

NEWSLETTER • Winter 2017



INDUSTRIAL WASTE PROGRAM

*Partnering with Industries
to Prevent Pollution*

KCIW Management Changes

Despina Strong, KCIW Program Manager, heads into retirement



Please join us in wishing a fond farewell to Despina Strong as she prepares for retirement after 25 years at King County.

During her 11 years with KCIW, Despina focused on working with industry to protect the treatment plants and prevent pollution. She especially enjoyed building relationships with industrial customers and colleagues.

Despina saw many changes in the region in those 11 years. During the recession, she noticed a decline of manufacturing in the area. When the economy began to boom, she saw an explosion of construction and an influx of new types of industrial customers such as breweries and wineries.

These changes gave Despina's team opportunities to do things differently. For example, the program now offers a simpler authorization process for smaller construction projects and has developed best management practices for breweries. Looking forward, Despina encourages the program to continue to figure out how to deliver services and implement the regulations more effectively. This will benefit both the program and its customers in time and cost savings.

When asked what advice she has for the industries we regulate, Despina says, "Doing it right the first time is cost effective and we're here to help you figure it out."

We wish Despina well in her future endeavors.

Welcome Mark Henley to the King County Industrial Waste program



Mark joined KCIW on October 23, 2017 as the Environmental Programs Managing Supervisor for the Industrial Waste pretreatment program. He will work to ensure that industrial and commercial discharges don't adversely affect our workers, sewer system, treatment plants, and ultimately water and biosolids quality.

Mark's previous experience includes 14 years working with Washington's Department of Ecology as well as 10 years as an engineering consultant. Mark earned his Masters of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Washington and his Bachelors of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Welcome Mark!!

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KCIW Updates

No Non-Disclosure Forms, Including Sign-in Sheets

KCIW staff is not authorized to sign non-disclosure agreements when requested to do so by industrial users. Non-disclosure agreements are considered contrary to the King County code provisions regarding information and data obtained from industrial users. This applies to agreement forms and sign in sheets with non-disclosure language. KCIW staff will continue to follow site required safety and security protocols. If necessary they could sign a separate sign in sheet.

For any non-disclosure agreements which have already been signed, the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office will prepare and send a letter to the industrial user indicating that the signing of the agreement was not authorized by the County and that it is not enforceable against the County.

Contact [Mark Henley](#) (206) 263-6994 if you have questions or concerns.

New Self-Monitoring Form for Revised Data

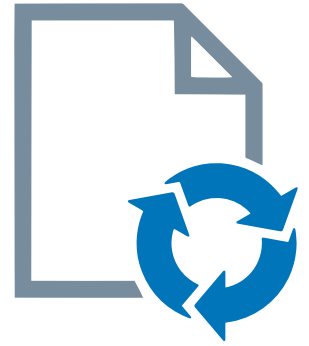
Beginning on January 01, 2018, all revisions to self-monitoring data must be submitted on a [new self-monitoring form for submitting revised data](#).

In the past, facilities resubmitted a self-monitoring form to correct data errors. It was difficult for staff to determine which data had been edited and the reason for the change. The new form focuses only on the values that need changing. Facilities list the information they originally entered, the revised value, and a description of why the revision is necessary. This should make it very clear which values need to be changed, saving time and ensuring the revision is done properly.

New Discharge Regulations for Dental Offices

In July 2017, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published new regulations for dental offices. Dentists must now have and regularly maintain an amalgam separator and submit a one-time compliance report to King County Industrial Waste.

While about 95 percent of the dental offices in King County's wastewater service area already have installed amalgam separator units, the new rules do apply to some dental practices that were previously exempt. KCIW is coordinating with the [Seattle King County Dental Society](#) to spread the word about this change. [Our website has more information for dental offices](#).



An amalgam separator takes the mercury and other pollutants out of the water that goes down the drain in the dentist's office.

Mercury levels in the recycled products from King County's wastewater treatment plants dropped significantly after we began working with dentists in 2000 to install separators.



Commitment to Compliance Award facility profiles

Each spring, KCIW recognizes facilities that have done an excellent job maintaining compliance and preventing pollution. Their work protects communities, the environment, and the economy in our region. The Commitment to Compliance Award honors facilities that have received a Gold Award for five consecutive years. On the following pages are stories featuring this year's five award winners.

ALASKAN COPPER WORKS

Committed to protecting water quality

If you've ever driven down Sixth Ave South, you may have noticed their sign and wondered who they are. Alaskan Copper's manufacturing facilities span several blocks of the industrial street. Here they make the metal parts used by many industries that are vital to our region's economic success. Their plant is busy with activity as pipes are formed, pieces are cut, and metal is "passivated" in an acid bath.

