

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FACTS

A national leader in environmental protection

Clean water and a clean environment are essential to a healthy life, and the Metropolitan Council is committed to both. Our Environmental Services division (MCES) is nationally renowned for its superior work treating wastewater, monitoring air and water quality, and planning to ensure a long-range water supply to meet future demand.

MCES consistently achieves near-perfect compliance with federal and state clean water discharge standards. At the same time, our rates are well below the national average for large agencies that treat more than 100 million gallons per day.

MCES is a leader in sustainability. Between 2006 and 2015, the division reduced its purchases of fossil fuel energy by 23.6%.

Council protects water quality, public health

MCES is responsible for collecting and treating wastewater from 2.6 million residents in the seven-county Twin Cities area. MCES also conducts research related to surface water quality and water supply, and provides technical assistance to local governments.

Among its primary responsibilities, MCES:

- Maintains more than 600 miles of regional interceptor sewers that collect flow from more than 5,000 miles of sewers owned by 109 communities.
- Processes an average of 250 million gallons of wastewater daily at 8 regional treatment plants.
- Works with about 850 industrial clients to substantially reduce the amount of pollution entering the wastewater collection system.
- Provides surface water quality monitoring and analysis for the region.
- Conducts research and develops policies and plans related to the region's water supply.
- Partners with numerous public, private and nonprofit groups committed to a clean environment.

Council supports regional growth

MCES services protect public health and the environment while supporting regional growth. Guided by the Council's long-range plan, *Thrive MSP 2040*, MCES ensures that:

- Sufficient sewer capacity exists to serve planned development.
- Sufficient capital investments are made to preserve water quality in the region.
- Wastewater collection and treatment is competitive for cost and quality.
- Local plans provide for adequate water supply and prevention of pollution from nonpoint sources, such as urban and agricultural storm water runoff.

MCES plants maintain outstanding environmental record

The Council's wastewater treatment plants continue to perform at a high level, achieving near-perfect compliance with federal and state clean water discharge permits. Two plants—Hastings and St. Croix Valley—are among the top 10 plants in the country for consecutive years of full compliance with their permits (25 and 24 years, respectively).

Service is responsive

MCES works with and for citizens in a number of ways, including partnering on environmental improvement efforts and addressing process-related and industrial odor-control issues. Staff also reach out to the public with educational programs, public meetings, forums, surveys, and newsletters.

Council coordinates water supply planning

In 2005, the Minnesota Legislature directed the Council to carry out planning activities addressing the water supply needs of the seven-county metro area. The law requires the Council to maintain a base of technical information upon which to make sound decisions about water supply issues, and to develop a regional master plan for water supply.

After years of study and regional input, and with assistance from state and local officials on the Metropolitan Water Supply Advisory Committee, the Council developed its first Master Water Supply Plan in 2010. The plan emphasizes conservation, inter-jurisdictional cooperation and long-term sustainability. The Council adopted an updated Master Water Supply Plan in September 2015.

Council monitors regional water quality

MCES implements a variety of strategies to meet its mission of “providing wastewater services and integrated planning to ensure sustainable water quality and water supply for the region.” MCES monitors and analyzes the water quality of the region’s lakes and rivers; partners with public, private and nonprofit groups to improve water quality; and assists with watershed planning and management.

The division’s work is guided by the 2040 Water Resources Management Policy Plan, a chapter of the Metropolitan Development Guide (of which *Thrive MSP 2040* is the foundation). The updated policy plan embraces an integrated approach to water supply, water quality, and wastewater treatment; it also emphasizes collaboration with local government, state, and other partners.

Long-range plans include significant energy savings

MCES implements an ongoing capital improvement program to maintain and improve the region’s wastewater infrastructure, support regional growth, and meet regulatory requirements. The 2016 capital expense budget is \$190 million. The budget supports projects at the eight treatment plants as well as numerous interceptor, lift station, and meter station construction and rehabilitation projects.

MCES is working hard to reduce energy consumption at its facilities. Working with Xcel Energy, MCES completed more than three dozen energy-savings projects between 2006 and 2015, with estimated current savings of more than \$4 million per year. Between 2006 and 2015, MCES reduced its purchase of fossil-fuel energy by 23.6%, and plans to reduce it an additional 10% by 2020.

For more information

Visit www.metrocouncil.org/Wastewater-Water or call 651-602-1000.

