

OPEN CHANNEL NEWS

News bulletin from Metropolitan Council Environmental Services



January 2020

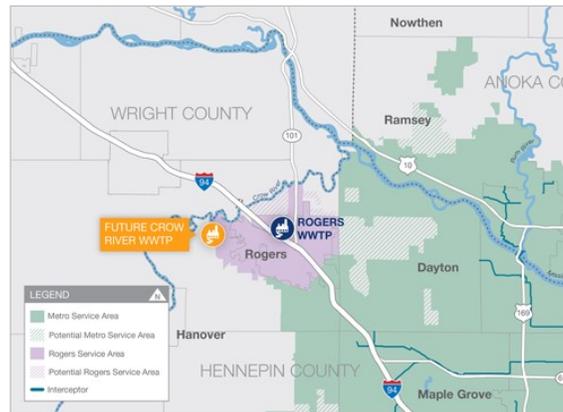
Issue #55

Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) is one of five 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 and integrated planning to ensure sustainable water quality and water supply for the region.

The Industrial Waste & Pollution Prevention (IWPP) Section of MCES regulates and monitors over 850 industrial customers discharging to the sewer system. Our goal is to ensure compliance with local and federal regulations and reduce the amount of pollution entering the wastewater collection system. The IWPP Section also responds to sewer-related spills and community sewer problems. These functions protect MCES and the community collection and treatment facilities, process efficiency, operating personnel and the environment.

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Growth in northwest metro leads to wastewater investment

On July 1, 2019, the Metropolitan Council acquired the Rogers Wastewater Treatment Facility in collaboration with the City of Rogers.

While discussions about expanding treatment capacity in

the area started decades ago, the [City of Rogers](#), in October 2018, formally asked the Council to acquire the 60-year-old facility, citing local growth and needed investment to meet regulatory requirements.

The Council's Environmental Services Division (MCES) operated the plant jointly with the city from July 1 to December 31, 2019, to ensure a smooth transition and learn from the vast experience of city operational staff. As of the first of the year, MCES is sole operator.

The Industrial Waste & Pollution Prevention (IWPP) Section of MCES assumed responsibility for administration of the local industrial discharge permits from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. There are currently two industries on permit.

All costs associated with the acquisition and operations of the Rogers facility will be offset by revenues collected from the city and its industrial customers. MCES expects to operate the plant for about 10 years then decommission the facility after building a new plant on the west side of Rogers, near the Crow River. Initially, the new Crow River Plant will have the capacity to treat about 3 million gallons of wastewater a day, serving Rogers and portions of the cities of Corcoran and Dayton.

Regional wastewater treatment system is efficient, cost-effective

"The City of Rogers has operated its own wastewater treatment facility for decades," said Leisa Thompson, MCES general manager. "The transition to a new plant will address several key issues related to capacity."

According to Thompson, planned growth in the northwest metro will use up the remaining reserve capacity of the existing treatment plant in Rogers over the next decade.

Growth continued...

Important dates:

- Jan. 27, 2020 – Microbrewery Customer Workshop at Metro 94 Business Center – Saint Paul
- Jan. 29, 2020 – Online reporting in-person training session at Metro 94 Business Center – Saint Paul
- Jan. 31, 2020 – All quarterly, semi-annual and annual reports due online for Standard, Special and General permits.
- March 25, 2020 – Liquid Waste Hauler Customer Workshop at Metro 94 Business Center – Saint Paul
- April 23 & 28, 2020 – Industrial Waste Customer Workshops at Metro 94 Business Center – Saint Paul

Growth continued...

The proposed replacement plant will serve anticipated growth in Rogers and surrounding cities, while also helping to free up needed downstream sewer capacity that will serve growth in the urban center.



“This project continues work that began in the 1960s to establish a regional wastewater system, which has become one of the most efficient and

accomplished systems in the country,” said Jeannine Clancy, MCES’s assistant general manager.

The regional wastewater collection and treatment system helps to improve water quality in area lakes and rivers while protecting public health. Clancy calls it a successful regional/local collaboration and partnership that has spanned decades.

Microbrewery Program

Providing oversight, minimizing regulatory burden

As the microbrewery scene in the Twin Cities area grows, so does MCES’s concern with the wastewater being discharged from this industry sector.

Microbreweries and brewpubs have the same brewing processes and wastewater characteristics as full-size breweries. This means that wastewater discharged to the sanitary sewers and our treatments plants from small breweries needs to be regulated. Yet, following our standard permitting procedures to regulate them would be a huge burden on both MCES and these small businesses.

To provide the necessary oversight but minimize regulatory burden, we developed a Microbrewery General Permit Program. Any brewery within the MCES service area that produces 500 barrels of beer or more yet, discharges less than 1 million

gallons of wastewater annually, fits the program criteria.