KCIW has a long history with Alaskan Copper. They received one of the first permits KCIW issued over 30 years ago. And while county staff has come and gone, Gerald Thompson, Alaskan Copper's Environmental Technician, has been there every step of the way. KCIW prides itself on working with our customers to ensure they have the information they need to meet their permit requirements. This collaborative relationship has not gone un-noticed.



Gerald says, "When I started, I had very limited education in this area. Your staff have been very receptive to helping and teaching and answering my questions... I cannot say enough about that. Every one of your people have been willing to work with us." This partnership has paid off. We presented Alaskan Copper with their third [Commitment to Compliance](#) award in June, their second in a row.



This commitment also shows in their innovative approach to handling their manufacturing waste. One of their processes creates a material that the Washington Department of Ecology considers a hazardous waste. Alaskan Copper figured out how to remove water from this waste product and sell the remains to a metal reclaiming company. While it isn't

necessarily a lucrative venture, they do it to prevent the waste from going to a landfill.

As she presented the award, Despina Strong, KCIW program manager, told Alaskan Copper representatives, "We recognize that these compliance awards do not come easy. We appreciate the level of commitment you put in. We know it takes effort from all levels of your organization." As Alaskan Copper celebrates more than 100 years in business, we celebrate them for all they do to help us protect King County's sewer systems, the workers in our treatment plants, and the people and environment we serve.



BAKER COMMODITIES

Doing their part for water protection

Driving along the narrow road that approaches Baker Commodities, you'd more likely think you were about to encounter the entrance to the Batcave than the industrial facility that greets you at the end.

While they may not be wearing high-tech body armor and their utility belts carry items you can buy at a hardware store, they are no less heroic in their work to protect people and the environment. KCIW sees this effort first hand as we collaborate to keep their wastewater clean.

The Seattle location of Baker Commodities is a rendering and grease removal facility. They collect waste products and recycle them into other products. Baker Commodities website explains that they "help to alleviate the nation's problem of over-burdened landfills by recycling millions of pounds of animal by-product and used cooking oil that would otherwise be disposed of as waste." Without this service, King County's sewer lines would be at risk from grease, solids, hydrogen sulfide, and acidic corrosion, putting people and our environment in harm's way.

Baker Commodities is family owned and has been in operation since 1937. The company is operated by three generations of the Andreoli family who are actively involved on a day-to-day basis. And like Bruce Wayne's family butler Alfred,



Baker Commodities' employees are extremely loyal. The average employee length of service is 20 years or more, with many employees spending their entire career with the company.

Keith Pairsh, Water Department Manager, has set up systems and procedures that make it easy for KCIW and Baker Commodities' Seattle location to work together to maintain compliance with their permit. As Despina Strong, KCIW program manager, presented their second [Commitment to Compliance award](#), she explained, "Keith, without your work on the ground, this achievement would not have been possible. We value both industry and the environment and you all are doing great work to protect both.

You are setting a good example for other industrial facilities".



BOEING'S NORTH FIELD FACILITY

Setting Standards for Environmental Protection

Glance west from Interstate-5 on the way into downtown Seattle and you'll see Boeing's North Field facility, where the company's 737 commercial jets are painted, flight-tested and delivered to customers from all over the world.

To support this part of the company's operation, North Field employees must carefully manage large quantities of industrial paint, fuel and other chemicals so they don't end up in the wastewater system, or in our regional waterways.

This is where Boeing environmental engineers Alicia Nielsen and Doris Turner come in.

As part of maintaining compliance with permits, Nielsen and Turner have many responsibilities, which include ongoing data analysis, shaping the design of onsite wastewater treatment systems, and working closely with Boeing's treatment plant operators Manny Medina and James Tuupo to ensure discharges meet high environmental standards.

"Every member of the wastewater team takes accountability for their jobs and shows personal commitment to maintaining permit compliance and preventing pollution," said Turner.

The team no doubt does excellent work, because this is the twentieth consecutive year Boeing's North Field Facility has [earned a compliance award](#), a distinction shared with only one other local facility.

This achievement, and its benefit to regional water quality, is about more than just "following the rules". Boeing's North Field environmental team is also focused on finding innovative approaches to their work, including developing best management practices and putting systems in place that catch issues before they become compliance problems.



The team is especially proud of a SharePoint site they developed that functions as a one-stop shop for information about their onsite plant operations, as well as all the tools needed to log and track water quality data. The site enables collaboration between the environmental engineers and the onsite treatment plant managers, another essential factor in the team's success.