MCES REGIONAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT FINANCING

Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) operates the regional wastewater collection and treatment system for the seven-county metro area.

User fees cover the entire cost of wastewater operations as well as the physical infrastructure of the system, its maintenance, replacement, and upgrade. No tax dollars are involved.

About MCES

- 600+ miles of interceptor pipes, connecting with over 5,000 miles of municipal sewer pipes
- Eight wastewater treatment plants
- 250 million gallons of wastewater treated daily
- 2.6 million residents served
- 850 industrial customers served

Revenue for the regional system

Revenue for the regional wastewater system comes largely from three types of user fees:

- Municipal wastewater charges
- Industrial charges
- Sewer availability charge (SAC)

Municipal wastewater charges

We bill wholesale municipal wastewater charges to communities. This charge is based on MCES budgeted expenses, the previous year's metered flow data, and the resulting percent share of a municipality's use of the regional system. Factors that influence your community's wastewater charge:

- Inflow and infiltration (fluctuates with rain)
- Growth in your community
- Capital costs for infrastructure system improvements, expansion and maintenance (pipes, lift stations, treatment plants)

Communities pass on our charges to their customers, also adding fees to cover their local costs.

Nationally, the region's retail wastewater rates are about 40% lower than rates charged by similar-sized (large) agencies, according to a 2014 survey by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.

Note: *Our water supply planning services are NOT funded by these user fees. These services are largely funded by Clean Water Legacy funds and state bonds.*

Industrial charges

We charge industrial customers to cover the cost of wastewater monitoring, treating higher strength discharges, and other costs. The charges are made in a variety of forms:

- Annual permit fees
- Strength charges for wastewater that has higher treatment costs than typical residential wastewater
 - Based on MCES cost of treating solids
 - Based on strength and amount of measured flow
 - Our rates are about 45% lower than the average of national peer agencies
- Fees to liquid waste haulers who dispose of septage, leachate, and other hauled wastes directly into the metropolitan disposal system
- Other fees

Sewer Availability Charge (SAC)

When we extend new sewer pipes into growing areas, or rehabilitate or replace aging pipes in older communities, we build enough capacity in those pipes to handle future growth. This is called reserve capacity.

SAC (sewer availability charge) is a one-time fee that we charge local governments for use of the reserve capacity in the regional wastewater system. SAC pays for the capital or debt service payments associated with the reserve capacity portion of the system. We charge SAC whenever a new property is built or an existing property renovation/remodel causes increased capacity demand.

Local governments may also charge, on top of the MCES SAC fee, a local SAC or add-on fee for capacity in the local sewer system.

One SAC is based on 274 gallons per day of *potential capacity*. It is not based on actual or expected usage. Instead, SAC is based on the capacity needed for wastewater to *flow effectively under maximum potential usage*.

Determining annual municipal charges

Charges are determined by:

- MCES total operational costs
- Debt service – for 2018, debt service increases drove most of the 3.7% rate increase About \$130 million/year of capital projects on a ~\$7 billion base (total replacement value of MCES infrastructure)
 - Most capital projects are focused on rehabilitation – replacing aging interceptors, pipes, lift stations, and plant equipment
 - Remaining capital investments are plant improvements to increase efficiency and comply with environmental regulations

Our goal is to keep municipal charges at or below 4% for the next four years. Most of the increases are driven by debt service.

In order to minimize rate increases to communities, we continue to increase our operational efficiency by:

- Managing attrition to increase labor efficiency
- Implementing asset management discipline
- Upgrading technology and reducing our energy purchases
- Partnering with communities on timing of construction to create efficiencies (e.g., sewer projects ahead of or concurrent with road construction)

Industrial Waste & Pollution Prevention Section Information

The Industrial Waste & Pollution Prevention (IWPP) Section regulates and monitors industrial discharges to the sewer system to ensure compliance with local and federal regulations. The IWPP Section also responds to sewer-related spills and community sewer problems. These functions protect MCES and community collection/treatment facilities, process efficiency, operating personnel, and the environment.

IWPP Section staff issue Industrial Discharge Permits to industrial users of the Metropolitan Disposal System (public sanitary sewers). Permittees are required to conduct self-monitoring and submit reports to the IWPP Section on a routine basis. These reports are one means of determining compliance with the MCES Waste Discharge Rules. Compliance determinations are also made through monitoring by the IWPP Section. The samples obtained are analyzed by the MCES Laboratory Services Section.

