

OPEN CHANNEL NEWS

MCES Industrial Waste & Pollution Prevention

Issue #27/ January 2008

Metropolitan Council Environmental Services

Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) is one of three divisions of the Metropolitan Council, a regional public agency working for the seven-county metropolitan area. The mission of MCES is to provide wastewater services that protect the public health and environment while supporting regional growth.

Services provided by MCES ensure that:

- (1) sufficient sewer capacity exists to serve planned development, and sufficient capital investments are made to preserve the region's water quality;
- (2) wastewater collection and treatment services are provided in a cost- and quality-competitive manner for 103 communities and nearly 800 industrial clients; and
- (3) local plans provide for adequate water supply and nonpoint source pollution prevention in the region.



Empire Plant Demonstrates Green Roof

During a recent plant expansion, a green roof was constructed at the Empire Wastewater Treatment Plant on one of the new process buildings. The green roof was built to both protect the environmentally sensitive Vermillion River that runs through plant property, as well as to serve as a demonstration of innovative stormwater management and sustainable building design.

The roof is about the size of a volleyball court and easily viewable as it sits just 4 feet off the ground on a building that is partially underground. The roof is designed with several layers starting with a concrete deck, then a waterproofing membrane, insulation, root barrier, drainage layer, filter, growing medium and plants. During initial plant growth, the roof was irrigated with treated effluent water using a sprinkler system on a timer. Now that the plants are well established the roof will require no watering except during extended dry periods and only twice-yearly weeding. The primary benefit of a green roof is that it captures up to 3 inches of rainfall and, therefore, prevents stormwater runoff. Other benefits include much lower building cooling costs during the summer, and an aesthetic appeal with some insect and bird habitat.

The green roof is just one of several innovative stormwater management projects aimed at protecting the Vermillion Watershed. Other projects include three large rain gardens, a native plant garden, permeable pavers and vegetative drainage swales that are used throughout the plant to convey and infiltrate stormwater.

MCES intends to use these projects for stormwater management demonstration and education. For more information about the Empire Plant green roof and other MCES stormwater management projects, contact Linda Henning at 651-602-1279 or email her, linda.henning@metc.state.mn.us.

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Important Dates:

January 15, 2008 – Liquid Waste Hauler Reports due at MCES offices for all LWH permittees.

January 30, 2008 – All Regular and Special Discharge quarterly, semi-annual and annual reports due at MCES offices.

Mail Reports to MCES, IWPP Section, 390 North Robert Street, St. Paul, MN 55101-1805.

Septage Management Program Updates

MCES is continuing with improvements to the Septage Management Program that started from the recommendations of a System-Wide Septage Study completed in 2005. The recommendations were to eliminate problematic disposal sites, improve security and access control at remaining sites, and set up provisions for sampling and determining load volumes. The work completed thus far includes restricting commercial waste disposal to avoid costly maintenance of interceptors; closing the White Bear Township, Minneapolis and Minnetonka disposal sites; increasing security; improving sampling procedures; and construction on the Empire and Metro plant disposal sites. More substantial changes to the program will occur in 2008.

Plymouth Disposal Site is Closing

The Plymouth disposal site will close this spring. This site was identified in the System-Wide Septage Study as a problematic site and was scheduled to be eliminated no later than 2009. However, due to development in the area, the site will no longer be a suitable liquid waste disposal site. A private developer is constructing office buildings nearby and Nathan Lane, where the maintenance hole is located, is changing from a dead-end street to a thoroughfare. MCES will provide as much notice as possible of the exact date for closing. This is the second northern site to close due to local construction. The Brooklyn Park disposal site closed in June 2007.

Metro Plant Disposal Site to Open Soon

Construction of the Metro Plant disposal site is nearly complete. As part of the project, a truck scale has been installed but the electronics will not be completed until early 2008. The site is expected to open to MCES permitted haulers by spring. In addition to the scale, the Metro site will have many enhanced features, such as six discharge stations, improved security, and a new access system. The opening of the Metro disposal site will result in the closure of our most heavily used disposal site, located at Third and Commercial Streets in St. Paul.



Construction of the Metro Plant disposal site is nearly complete.

MCES to Open a Liquid Waste Receiving Facility in Fridley

MCES is purchasing the Star Environmental facility, which a privately owned company was constructing in Fridley to accept and treat hauled liquid waste. A purchase agreement was signed in October and MCES will take possession of the site in January 2008. Some modifications to the facility need to be made prior to opening the site to MCES permitted haulers. MCES expects to open the Fridley site during summer of 2008. The site will accept domestic and holding tank waste, portable toilet waste, and sewer cleaning (vactor) waste.

This facility will benefit MCES and its customers by providing a northern disposal site to replace the existing sites which have been problematic. Unlike the other interceptor disposal sites, the Fridley site will have a rock trap and rotary screen device to remove grit and trash. This will help minimize interceptor maintenance. When this site opens, the remaining northern sites – Coon Rapids and Forest Lake – will close. MCES will provide a 30-day notice for closure of these sites.



Fridley liquid waste disposal site.



Pat Fonseth Retires

Pat Fonseth, long-time Industrial Waste and Pollution Prevention administrative assistant, retired on December 31, 2007.