Breweries in this category are



administered a general permit that requires following best management practices. The permit has reduced reporting requirements compared to a standard permit and has no sampling requirements. The annual general permit fee is significantly less than the standard permit fee and the strength charge rate is based on production rather than reported sampling results.

What’s the concern with brewery wastewater?

While the ingredients going into brewing beer – grains, yeast, pure water – seem natural and harmless, the wastewater leaving the brewing process can damage

sewer pipes and disrupt treatment plant processes if not managed. Materials used to clean and sanitize brewing equipment can change the pH of the wastewater resulting in a pH outside of MCES’ permitted range of 5.0 – 11.0 s.u.

Brewery wastewater can also be very high in strength, meaning it has a high concentration of total suspended solids (TSS) and chemical oxygen demand (COD). This high strength results in more solids removal and additional energy to break down organic matter than typical domestic wastewater, resulting in higher treatment costs. MCES must recover these higher costs and therefore, requires permittees who discharge concentrations above typical domestic waste to pay a strength charge.

For more information, visit our [Microbrewery Program webpage](#).

Microbrewery Customer Workshop

All brewers in the Twin Cities area are invited to attend a workshop hosted by MCES on January 27. At the workshop, we will provide brewers information and answer questions about the microbrewery program and brewers will have the opportunity to give us feedback on how this program affects their business.

Read on for workshop details.

2020 Customer Workshops

MCES will host multiple customer workshops in 2020. These workshops provide an opportunity for us and our industrial customers to come together for an important conversation. IWPP and other MCES staff will lead discussions on rates and fees, online reporting, communications and emerging issues.

Most importantly, we want to hear your feedback on these topics as well as how we can continue to improve service. Your participation will help guide and strengthen our focus on customer service.

Customer Workshop Dates:

- Microbrewery Customer Workshop
 - **January 27, 2020, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**
- Liquid Waste Hauler Customer Workshop
 - **March 25, 2020 (time to be announced)**
- Industrial Customer Workshops
 - **April 23, 2020 (time to be announced)**
 - **April 28, 2020 (time to be announced)**

All workshops will be held at the Metro 94 Business Center.

Invitations will be sent via mail and email. Visit our [Customer Workshop](#) webpage for more information.

ICC – Industrial Capacity Charge

Understanding the calculation



ICC is the new Industrial SAC (Sewer Availability Charge) determination and payment option that may reduce or eliminate large SAC payments. ICC is charged directly to permitted industrial users for discharge volumes exceeding their SAC baseline threshold during a reporting period.

How ICC is calculated...

How ICC is calculated

MCES uses the volume information that is submitted on routine self-monitoring reports to calculate ICC.

For example, a company that

- is a semi-annual reporter
- has a SAC baseline of 100 units
- had 120 operating days during the reporting period
- discharged 3,644,000 gallons during the reporting period

the SAC baseline threshold is:

$$100 \text{ SAC units} \times \frac{274 \text{ gallons}}{\text{SAC unit}} \times 120 \text{ days} = 3,288,000 \text{ gallons}$$

The company discharged 356,000 gallons over their SAC baseline during the reporting period. ICC is assessed for every 1,000 gallons discharged over the baseline.

Therefore, at the 2019 ICC rate of \$2.10 per 1,000 gallons, the amount of ICC that MCES will charge is:

$$356,000 \text{ gallons} \times \frac{\$2.10}{1,000 \text{ gallons}} = \$747.60$$

The company has the option to pay SAC in lieu of ICC to increase their baseline and avoid or minimize future ICC. At the 2019 SAC rate of \$2,485/unit, the SAC payment is:

$$\frac{356,000 \text{ gallons}}{120 \text{ days}} \times \frac{1 \text{ SAC unit}}{274 \text{ gal/day}} = 11 \text{ SAC units} \times \$2,485 = \$27,335$$

For more information see [Industrial SAC/ICC Update](#), contact Nanette.Ewald@metc.state.mn.us, 651-602-4767 or contact your [MCES permit engineer](#).

Online reporting

Reminders:



- Multiple people are not allowed to use one account. Each person using the Industrial Online Reporting System (IORS) must create their own account.
- All persons who will certify, sign and submit data need to submit an Electronic Signature Agreement (ESA). The ESA must include a wet-ink signature and be submitted via US Mail to MCES – IWPP Section, 390 North Robert Street, St. Paul, MN 55101.
- The ESA must be approved by your MCES permit engineer before the account can be activated. Until then, you will not be able to view or submit your self-monitoring reports or permit renewal applications in the system.
- We recommend that you enroll well in advance of your SMR due date, as account activation can take 1-2 days after we receive the wet ink copy of the ESA.