2018 Permit Information (as of 3/13/2018):

897	Permitted Industrial Users
227	Significant Industrial Users (SIUs)
8	Non-Significant Categorical Industrial Users (NSCIUs)
213	SIUs subject to Categorical Pretreatment Standards
84	Liquid Waste Haulers
99	Groundwater and Leachate Discharge permits
193	General Industrial Discharge permits

2016 Compliance/Enforcement Activities

	MCES Enforcement Response Plan revised
1583	Routine self-monitoring reports received
17	Informal Written Notices issued
103	Notices of Violation (NOVs) issued to 95 different users
10	NOVs yet to achieve final compliance
93	NOVs yet to be resolved
5	Industrial Users listed in a public notice for Significant Non-Compliance
3	Industrial Users on Stipulation Agreements
0	Orders to Appear issued

Contact Us

MCES - Industrial Waste & Pollution Prevention (IWPP)

Liquid Waste Hauler Permit Engineers

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Matthew Michaelis
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Questions about Online Reporting – Contact our Support Team

Available Monday through Friday 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Phone: (651) 602-4789
Email: MCESIndustrialOnlineReporting@metc.state.mn.us

Additional Contact Information

IWPP Assistant Manager – Bob Golden
Phone: (651) 602-4705
Email: robert.golden@metc.state.mn.us


IWPP Manager – Bob Nordquist
Phone: (651) 602-4706
Email: bob.nordquist@metc.state.mn.us

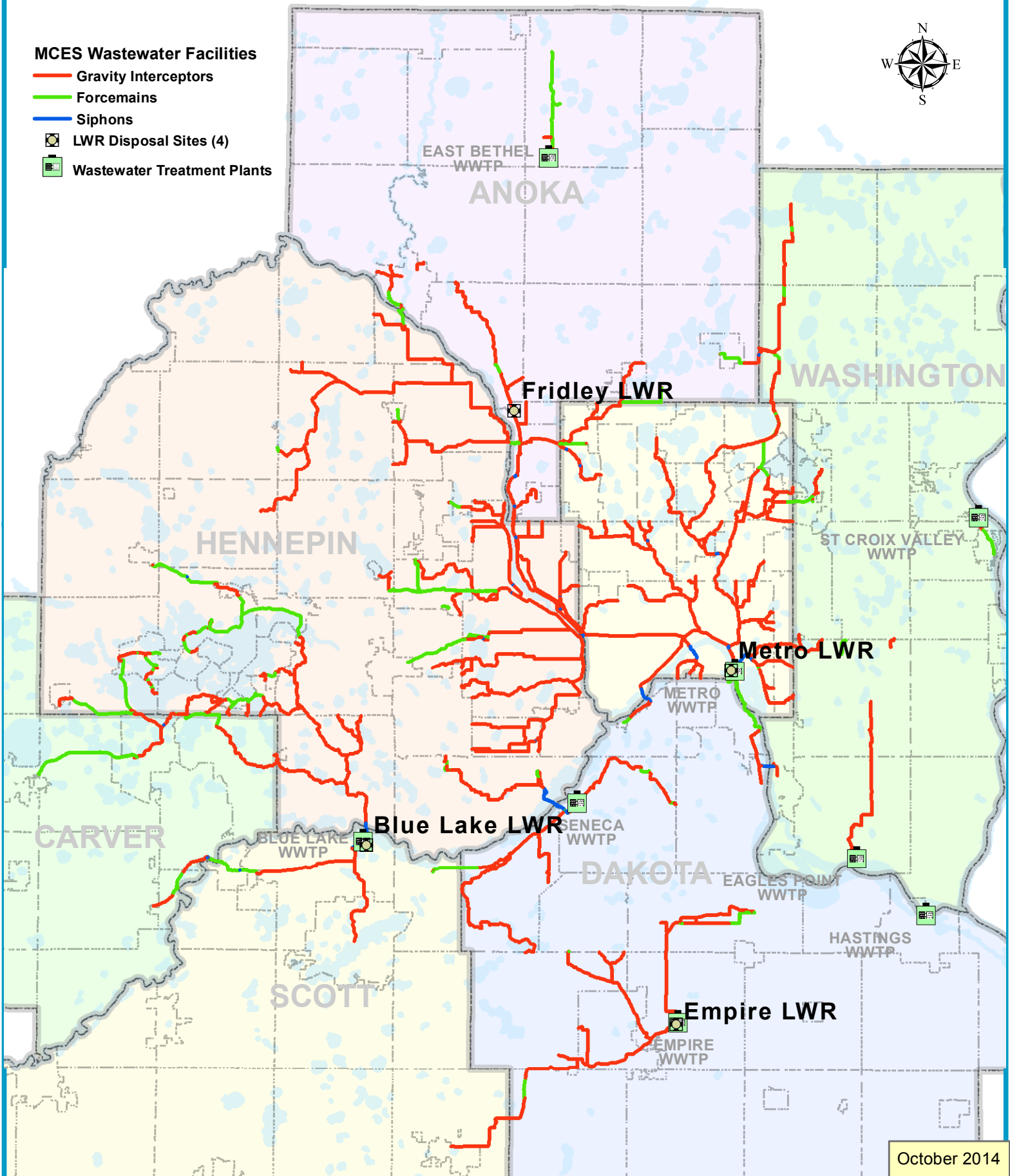
Main Office Phone: (651) 602-4703
Office Fax: (651) 602-4730
Website: <https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Services/Industrial-Waste.aspx>

