First ever workshop for Liquid Waste Haulers was a big success

For the first time, MCES held a workshop in March specifically for our Liquid Waste Hauler (LWH) permittees. Our Septage Management Program and permitting process for LWHs is quite different than that for Industrial Users. Providing this workshop specifically for haulers allowed us to focus our conversations on topics that directly concern them, such as disposal site issues, accepted waste types, service area boundaries, load charges, etc. It also gave us the opportunity to demonstrate online reporting, which just became available to LWH permittees on April 1.

We received a lot of positive feedback on the information provided at the workshop. Many attendees thanked us for taking the time to discuss program issues with them in this format and said they would be interested in attending again next year.

Informational slides and handouts provided at the workshop are available on our workshop webpage at:


A report on questions and comments from the workshop will be presented to the MCES General Manager and Executive Team. This report and any resulting actions being taken by IWPP will also be posted on the workshop webpage when available.

Important dates:
April 15, 2018 – Liquid Waste Hauler reports due.
April 19 and 24, 2018 – Industrial Customer Workshops.
April 30, 2018 – Industrial and Special Discharge quarterly reports due.

If mailing reports, send to: MCES, IWPP Section, 390 Robert Street North, St. Paul, MN 55101-1805
MCES is holding two industrial customer workshops in April

MCES's Industrial Waste & Pollution Prevention (IWPP) and Finance staff are holding two industrial customer workshops this year to provide better opportunity for more customers to attend. All customers holding an MCES industrial discharge permit are invited.

The workshops provide an opportunity for MCES to directly communicate important pretreatment program issues with industrial customers in a conversational format. In return, we receive input on program issues that affect their businesses. Topics for discussion at this year’s workshops include:

- Industrial SAC proposal
- MCES budget process and 2019 preliminary rates
- Hauled waste approval process
- Pollutants of concern for MCES
- Online reporting
- Customer concerns

When and Where

Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Metro 94 Business Center
455 Etna Street North, Suite 32
St. Paul, MN 55106

RSVP: Brittney.mcdonough@metc.state.mn.us or (651) 602-4703.

Online reporting is now available to Liquid Waste Haulers

We recently enhanced the MCES Industrial Online Reporting System (IORS) so that Liquid Waste Haulers can now report online. We created a load record entry workbook for haulers to use that streamlines the reporting process. No more filling out and mailing separate paper forms for each load type. All loads can be recorded and summarized in one Excel workbook and easily uploaded into the IORS when it's time to report.

Online reporting was introduced at the Liquid Waste Hauler workshop in March and became available for haulers on April 1. Already, 10% of haulers are enrolled.

Online reporting has been available to our Industrial, General and Special Discharge permittees since June 2016 and 46% currently report online.

If you are not yet enrolled to report online, consider enrolling soon. We may be requiring online reporting as early as 2019.

For more information visit: www.metrocouncil.org/IORS or contact our support team at 651-602-4789.

Council’s proposed changes to Industrial SAC will make it less burdensome

Based on feedback from our industrial customers in 2017, the Metropolitan Council is proposing a major change to how the Industrial Sewer Availability Charge (SAC) is determined and implemented for permitted industries.

Currently, your industry is assessed a one-time commercial SAC based on the size and type of your facility, plus an industrial SAC based on your expected maximum process discharge. This becomes your SAC baseline. Each time you renew your industrial discharge permit, we evaluate the actual average discharge volumes from your business. If the flows are greater than the baseline, you owe more SAC - one SAC unit for every 274 gallons per day over. The 2018 SAC unit rate is $2,485. This is paid to your local community, who then passes the MCES portion on to the Council.

We are proposing to provide the option of paying a much lower industrial capacity charge each reporting period for every 1,000 gallons of discharge above your SAC baseline for that period. This charge will be paid directly to the Council rather than through your local community.

Benefits of the change

- Reduced up-front costs while your business gets established and grows
- Ongoing costs will better match your business cycle
- Permit renewals will not include SAC reviews
- Immediate benefit from water conservation efforts

We are estimating it will take 12 years of industrial capacity charge payments to equal a SAC payment. You will still have the option to make the SAC payment outright at any time, from your community, to lower your ongoing costs.

Next Steps

MCES is consulting with communities and will discuss the proposed changes with industrial customers at the industrial customer workshops this month. If changes are adopted, they will likely become effective mid-summer 2018.

For more information or to comment on the proposal, please contact Bob Nordquist, Manager of Industrial Waste & Pollution Prevention, at 651-602-4706, or Ned Smith, Finance and Revenue Director, at 651-602-1162.

Welcome Therez Ranta

Therez Ranta, Associate Engineer, joined IWPP in February. She comes to us with experience at Iron Range Engineering researching the chemical, biological, and physical aspects of wastewater treatment for industrial clients, including applicable regulations. She has a bachelor’s degree in engineering with a chemical engineering focus from Minnesota State University Mankato.
Council moves forward with IPIP

The Metropolitan Council is moving forward on the Industrial Pretreatment Incentive Program (IPIP) with two local food producers, focusing on how to more efficiently and sustainably treat the wastewater being produced by the two companies.

The Council approved financing agreements with Michael Foods in Chaska and Kemps dairy company in Farmington. The agreements incentivize both companies to design, install and operate equipment at their locations to pretreat high-strength industrial wastewater before it's released in the regional wastewater treatment system.