Pat worked for the agency for nearly 31 years, and has been one of our cornerstones through relocations, evolving missions, reorganizations, entry into the computer age, and our adaptations to all the changes that have occurred within the metro region. Pat has also been, in addition to her many administrative duties, the unofficial IWPP “go-to” person for anything from initiating a purchase order to determining what Metro Council employee to contact about a particular issue. The phrase “ask Pat” will echo within the office long after Pat has settled into her well-deserved retirement, enjoying time with her children and grandchildren.

Proposed State Pretreatment Rules Move Through Comment Period

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has proposed new state pretreatment rules containing provisions to control the wastewater discharge from users of publicly owned treatment works (POTWs). The new rules will comply with a federal requirement that Minnesota have state pretreatment rules. The state currently relies on the Federal General Pretreatment Regulations (40 CFR Part 403) for implementation of pretreatment activities.

The new rules will include requirements for POTWs to control industrial users (IUs), prohibitions and limitations that apply to IUs, and reporting requirements for POTWs and IUs. The requirements closely follow the federal requirements and incorporate the recent federal pretreatment streamlining revisions. Industrial users regulated under MCES's delegated pretreatment program should not see any significant changes upon adoption of the new state rules.

MCES supports the efforts of MPCA to establish state pretreatment rules and provided comments and some suggested changes to the rules. The comment period ended Dec. 28, 2007. To find out if the rules will be adopted with or without a public hearing, contact Randy Dunnette, MPCA, Water Quality Division, 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul, MN 55155-4194, or call 651-296-8006 before Jan. 29, 2008.

Some CIUs May Get Regulatory Relief from Streamlining Rule

The pretreatment streamlining rule of the General Pretreatment Regulations authorized POTWs to establish alternative sampling, reporting and inspection requirements for certain classes of Categorical Industrial Users (CIUs). MCES is considering implementation of the lowest category, that of non-significant categorical industrial user (NSCIU), which is based on a maximum discharge of 100 gallons per day. If adopted, the NSCIU would see reduced permit requirements for monitoring and reporting, and their permits will be modified.

Waste Discharge Rules Being Revised

The Waste Discharge Rules are being reviewed for possible amendments to reflect MCES needs and program changes since the last revision in 1998. No changes to MCES limits for metals and cyanide are planned. All permittees should have a copy of the current rules (1998 revision). If not, contact your assigned MCES engineer and they will send you a copy or you can view the rules at <http://www.metrocouncil.org/environment/IndustrialWaste/index.htm>

MnTAP Offers Intern Program

Article provided by MnTAP

Is your company interested in becoming leaner through cutting waste and energy?

A MnTAP (Minnesota Technical Assistant Program) student intern can assist you in the legwork you

need to justify changes at your facility. MnTAP sponsors college students to work full time for the summer at Minnesota businesses to research solutions to its specific waste-related challenges, such as: energy use, defects, raw material use, scrap, water use, wastewater, solid or hazardous waste, air emissions, volatile organic carbons, and HAPs

MnTAP hires and pays college juniors and seniors, majoring in science or engineering, to work on finding solutions to inefficiencies and waste issues. By participating in the MnTAP intern program, companies receive:

- A motivated college student with technical background and research skills, working full time at your facility for the summer.
- Technical guidance from a MnTAP technical specialist who also will help develop the project's scope and oversee the student's work.
- Human resources management as MnTAP recruits, hires and pays the student, and covers payroll and workers compensation.

In 2007, MnTAP interns worked with nine companies and helped them save \$129,295 by reducing water use by 4.3 million gallons, solids wastes by 2,600 pounds, and energy use by 627,000 kWh and 2,400 therms per year. Using its MnTAP student intern's research, Great Batch will reduce its air emissions by 8,800 pounds and will save over \$27,000. Advanced Web will reduce their solid waste by 17,360 pounds annually, thereby saving nearly \$200,000.

Applications for this summer are being accepted through Feb. 1. If you would like a MnTAP intern to help solve waste-related problems, call Krysta Larson at 612-624-4697 or 800-247-0015. Additional information is available online at www.mntap.umn.edu.



MnTAP sponsored an intern project At Olmsted Medical Center during summer 2007 to reduce hazardous chemical use in cleaning.

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2008 Rates and Fees

The 2008 approved rates and fees are as follows.

Strength Charge Rates for wastewater generated within the Council's region and discharged on site will be \$0.148 per excess pound of total suspended solids (TSS), and \$0.074 per excess pound of chemical oxygen demand (COD).

Full-cost recovery rates for treatment of industrial wastewater hauled to approved MCES disposal sites will be \$0.295 per excess pound of TSS and \$0.1475 per excess pound of COD. There is an additional \$10 per 1,000 gallon service fee for out-of-region loads.

Liquid waste haulers' standard load charges will be \$37.61 per 1,000 gallons. Holding tank wastes will be charged \$1.93 per 1,000 gallons. The portable toilet waste rate will be \$49.91 per 1,000 gallons. Collar county domestic waste load charges will be \$47.61 per 1,000 gallons. A facilities component charge is added to each load charge type (this charge is included in the rates shown above and will be adjusted each year). The 2008 facilities component charge will be \$0.27 per 1,000 gallons.

The Service Availability Charge will be \$1,825 per unit, and the associated Add-on Service Charge rate will be \$0.91 per 1,000 gallons.

For all permittees, permit fees will range from \$525 to \$4,875, depending on permit status.

For more information regarding rates and fees, please contact your MCES engineer or visit: www.metrocouncil.org/environment/IndustrialWaste/news_rates.htm. The 2008 rates will be posted on this site following final 2007 billings in February 2008.