Liquid Waste Receiving (LWR) Facility Location Map



MCES Wastewater Facilities

- Gravity Interceptors
- Forcemains
- Siphons
-  LWR Disposal Sites (4)
-  Wastewater Treatment Plants



MCES Liquid Waste Receiving Facilities

MCES maintains four Liquid Waste Receiving (LWR) Facilities. All hauled liquid waste to be disposed of into the Metropolitan Disposal System (MDS) must be discharged at one of these facilities. The facility information is listed in the table below along with the types of waste that are accepted. Before a hauler can discharge liquid waste to the MDS, the hauler must first obtain a permit from MCES.

LWR Site	Location	Hours	Waste Type Accepted				
			Industrial	Commercial	Portable Toilet Waste	Domestic	Holding Tank
Metro WWTP	2400 Childs Road St. Paul, MN 55106	24-hours 7 days per week	X	X	X	X	X
Blue Lake WWTP	6957 County Rd 101 E Shakopee, MN 55379	24-hours 7 days per week		X	X	X	X
Empire WWTP	2540 West 197 th St. Farmington, MN 55024	M-F 6am - 6pm Sat 6am - 4pm			X	X	X
Fridley	8296 Hickory St NE Fridley, MN 55432	April to Mid-November: M-F 7:30am – 5:30pm Sat 8am – 12pm Closed Sundays and Holidays Mid-November to April: M-F 8am – 4:30pm Closed Weekends and Holidays			X	X	X

Hauled Liquid Waste Types and Descriptions

MCES regulates septage and other hauled liquid waste discharged to the Metropolitan Disposal System (MDS) at approved MCES disposal sites. All loads of hauled liquid waste discharged into the MDS under the provisions of the MCES Septage Management Program are categorized below. Please be aware that although MCES currently accepts the types of hauled liquid waste describe below, MCES reserves the right to refuse any material that is found to be different from that which has been pre-approved or specifically approved for acceptance under this program or when deemed necessary due to operational issues at an approved Liquid Waste Receiving (LWR) facility or MCES Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Domestic Waste

- Domestic Septage – Domestic sewage pumped from a residential septic tank with a drain field
- Domestic Holding Tank Waste – Domestic waste pumped from a sealed tank with no drain field

Commercial Waste

Commercial waste is defined as a non-industrial waste hauled from a business or service establishment and is limited to the following:

- **Portable Toilet Waste**
- **Restaurant Grease Traps**
- **Flammable Waste Trap Wastewater** – Petroleum products and their derivatives are prohibited for discharge to the sanitary sewer system as per Section 406.00 of the Waste Discharge Rules. Therefore, all floating oil shall be removed prior to pumping the trap. The service station and/or business owner shall remove the petroleum layer either by pumping it off and collecting it for recycling, or by using absorbent pads to remove the thin layer of oil present on the surface of the water.
- **Sand Trap Wastewater** – Haulers shall make every effort possible to minimize the amount of sand, grit, and sludge discharged at MCES approved disposal sites. All such material remaining in the hauler's truck, after discharge, shall be disposed of in an appropriate manner as a solid waste.
- **Commercial Holding Tank Waste** – Wastewater from a commercial establishment that includes all wastewater generated on site.

