



Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee

King Street Center, 201 South Jackson Street, MS KSC-NR-0512
Seattle, WA 98104 206-263-6070

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Wastewater District

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February 2, 2010

Christie True, Director
King County Wastewater Treatment Division
MS: KSC-NR-0501
201 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104

SUBJECT: Billing Procedures for Contaminated Industrial Stormwater

Dear Ms. True:

The Subcommittee on Sewage Disposal Agreements (SDA) of the Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) was briefed twice this year by King County Industrial Waste Program staff on the issue of billing for the discharge of contaminated industrial stormwater, groundwater remediation projects, and all forms of construction dewatering discharges. The discussions focused on increasing the number of local agencies that bill both local and county sewer rates for these types of discharges and whether there should be a minimum billing amount.

Background

The number of discharge authorization approval requests to the Industrial Waste Program for contaminated industrial stormwater, groundwater remediation projects, and all forms of construction dewatering discharges has increased over the last 10 to 15 years. Program staff began working with the local sewer agencies in 2008-2009 to ensure more consistent billing procedures for these types of discharges. At the time, many local agencies were not billing either local or county charges for these types of discharges and, thus, not recovering any revenue. To date, local agencies with these types of dischargers (16 agencies) in their service area have agreed to bill both their local, as well as King County's, monthly sewer charges.

During this same time period of working with the local agencies to improve billing procedures, program staff also met with SDA regarding setting a minimum billing amount. Program staff proposed a billing threshold of 50,000 gallons annually (i.e., a discharge of less than 50,000 gallons annually would not be billed due to administrative costs). SDA, instead, recommended that each discharger should be billed a minimum

amount to cover the cost of conveyance and treatment. Program staff responded with a minimum charge of 10,000 gallons annually or two residential customer equivalents (RCEs) at the applicable monthly rate. One RCE is equal to 187 gallons per day. After further discussion between program staff and SDA, the subcommittee reviewed whether it is appropriate to apply the current administrative billing procedure for normal monthly sewer charges. This procedure provides that the number of RCEs reported by each local agency is rounded to the nearest RCE based on whether it is less than or greater than 0.5 RCEs.

Issue

Should there be a minimum billing amount for contaminated industrial stormwater, groundwater remediation projects, and all forms of construction dewatering discharges and, if so, what should that be?

Recommendation

Based on SDA's review of the issue, MWPAAC recommends a one RCE annual minimum for any discharge of contaminated industrial stormwater, groundwater remediation projects, and all forms of construction dewatering (i.e., any discharge of less than 1 RCE annually should be billed for 1 RCE). Any discharge over the 1 RCE minimum would continue to be billed based on the actual volume discharged. MWPAAC recommends this minimum billing amount as a change to the county's existing administrative billing procedure for these types of discharges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Thomasson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Scott Thomasson
Chair

cc: MWPAAC Members