Public-private partnership yields multiple benefits

The benefit is twofold: For the company, the program saves money through reduced wastewater charges from the Council. For the Council, it means avoiding or delaying the need to expand its own treatment plants. It also reduces operational costs. For all, it provides a sustainable solution.

"The program is a great example of the kind of collaboration that has made this region so successful," said Council Chair Alene Tchourumoff. "Through innovation and partnership, we're able to seek solutions that benefit local companies, our environment, and the public. It's the kind of thing that we do behind the scenes to support the health and prosperity of the region and ensure an economically competitive economy."

The lease contracts with Michael Foods and Kemps provide low-interest financing from the Council, to cover the initial capital costs of the pretreatment equipment. The companies will then pay lease payments to the Council; at the end of a 10-year lease, the companies will assume ownership of the equipment.

Michael Foods has been a key partner as program developed

Michael Foods has been a key partner in this project since the very beginning. Shane Menefee, Director of Environmental Affairs for the company, said he had been working with Council staff about how to do more efficient wastewater treatment—while allowing the company to grow—when they developed this idea.

"This system is truly unique and a win for everyone involved," said Menefee. "It's rare that you get such a great public-private cooperation that really benefits both sides, but this program makes possible something that would otherwise not be feasible for us. Through this program, we'll be able to reuse 200,000 to 300,000 gallons of water a day, putting it back into the process. It's an environmentally friendly solution, in that it allows us to grow our business while consuming less resources to do so."

Creating efficiencies in wastewater treatment as region grows

The Council first approved this effort in January 2015. At that time, it was a novel approach to thinking about how to handle increasing wastewater treatment needs as the region grows. Rather than investing in its own facilities, Council staff believed this program would encourage private companies to think about how they could play a role in solving that problem and doing so in a way that didn't pass the cost along to ratepayers.

As companies are successful, Council will waive some financing costs

The Council will further incentivize success by waiving up to 30 percent of the financing costs if the companies meet goals of reducing the strength of their wastewater before releasing it into the regional collection and treatment system.

Michael Foods and Kemps were two of the five companies that applied to be part of the program. A third company is expected to sign a contract with the Council in the coming months.

Program benefits

- Low-cost financing for the companies
- Lower costs to the company for wastewater treatment because they've reduced its strength
- Allows Council to delay capital costs of expansion that would be needed to treat more industrial wastewater
- Lower energy use for the Council for treating lower-strength wastewater
- Lower maintenance costs to the Council and partner communities by reducing potential corrosion and odors
- Helps to constrain wastewater rates charged to other users, including residents, by helping to reduce costs of treatment and avoiding need for capacity expansion

Abbott reduces environmental impact, recycles nitrile gloves

Abbott, formerly St. Jude Medical, participates in Kimberly-Clark’s RightCycle program to recycle the nitrile gloves used at Abbott facilities. Approximately 3.65 million gloves, from all the Minnesota Abbott facilities, were recycled in 2015 and 2016. This prevented 49,960 pounds of waste from entering a landfill. Now this recycling is being expanded to Abbott facilities in Texas and California.

"The collection and subsequent recycling of plastic gloves was quickly established at our facilities because the workers saw such an ease to doing it and the direct benefit of these gloves not entering the trash," said Eric Yost, Senior Environmental Manager. This is a win-win situation for Abbott's employees and their ownership in a more effective environmental program.

For more information about the RightCycle program and to find out if it is an option for your company, visit https://www.kcprofessional.com/brands/kimtech/rightcycle
2018 Industrial User rates and fees

The 2018 Industrial User rates and fees are as follows:

Strength Charge rates for wastewater discharged on site:
- $0.235 per excess pound of total suspended solids (TSS)
- $0.1175 per excess pound of chemical oxygen demand (COD)

Full-cost recovery rates for treatment of industrial wastewater hauled to MCES disposal sites:
- $0.413 per excess pound of TSS
- $0.2065 per excess pound of COD

Production-based strength charge for microbrewery and brewpub facilities on General Permit:
- $0.737 per beer barrel

Liquid Waste Hauler Load Charges:
- $60.24 per 1,000 gallons for Domestic Septage and Commercial wastes
- $10.92 per 1,000 gallons for Holding Tank wastes
- $77.46 per 1,000 gallons for Portable Toilet wastes
- $75.24 per 1,000 gallons for Collar County Domestic waste loads

Service fee for Out-of-Service Area loads to remain at $15.00 per 1,000 gallons.

The MCES portion of the Sewer Availability Charge (SAC):
- $2,485 per SAC unit (1 SAC unit = 274 gallons per day. SAC is paid to the local community for use of the Metropolitan Disposal System (MDS) capacity)

The Temporary Capacity Charge (TCC):
- $1.25 per 1,000 gallons (SAC paid directly to MCES for temporary use of the MDS capacity)

Permit Fees (paid annually):
- $1,000 to $9,675 depending on permit status for Industrial, Special and Liquid Waste Hauler Permit fees
- $425 for Sewer Cleaning Waste Hauler General Permit fee
- $475 for all other General Permit fees

Visit MCES Industrial User rates and fees site for more information.