



Frequently Asked Questions

Wastewater Discharge Permit Application

When are engineering reports necessary or required?

A facility must receive approval from KCIW before installing or updating a pretreatment system. An engineering report is required:

- Before a facility installs a new pretreatment system.
- When a facility plans to make significant changes to the existing pretreatment system, including a change in flow rate, concentration, chemical composition or any other factor that could affect the effluent quality.

If you are not sure if you need to submit an engineering report, please contact KCIW.

Why does King County need to know the raw materials and chemicals used in the industrial process?

KCIW needs to be able to assess the risk that a facility poses to the sewer system and King County's treatment plants. If materials have the potential to reach the sewer and the treatment plant, KCIW needs to know the quantities, the purpose, the tank volumes and the working concentrations of materials and chemicals on-site.

Why are facilities required to submit three copies of their wastewater discharge permit application?

Receiving three full copies of all materials with an application can help KCIW process your application faster. KCIW keeps two of the copies of the completed application in two different filing systems and forwards a third copy to the applicable local sewer agency for its review and comment. Please note that all of the application materials submitted to KCIW must be legible.

What is meant by "Nature of Business" found in Section B of the application form?

KCIW uses the information from Section B along with other sections of the application to determine applicable discharge limits for the facility. In this section, KCIW would like the applicant to state the main activities or processes at the facility or site that produce wastewater. These might include metal finishing, food processing, groundwater remediation, manufacturing or construction dewatering.

Wastewater Discharge Permit Application FAQ

KCIW's wastewater discharge permit application states "submit one permit application for each site." What is the difference between a "site" and a "facility"?

"Site" and "facility": In the permit application, the words "site" and "facility" have the same meaning. They generally refer to a physical location or locations contained within one building or adjoining buildings that have the same address.

If your facility has a large campus, industrial processes in more than one building, or multiple building locations, you should consult with KCIW before you complete your application. KCIW will help you determine whether you need a single or multiple permits.

"Sample site": The sample site is the location where compliance monitoring samples are collected within a facility.

"Site" vs. "sample site": KCIW uses the term "site" in the permit application to refer to the building or buildings where a facility manufactures its product(s). There may be multiple sample sites within one facility or site.

What is "process wastewater"?

King County defines process wastewater as 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. This includes rinse waters, water used to clean materials or work areas, water used to test products and cooling water that comes into contact with a facility's product(s). For construction projects, process wastewater can include excavation dewatering, well dewatering, concrete curing water and wheel wash water.

Depending on a facility's industrial activity, different types of water used at the facility may be regulated differently. In general, facilities need to account for all water used at their sites; whether or not it is used somewhere in the manufacturing process (process water); in employee kitchens or restrooms (sanitary wastewater), or in heating/cooling systems (non-contact cooling water).

We encourage applicants to contact KCIW directly with questions about the application. Email us at info.kciw@kingcounty.gov or call 206-477-5300 / TTY: 711.