Industrial Waste

All loads which do not meet the definition of domestic or commercial waste as defined above are considered industrial waste loads under the Septage Management Program and must be sampled, analyzed, and approved by MCES through an approval letter process prior to transport and disposal. Industrial waste as it applies to the MCES Septage Management Program is defined as one of the following:

- **Industrial Waste** – Liquid waste resulting from an industrial or manufacturing process. This includes, but it not limited to food wastes from food product manufacturing companies, dairy wastes, and waste from all process sumps within an industrial facility including those in vehicle maintenance areas where process waste and flammable waste trap wastewater are combined.
- **Landfill Leachate** – Wastewater resulting from the percolation of rainwater and/or internal liquids through the deposited material in a solid waste disposal facility. This waste category includes landfill gas condensate, which results when landfill gas cools in the gas collection system and forms a liquid waste.
- **Groundwater and Surface Water unsuitable for discharge to receiving waters** – Contaminated groundwater is defined as polluted water pumped from soil, aquifers or underground tanks, as part of a remedial or dewatering action. Contaminated Surface Water is defined as polluted water from lakes, streams, and ponds, as well as contaminated runoff water.

Many industrial wastes are not suitable for discharge through the Septage Management Program. Included are the wastes that exceed MCES discharge limits and/or any prohibited wastes listed in MCES Waste Discharge Rules and all wastes defined as hazardous under Minnesota Rules Chapter 7045. All approved industrial waste loads shall be disposed of at the Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant LWR disposal site in St. Paul, unless noted otherwise on the written approval letter issued by MCES.

Note: If the industry (i.e., Responsible Party) does not have a valid letter from MCES indicating that the Industrial Waste can be hauled and disposed of, the hauler or industry representative is required to contact MCES to begin the approval process.

Out of Service Area (OSA) Domestic and Commercial Waste

MCES currently accepts standard Domestic Septage, Domestic Holding Tank Waste, and Portable Toilet Waste from the following counties adjacent to the seven-county metropolitan area: Chisago, Isanti, Sherburne, Wright, McLeod, Sibley, Nicollet, LeSueur, Rice, Goodhue, Polk, St. Croix, and Pierce. MCES also accepts restaurant and other food service establishment Grease Trap Waste from outside the metropolitan area without any restrictions regarding source location.

Out of Service Area (OSA) Industrial Waste

MCES accepts hauled Industrial Waste from outside the seven-county metropolitan area. This review process takes longer than approval for industrial loads within the service area and requires an upfront non-refundable application fee. Additional information is also required on alternative disposal methods, closer to the source of the waste. Sample results must be submitted and must meet MCES WDR limits. Loading and possible impact on MCES's wastewater treatment plant is also considered.

Note: Flammable waste traps and sand traps from outside the seven-county metropolitan area are treated as OSA Industrial Waste and must follow the same procedure stated above.

MCES Industrial Online Reporting System

Reporting just got easier

Welcome to the MCES Industrial Online Reporting System

The MCES Industrial Online Reporting System (IORS) is a web-based information system that allows eligible industrial users to electronically submit reports, permit renewal applications and annual statements to MCES.

The system follows U.S. EPA guidelines established in its electronic reporting rule, CROMERR (Cross-Media Electronic Reporting Rule) and includes all necessary legal, security and electronic signature functionality to serve as a paperless reporting system.

Benefits of Online Reporting

- Submit your reports and permit renewals online at a time that's convenient for you
- Submit load records and summaries using an Excel workbook
- Receive warnings if your report is incomplete.
- Receive email confirmation that your submittal was received
- Track the status of your submittals
- View your permit and past online submittals
- Update your contact information

How Do I Enroll?

1. Create a User Account in the IORS
<https://www.govonlinesaas.com/MN/SPL/Public/GovEnt/Shared/Pages/Main/Login.aspx>
2. Complete a Facility Account Registration form
3. Complete and sign an Electronic Signature Agreement by all Responsible Officials (those with signatory authority) and mail to MCES.

Customer Assistance is Available

Please contact our IORS support team if you have questions.
The support team is available Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

Email: MCESIndustrialOnlineReporting@metc.state.mn.us

Phone: (651) 602-4789

For more information or to access enrollment forms and reporting instructions, visit our Online Reporting website: <https://metro council.org/IORS>