They also credit the ability to have productive and ongoing communication with King County's Industrial Waste Program staff.

"It's helpful to have King County investigators we can talk to about potential issues, who are responsive to concerns and listen to our input on items such as permit revisions," said Nielsen. "Working together results in detailed permits well-fitted to our sites and also gives King County a better understanding of our wastewater systems operations."

Congratulations to Boeing and its North Field facility for earning their fourth consecutive Commitment to Compliance award and for leading the way in waste management practices that protect the natural resources we value.

SEATTLE PUBLIC UTILITIES' *long term commitment to keeping King County's water clean*

You would never guess that under this field lies a portion of a former 90-acre landfill. (see photo below) From 1968 to 1986, the Seattle Public Utilities' (SPU) Kent Highlands Landfill accepted municipal and industrial waste. As with any landfill, contamination is a big concern but when it comes to discharges to the King County sewer system, the Kent Highlands Landfill has earned a perfect record of compliance. To do this, SPU staff use best management practices to keep toxic material from leaving the site. Their dedicated work has led to perfect compliance for 20 years in a row – and a [Commitment to Compliance award](#) from KCIW.

It takes a team of people to make sure that the closed landfill does not pose a risk to human health and the environment. At the awards presentation, Despina Strong, KCIW supervisor, praised the landfill staff for their work: "Success starts with the staff and thrives with management support – it takes all of you to do it."



We know this level of perfect compliance doesn't happen by accident." Mami Hara, the CEO/General Manager of Seattle Public Utilities, attended the ceremony to honor the good work the facility is doing and to offer her congratulations.

Please join KCIW in thanking our partners at SPU who help protect King County's people, environment, and economy.



TRI-WAY INDUSTRIES' *commitment to compliance shines in their work to furnish aircraft carriers*

Tucked away in a business park in Auburn, WA, Tri-Way Industries manufactures all of the aluminum and steel furnishings that are found on U.S. Navy aircraft carriers – desks, lockers, bunks, laundry hampers and more. Their facility hums with activity as many of their 40 employees cut, measure, weld, paint and build the pieces that will fill the living and working spaces on the ships.

It's the painting process where KCIW and Tri-Way intersect. While they are doing their part to keep their wastewater clean by using a powder coating method, which is, "cleaner and better than liquid painting," according to Ken Smith, President, they still produce some waste during the chemical surface preparation process. And this is where Jim Seketa comes in. Jim and his crew test their wastewater to ensure that everything they are sending to the King County sewer system meets the standards set in their permit.

"We don't want to cause problems," Smith says, "we want to solve them and we appreciate working with you."

Their efforts have paid off. After ten years of Gold Awards for meeting or exceeding their wastewater discharge permit requirements, KCIW presented Tri-Way Industries with their second [Commitment to Compliance award](#) – given to facilities earning Gold Awards 5 years in a row.



Smith has been involved in Tri-Way Industries for 22 years. And it's clear that he is passionate about his business and his employees. As KCIW prepared to present their award, Ken gathered Shane Caney, Debra Capra, Greg Andres, and Jim Seketa to share the kudos. Well earned and well deserved.

Thank you, Tri-Way Industries for all you do to help protect King County's people, environment, and economy.



KCIW Fees Update

What we heard from our customers

KCIW spent the summer talking with customers about revising our fee structure for [permit and authorization fees and compliance monitoring charges](#). As we reported in the last newsletter, KCIW's complex fees do not fit today's broad industrial base, which includes traditional sectors like aerospace, newer sectors like craft wineries and breweries, and construction projects big and small. Since industries produce industrial wastewater differently, fees based on water volume do not accurately reflect the amount of work it takes KCIW to monitor each industry.

In the meetings, we presented our five guiding principles for the new fee structure. One principle: "Fees should reflect the cost of providing service to each type of facility" could be met by replacing the existing variable fees that are based on water volume with a fixed fee tier system. A facility would be assigned a fee tier based on criteria such as the type and size of the facility, monitoring complexity, compliance history, and the risk the facility poses to the wastewater system.

There was general support for the guiding principles amongst the customers we spoke with. Several businesses mentioned it would help them to have more predictable fees from one year to the next. Here are some other things they asked us to consider:

- **Reflect the history of compliance when assigning a business to a tier.**
- **Let customers appeal their tier placement.**
- **Clarify how a business can move to another tier**
(for example if a business changes practices significantly and those changes reduce KCIW's costs).

Changing the fee structure will require a change in the King County Code and this takes time. Participants wanted to stay informed and involved as the issue continues to move through the process.

