



## King County

### Wastewater Treatment Division

Industrial Waste Program

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

130 Nickerson Street, Suite 200

Seattle, WA 98109-1658

**206-263-3000** Fax 206-263-3001

TTY Relay: 711

Date

Contact Name

Local Sewer Agency

Address

City, State Zip

Dear Mr./Ms. :

### **A process for King County and its local sewer agencies to work collaboratively to recover King County operations charges for CISW discharges**

As of DATE each local sewer agency will have the option to work together with King County to ensure a more consistent approach toward collection of sewer charges for contaminated industrial stormwater (CISW) discharges. The purpose of this letter is to invite each agency to partner with the King County Industrial Waste Program (KCIW) to recover these sewer charges, and to alert agencies to new procedures and the reasons they were developed.

### **Increases in wastewater from CISW sites going to the county's treatment plants:**

King County's Wastewater Treatment Division has a mission to protect public health and enhance the environment, operating a wastewater treatment system that protects water quality and prevents water pollution by providing wastewater treatment to 17 cities and 17 local sewer districts. Over the last decade, this system has seen a dramatic increase in wastewater discharges from a growing number of CISW projects. Yet, because many of these projects are not currently billed for their discharges, local agencies are not recovering costs with their current systems, and the county is not compensated for treating a substantial amount of this wastewater.

Based on numerous contacts with our local sewer agencies, KCIW has learned that there is not a consistent approach for collecting sewer charges for these discharges.

### **Solution to CISW payment for discharges:**

In discussions with local agencies, our program learned that there are a number of reasons why some agencies are not pursuing collection of sewer charges including:

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1. the cost required for processing these accounts;
2. the computerized billing system may not be designed to accommodate such accounts;
3. many of these sites don't have water or sewer meters that are read by the billing agency;  
and
4. these sites may not be regular customers of the agency.

Having evaluated this information, KCIW has developed a system where agencies may partner with the county to collect the monies. One advantage for local agencies is that they will recover their own operating costs currently going uncollected if they choose option a (below). As the county recovers these costs, ratepayers will benefit as the county is able to distribute charges for use of the sewer system more equitably.

**Your choice of two methods for collecting CISW discharge fees:**

*(Option a). New procedures to begin January 1:* Starting on DATE, a local agency will collect sewer charges for CISW sites. KCIW will require wastewater dischargers to provide the program with confirmation that they will be paying sewer charges to the local agency. KCIW will check periodically with agencies to confirm payment of these charges. Note that KCIW has been operating a similar program with Seattle Public Utilities since 2000 quite effectively. With this option, the local agency recovers its local operations charge along with King County's operations charge.

*(Option b). Alternate collection method:* If agencies opt to not bill for CISW sewer charges, KCIW will bill the sites directly, to recover only the amount of the King County operations charge, providing that the volume of wastewater discharge exceeds 50,000 gallons and thus warrants billing. With this option, the local agency does not recover its local operations charge.

Note that KCIW wastewater discharge authorizations require the discharger to comply with all local regulations, including payment of sewer charges. To ensure that local agencies remain well-informed, KCIW will continue its practice of sending them copies of all industrial wastewater discharge approvals for operations in their areas.

**Next steps:**

KCIW is asking each agency to review the new procedures (attached flowchart) and to return the attached form indicating whether it would like to collaborate with KCIW in collecting these charges (option a) or prefers not to do billing and for KCIW to collect them directly (option b). They may download and fill out forms at: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/indwaste/forms.htm>. KCIW will forward billing procedures to agencies electing to use option a by DATE.

We encourage agency representatives to call KCIW to discuss this matter. If agencies are considering declining to participate, we would particularly like to understand their thoughts on the matter. Please contact Doug Hilderbrand, KCIW compliance investigator, at 206 263-3032 or TTY Relay: 711, or e-mail: [douglas.hilderbrand@kingcounty.gov](mailto:douglas.hilderbrand@kingcounty.gov). For more information about KCIW, go to: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/indwaste/index.htm>.

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Thank you for your cooperation in working with KCIW to help protect public health and enhance the environment.

Sincerely,

Despina Strong  
Program Manager  
Industrial Waste Program

