

FACT SHEET

WASTEWATER PRACTICES: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Introduction

Sanitary wastewater discharges regulated by the City of Tempe and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (“ADEQ”) establishes specific conditions under which wastewater can be discharged. This fact sheet summarizes general regulatory requirements for wastewater discharge and identifies compliance management practices for Arizona State University (ASU).

Applicable Regulations

- 40 CFR Part 403 - General Pretreatment Regulations for Existing and New Sources of Pollution
- City of Tempe Sub-Regional Operating Group Limits (SROG)

Summary of Requirements

General

The City of Tempe regulations limit the type of materials that may be discharged into the sanitary sewer and may require pretreatment and facility permits on a case-by-case basis. At ASU the primary contaminants that must be kept out of the wastewater stream include volatile organic compounds, heavy metals and acidic or caustic discharges.

Specific Discharge Prohibitions

A detailed list of prohibited discharges, including numerical limits for heavy metals, pesticides, solvents, organic and other compounds is included in the above-referred SROG discharge limitations. The following is an abbreviated summary of prohibited discharges:

- Wastewater with a pH lower than 5.0 or higher than 10.5;
- Any radioactive liquid;
- Total toxic organics: e.g., Acetone, Benzene, Chloroform, Methylene Chloride, Tetrachloroethylene, Trichloroethylene, Toluene, Xylene, Cyanide, and dissolved Sulfides;
- Inorganics (metals): Arsenic, Boron, Cadmium, Copper, Cyanide, Lead, Mercury, Nickel, Selenium, Silver, Sulfides, Chromium, and Zinc
- PCBs
- Pesticides: Chrysene, Phenanthrene, 4,4’-DDE, 4,4’-DDT, Aldrin, BHC-alpha, BHC-beta, BHC-gamma (Lindane), Heptachlor, and Heptachlor epoxide
- Pollutants with Best Management Practices (BMPs): Beryllium, Fluoride, Di(2-ethylhexyl phthalate) (DEHP), total petroleum hydrocarbons (PAHs), and Molybdenum

- Non-contact cooling water, industrial process wastewater or uncontaminated cooling or industrial wastewater;
- Substances such as fuel and lube oils, gasoline, kerosene, benzene, toluene, xylene ethers, alcohols, etc. which could cause a fire or explosion in the sewer system;
- Any substance that could pass through the treatment system without being treated or could cause interference with biosolids and the biological processes
- Noxious substances that could cause a public nuisance or toxic fumes;
- Hazardous waste and filter backwash;
- Liquids or vapors with high temperatures;
- Glycol compounds.

Reporting

City of Tempe must be notified of any non-compliant or accidental discharges including spills, upsets, slug loads, etc. The Environmental, Health & Safety Department (EH&S), provides telephone and subsequent written notification.

Inspections

Inspections may be required by City of Tempe on a case-by-case basis.

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