If you have ideas and comments on the new fee structure, contact KCIW at info.kciw@kingcounty.gov.



***Reminder:
KCIW fees change in January 2018!***

Fees used to change every July; now it's January.

We will continue reporting on the new fees in summer editions of the newsletter to give businesses time to plan.

Also, January 2018 marks the beginning of the second year for changes to the surcharge for high-strength waste.

We are phasing surcharge revisions in over four years.

Companies that violate clean water rules receive penalties

Industries must pretreat the water they use before they send it to the sewer. They have to monitor and report compliance with their permit. King County's Industrial Waste Program regulates compliance and helps industries meet their permit requirements. Most companies in King County do an excellent job following clean water rules. King County is required to report on those who do not.

From January to June, 2017, the following companies were in "significant noncompliance" with federal rules and/or received penalties:

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King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division

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From January to June 2017, the following companies were in "significant noncompliance" with federal rules and/or received penalties:

Company and Type of Violation	Reason for Publication
Accurate Industries REPORTING VIOLATION: Failure to file required report and Solvent Management Plan by deadline.	Significant noncompliance. The information was submitted. No further action.
Fatigue Technology Inc. REPORTING VIOLATION: Failure to file required report by deadline.	Fined \$500. The report was submitted. No further action.
Marine Vacuum Service Inc. REPORTING VIOLATION: Failure to file required reports and supplemental engineering information by deadline.	Fined \$1,000. The information was submitted. No further action.
Prototron Circuits Inc. REPORTING VIOLATION: Failure to file required report by deadline.	Significant noncompliance. The report was submitted. No further action.

Other violations

The King County Industrial Waste Program acted on 16 more violations at 11 organizations from Jan. 1 – June 30, 2017. These were not "significant noncompliance" violations and the organizations were not fined. Where applicable, they reimbursed the county for additional monitoring costs and other incurred costs.

Questions or information for King County?

- Email info.KCIW@kingcounty.gov
- Call 206-477-5300 or 711: TTY Relay
- Visit www.kingcounty.gov/industrialwaste

How to Avoid Penalties

Late submissions are a frequent and preventable reason for violations and fines. Plan ahead. File your applications and reports on time.

Did you know...?

- Your permit shows your specific deadlines
- You can contact King County and ask for an extension to avoid being late
- You can send your reports electronically to KCIW by emailing info.KCIW@kingcounty.gov

High-Strength Waste Sampling

Wastewater from some industrial processes, like food and beverage manufacturing, contains higher concentrations of organic matter than typical household waste; this is called high-strength waste.

Facilities that discharge high-strength waste to the sewer pay an extra fee, called a surcharge, based on how much material is in their wastewater. It costs more to treat this high strength waste at the treatment plant.

KCIW collects samples at facilities to determine Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS). The BOD and TSS data allow KCIW to calculate the facility's waste strength and assess the surcharge.

What are BOD and TSS?

BOD is the amount of dissolved oxygen needed by aerobic biological organisms in the wastewater treatment process to break down any organic material that is present. Higher BOD levels make the treatment process more costly.

TSS is the solids in water that can be trapped by a filter. Higher TSS means there is more for the treatment process to remove from the water.

How does KCIW do surcharge sampling?

KCIW takes samples at a facility twice a year, once a year, or once every two years, depending on the concentration of the facility's waste. If a facility

significantly changes their processes or waste output, we may gather new data to reassess the waste concentrations.

KCIW staff sample the facility's wastewater for three

24-hour periods within one week. Collecting a sample over a 24 hour period provides a composite of wastewater generated from any variety of processes that may occur during a standard day within a facility. Three samples in one week provide data on any variations within a standard week of production in a facility.

Can facilities collect their own samples for BOD and TSS?

Yes, but contact your KCIW investigator first. Facilities are not required to collect any BOD or TSS samples. The investigator

will provide clear instructions to ensure that the results are valid and the data can be used by King County. KCIW has a protocol to help any facility that wants to do BOD and TSS sampling and analysis. This protocol addresses the type and number of samples to be collected, the sample handling criteria, documentation protocol, and acceptable BOD and TSS analysis. Industrial BOD testing is not a routine test at most commercial laboratories. A laboratory should have advanced notice (more than 2 weeks) to prepare properly for this test. If you have any questions, please contact your investigator for more information.



Reminder:

KCIW is now using facilities' more recent data to determine waste strength instead of historic data and updating the way treatment costs are allocated. These changes are being phased in over four years. 2018 is the second year of the transition.

Information about these changes to the surcharge is available online.



King County

INDUSTRIAL WASTE PROGRAM

*Partnering with Industries
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