

Industrial Pretreatment Newsletter

Published for industries regulated by the King County Industrial Waste Program (KCIW)



King County

Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division
Industrial Waste Program

Fall 2015

*KCIW works with companies to make sure their wastewater is treated properly.
This protects communities, the environment, and the economy.*

KCIW Communications Are Changing

KCIW is updating its communication program.

We want to involve more diverse kinds of organizations on issues that are important to them.

To get started, we asked people for suggestions. We interviewed the Industrial Waste Advisory Committee (IWAC) members. We surveyed newsletter readers. We heard it is important to foster relationships with more diverse kinds of organizations in the regulated community. People want to know about changes in the program, ways to stay in compliance, and the impact of pretreatment activities on treatment plants.

We will do this by updating the ways we communicate. **This newsletter is moving to electronic delivery.** We'll send it to all companies with permits or authorizations to discharge to the sewer. And you can sign up at www.kingcounty.gov/wtd. We will form short-term advisory groups made up of organizations affected by specific issues. We will communicate with industry groups. You will see a revised web page in 2016.

As part of this change, we've decided to end the Industrial Waste Advisory Committee or IWAC. IWAC has made significant contributions to KCIW for decades. They are group of highly committed individuals who have worked together for years and really made a difference to KCIW. Their facilities consistently win water quality awards.

KCIW is committed to quality communications. Our goal is to make it easier for more businesses to be involved. And to make it easier to find the information you need.

Contact KCIW if you have suggestions or ideas you would like us to consider as we move forward.

Many thanks to all current
and former IWAC members.
Your service has helped shape KCIW
into the organization it is today.
Thank you for all you have done to
protect water quality in our region!

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Long-time IWAC member Mark LaFata of Precor, Inc. participated in Precor's Commitment to Compliance award ceremony on May 20, 2015.



Disposing of pharmaceuticals:

The Environmental Protection Agency is proposing additional regulations to prohibit facilities from disposing of hazardous waste pharmaceuticals down the toilet or drain. The proposal would apply to all kinds of healthcare, dental, and veterinary facilities. KCIW recently sent an email about this proposal to hospitals that have authorization to send wastewater to the sewer. KCIW may comment on the regulations.



The proposed Rule has been published for comment:

Management Standards for Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals;
Proposed Rule

[Federal Register Volume 80, Number 186 \(Friday, September 25, 2015\), Proposed Rule, Pages 58013-58092.](#)

Comments must be received on or before November 24, 2015.

Industrial User Survey – Coming Soon to Your Colleagues

In early 2016, King County will survey thousands of companies and organizations that may send industrial wastewater to the sewer. All facilities must dispose of their waste properly. But only some need permits or formal authorization to send industrial wastewater to the sewer. Answers to the survey will help determine what each organization needs.

King County is required to conduct this survey. It will be the largest survey since the Industrial Waste program started. It will provide important information to help the County and local sewer agency partners:

- Ensure those that require a permit have one
- Prioritize resources and activities that have most impact.
- Understand the current landscape of business sectors

Existing KCIW customers will not be surveyed.

We will not survey facilities that are already in KCIW's system whose discharge is managed under current procedures. So, if you read this newsletter because you have a permit or authorization from KCIW, you are unlikely to receive a survey. However, others in your line of business may receive a letter from KCIW with information about this online survey. All companies who receive it are required to complete the survey.

Learn more at

www.kingcounty.gov/industrialwaste.



Commitment-to-Compliance Winners' Secrets of Success



How do businesses achieve gold standard compliance with their industrial waste permit for five straight years? We asked the three 2015 Commitment to Compliance winners.

Primus International: Good relationships with investigators

Primus International, University Swaging Division makes structural tubes for every model of aircraft. Swaging (rhymes with paging and has nothing to do with holiday decor) is a process for shaping metal.

Ken Felt is responsible for their industrial waste permit. He credits his good relationship with Industrial Waste Investigator Dana Heinz with helping him comply with regulations. "When we renewed our permit last year, Dana worked with me to make revisions that would help our growing production".

The University Swaging Division is frequently inspected by the FAA and airplane manufacturers who use their products. Ken says relationships with these inspectors are the "same with King County, they are there to help you. If you make a mistake and try to hide it, you'll get penalized – and you should. If you make a mistake and work together to fix it, that's good."

The company's commitment to compliance goes beyond their industrial waste permit. Ken says "Everybody here tries to do things right, from the General Manager on down. We make parts for airplanes our loved ones fly on. It has to be done right."



Ken Felt from Primus University Swaging Division and KCIW Inspector Dana Heinz work together for water quality.