Support is available:

- Visit <https://metro council.org/IORS> to get instructions for reporting online.
- Contact our support team at 651-602-4789 or MCESIndustrialOnlineReporting@metc.state.mn.us
- Attend an in-person training session on **January 29, 2020 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** at the Metro 94 Business Center, 455 Etna Street North, Suite 32, Saint Paul.

Galvanized steel parts can cause zinc exceedances

Galvanized steel parts in production equipment can cause elevated zinc concentrations in a facility's wastewater discharge if water contacts the galvanized steel and is later discharged to the sewer.

Several MCES-permitted industries have experienced zinc violations caused by galvanized parts or equipment. Here are some scenarios:

- A metal finisher had a galvanized steel grate over the floor drain that captured the metal-finishing wastewater.
- A metal parts assembly facility used a phosphating wand to prepare parts prior to painting. The overspray from the wand sprayed onto a galvanized garage door.
- A food producer used refrigeration units with galvanized steel pans to capture condensate that was routed to the sewer.
- A food producer conveyed product through a refrigeration and freezer system. Although the trays and spirals of the system were made of stainless steel, the catwalk and freezer coils were made of galvanized steel. On non-production days, the entire system was sanitized with alkaline cleaners and the discharge went to the sewer.

What you can do if you experience zinc exceedances from galvanized steel

- Alter your operations so water does not come in contact with galvanized parts.
- Replace the galvanized parts or equipment.
- Coat the galvanized parts with epoxy or other nonreactive material.
- Pretreat the wastewater to remove zinc, using ion exchange or precipitation.

Minnesota Technical Assistance Program



MnTAP is a non-regulatory program in the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota. MCES supports MnTAP's efforts to find industrial water use conservation opportunities.

MnTAP provides no-cost technical assistance to help Minnesota businesses *"implement industry-tailored solutions that prevent pollution at the source, maximize efficient use of resources, and reduce energy use and cost to improve public health and the environment."*

MnTAP can help you evaluate your facility for opportunities to reduce water use and identify technologies that may help. Upon identifying those opportunities, a MnTAP intern, consultant or contractor can provide implementation assistance.

Applications are currently being accepted for 2020 projects. For more information about MnTAP and the intern program, visit <http://www.mntap.umn.edu> or contact Nathan Landwehr, MnTAP Intern Program Administrator at landwehr@umn.com or 612-624-4697.

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Industrial Waste &
Pollution Prevention Section
390 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55101-1805

Robert W. Nordquist
Industrial Waste & Pollution
Prevention Section Manager
651-602-4706

For further information about
Open Channel News contact:
Maggie Lundell / 651-602-4769

For general information about
the Industrial Waste & Pollution
Prevention Section contact:
Brittney McDonough / 651-602-4703

For information about industrial user
rates, fees, and ICC / SAC, contact:
Nanette Ewald / 651-602-4767



2020 Industrial User Rates and Fees

The 2020 Industrial User rates and fees are as follows:

Strength Charge rates for wastewater discharged on site will increase to:

- \$0.254 per excess pound of total suspended solids (TSS)
- \$0.127 per excess pound of chemical oxygen demand (COD)

Full-cost recovery rates for treatment of industrial wastewater hauled to MCES disposal sites will remain at:

- \$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 will increase to:

- \$0.797 per beer barrel

Liquid Waste Hauler Load Charges:

- \$60.24 per 1,000 gallons for Domestic Septage and Commercial wastes
- \$11.29 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.

Industrial Capacity Charge (ICC) will increase to:

- \$2.14 per 1,000 gallons

Sewer Availability Charge (SAC) will remain at:

- \$2,485 per SAC unit (1 SAC unit = 274 gallons per day.) SAC is paid local community for use of the Metropolitan Disposal System (MDS) capacity.

The Temporary Capacity Charge (TCC) will remain at:

- \$1.25 per 1,000 gallons (SAC paid directly to MCES for temporary use of the MDS capacity)

Permit Fees (paid annually):

- \$1,050 to \$10,350 depending on permit status for Industrial, Special and Liquid Waste Hauler permits
- \$425 for Sewer Cleaning Waste Hauler General permits
- \$475 for all other General permits

Visit [MCES Industrial User rates and fees site](#) for more information.



Let's stay connected!



To make sure you receive important information regarding your MCES permit and your invitation to the 2020 Customer Workshops, add the following emails to your address book:

MCESIndustrialOnlineReporting@metc.state.mn.us and
METC@public.govdelivery.com. (GovDelivery is a news delivery system. This is not an active email account.)

If you need to update your contact information, please contact your [MCES permit engineer](#) or email us at iwpp@metc.state.mn.us.