Sanitary Sewer" (PUT-8-14), 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.