Precor: Backup systems and on-time reporting

Achieving compliance means doing a great job pretreating industrial wastewater and reporting data on time. The paint department at Precor Inc., Plant 2 does both. Precor manufactures premium fitness equipment chosen by health clubs, hotels, universities, and fitness enthusiasts around the world.

Precor is firmly committed to excellence and leadership in sound environmental practices as a routine part of their business pursuits. At the plant, alarms are triggered to go off before there is a water quality violation. The paint department staff visually monitors the pH of wastewater discharges and the maintenance technicians are always ready to act in the event of a problem. In order to promote on-time reporting, the wastewater monitoring equipment includes a series of backups to make sure they capture the required data and report it on time.



KCIW Investigator Lydia Eng checks on the instruments and backup alarms that are used to maintain water quality discharges at Precor Plant 2 Paint Shop.

Boeing Auburn: Empowered staff

Boeing Auburn discharges 400,000 gallons of industrial wastewater every day. This facility discharges in one week what other Boeing facilities discharge in a year. So achieving compliance for 5 years is a considerable achievement. How did they do it? Jim Swortz, Environmental Scientist, says “It’s not new equipment out there, its great teamwork.”

To overcome challenges, they redefined their pretreatment processes. They now have visual cues that warn them if they are getting close to monthly exceedances. Staff has the power to shut down the process. They don’t need to wait for management approval.

Tom Albin, Senior Manager for the Shared Services Group in Auburn, noted that in winning the Commitment to Compliance Award, Boeing Auburn is now part of an elite group. He said “It’s not just about production. It’s about being a good neighbor.”



Commitment to Compliance Winners at Boeing Auburn: Jim Swortz, Tessa Higgins, Tom Albin, Leslie Willis, Despina Strong (King County), Karen Baldtrip, Kristin Marshall, Mike Denn, Greg Newborn (King County), Mark Gianni, Duane Pelletier. Photo courtesy of the Boeing Company.

Congratulations, Commitment-to-Compliance award winners!



Tips for achieving compliance

1. Make sure your approved pretreatment system is maintained and working correctly.
2. Send in reports on time. Use email to submit reports quickly: info.KCIW@kingcounty.gov

Companies that develop good relationships with inspectors, establish backups in equipment and procedures, and empower staff can successfully meet these priorities.

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.

Companies that violate clean water rules receive penalties



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division

Industries must pretreat the water they use before they send it to the sewer. They have to monitor and report how they are doing. This protects people, the environment, and the economy. King County's Industrial Waste Program helps businesses meet requirements. Most companies in King County do an excellent job following clean water rules.

From January to June, 2015, these companies were in "significant noncompliance" with federal rules and/or received fines.

Company and Type of Violation	Reason for Publication
Art Brass Plating Inc. DISCHARGE VIOLATIONS: For cadmium and low pH; and permit violation for failure to notify King County Industrial Waste Program of changes in discharge characteristics.	Fined \$1,312 and required to reimburse the county \$6,188 for additional monitoring costs.
King County Solid Waste – Houghton Transfer Station REPORTING VIOLATION: For failure to file required report by deadline.	Significant noncompliance. The report was submitted. No further action.
Mastercraft Metal Finishing Inc. REPORTING VIOLATION: For failure to file required report by deadline.	Significant noncompliance. The report was submitted. No further action.
Port of Seattle, Sea-Tac International Airport REPORTING VIOLATION: For failure to file required report by deadline.	Significant noncompliance. The report was submitted. No further action.

Other violations and actions

The King County Industrial Waste Program acted on 16 more violations at 14 organizations from January to June 2015. These were not in "significant noncompliance." They did not receive fines. Where applicable, they reimbursed the county for additional monitoring 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

Celebrate your contribution to 50 years of clean water!

Our waterways are cleaner today because business practices have improved.

King County's first two treatment plants started operating 50 years ago. Just a few years later, KCIW started working with industries to make sure their wastewater was treated properly. Together, we have made a difference.

Sewage treatment plants are designed to treat biological waste. Heavy metals and oils will not break down. Fats, oils and grease can clog pipes. Even organic waste in high concentrations can affect the chemistry at sewage treatment plants. The work KCIW and businesses do together is the first stage of the wastewater treatment process.

Take a moment to celebrate the good work you do every day.

KING COUNTY NEEDS A STRONG ECONOMY AND A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT. KCIW SUPPORTS BOTH.



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**This material is provided in
alternative formats upon request
by calling 206-477-5300 and
TTY relay: 711**

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Creating Resources from Wastewater