

OPEN CHANNEL NEWS

News bulletin from Metropolitan Council Environmental Services



May 2023 - Issue #61

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 and Pollution Prevention (IWPP) Section of MCES regulates and monitors more than 900 industrial customers discharging to the sanitary sewer systems. 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 wastewater collection and treatment facilities, process efficiency, operating personnel, and the environment.

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2023 customer workshops

Industrial customer workshops

We are excited to offer two industrial customer workshops this year, one in-person and one virtual. At these workshops, we will share our budget and preliminary rates process, pretreatment program news and updates, and want to hear from you on matters that concern your business.

- **In-person: Thursday, May 4, 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.**
 - 455 Etna St, Suite 32, St. Paul MN 55106
 - Doors open at 8:30 a.m. Staff will be available before and after the workshop to answer questions.
- **Virtual: Tuesday, May 9, 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. (Teams video conference)**



All customers holding an MCES permit are invited to the workshops. Watch your email for an invitation from METC@public.govdelivery.com to register. We look forward to your participation.

Microbrewery and liquid waste hauler customer workshops were a success

The January 17 workshop for microbreweries included an overview of the microbrewery program, microbrewery rates and fees, formulas for water balance and acceptable deductions, and insights into the University of Minnesota, Minnesota Technical Assistance Program's microbrewery services and projects.

The April 27 workshop for liquid waste haulers included an overview of the septage management program, load charges, accepted waste types, disposal site issues and procedures, reporting information, and an update on low-impact permits.

Review recordings of the virtual workshops on our [workshop webpage](#), along with a summary of the questions and answers from each event.

Flood levels cause Metro Plant road closure

The road leading to the Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant and Liquid Waste Receiving (LWR) Facility was closed April 20 due to rising Mississippi River levels in St. Paul.

Metro LWR takes in 45% of all liquid waste loads hauled to our five LWR facilities and is the only facility that accepts industrial waste loads, normally. While access to Metro LWR is closed, we opened a temporary site and expanded accepted loads and hours at our four other facilities. [Access updates](#) are posted online.

A temporary elevated road to the Metro Plant was constructed so essential employees can safely reach and operate the plant, which treats 75% of the sewage generated in the seven-county metro area.



Important Dates:

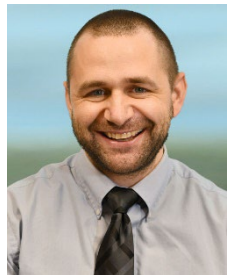
- May 4 and 9 – Industrial Customer Workshops
- July 15 – All Liquid Waste Hauler quarterly reports due [online](#)
- July 31 – All Standard and Special quarterly and semi-annual reports due [online](#)

Meet the new IWPP assistant managers



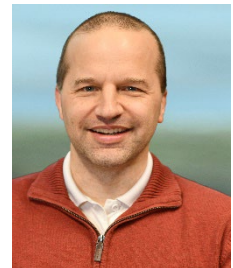
Nanette Ewald – Assistant Manager – Data, Systems, and Revenue

Nanette Ewald is the new Industrial Waste and Pollution Prevention (IWPP) assistant manager of Data, Systems, and Revenue replacing Tina Nelson who moved to IWPP manager in 2021. Nanette manages the operation of IWPP's database, online reporting system, and mobile technology. She oversees invoicing and management of the industrial sewer availability charge (SAC) program and supports MCES Finance in setting industrial user rates and fees.



Daniel Russow – Assistant Manager – Permitting and Enforcement

Daniel Russow is the new IWPP assistant manager of Permitting and Enforcement replacing Peter Sandberg who retired in April 2022. Daniel leads IWPP's Enforcement Response Team and oversees the new user identification program, which includes issuing new permits. He assists in ensuring IWPP implements pretreatment program changes necessary to comply with all federal, state, and local regulations.



Tim Rothstein – Assistant Manager – Field Monitoring and Spill Response

Tim Rothstein is the new IWPP assistant manager of Field Monitoring and Spill Response replacing Bob Golden who retired in August 2022. Tim manages the monitoring of industrial users to check compliance and verify discharge characteristics. He also coordinates spill response and investigations of our wastewater treatment plants and conveyance system and provides resources to conduct permit-required monitoring at the plants.

Meet the new IWPP senior program coordinator



Kristi Goble – Senior Program Coordinator

Kristi Goble is the new IWPP senior program coordinator replacing Nanette Ewald who moved to assistant manager in October 2022. Kristi administers all IWPP revenue related functions including the industrial SAC and industrial capacity charge (ICC) programs. She also administers the new user identification program.

IWPP facility entry sign-in reminder

As the delegated control authority under the General Pretreatment Regulations and Minnesota Rules, IWPP staff have the right of access to premises and records of any user of the metropolitan disposal system.

Upon entry, IWPP staff may sign a facility's sign-in sheet, log, or visitor's register, including paper or electronic sign-in methods, unless there is restrictive language associated with it. Staff are prohibited from signing any document agreeing to conditions of entry, including, but not limited to confidentiality of information.

If your facility's standard visitor sign-in method has restrictive language associated with it, you must provide an alternate sign-in method with the restricted language removed or allow entry without a sign-in.

If IWPP staff sign any document agreeing to conditions of entry at your facility, the Industrial Discharge Permit supersedes any such agreement.

MCES launches regional FOG task force

FOG – Fats, Oils, Grease

On April 20, MCES launched a regional task force to build a partnership with communities and businesses and discuss strategies for reducing FOG in public sanitary sewer systems.



The FOG problem

MCES and many communities in the metro area are experiencing increased FOG issues within the public sewer system. When excess FOG is discharged to the sewer, it sticks to the inside of pipes and over time, will build up. This buildup can lead to clogged pipes and back-ups into homes and businesses, as well as necessitate costly maintenance and equipment repairs.

The most effective and least expensive strategy to combat FOG is source reduction and elimination.

The FOG Task Force objective

The task force is comprised of representatives from seven communities, three industries, and two food service establishments within the seven-county metro area. We will meet four times over the next few months to discuss the possibilities of tackling the FOG problem together. Some of the questions on the table will be:

- How can MCES support communities and businesses in reducing FOG in the public sanitary sewers?
- Would the development of a FOG toolkit, including best management practices and educational outreach materials, be helpful for communities, business, and residents?
- Should we explore a regional FOG strategy to promote the capture and beneficial reuse of FOG?

Individual accounts are required for online reporting

The Industrial Online Reporting System (IORS) follows U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines established in its electronic reporting rule, [CROMERR](#). To meet these guidelines, each person must have their own account in IORS and submit the required enrollment forms, which includes a wet-ink signature for Responsible Official (RO) type accounts.



Please notify the IORS Support Team and the assigned permit staff if there is a change in personnel submitting information into the IORS for your facility. Any new person will need to create their own account and submit the required enrollment forms to MCES. They cannot share, transfer, or edit an existing account's information. If a previous user is no longer at your facility, please notify the IORS Support Team to deactivate their account.

IORS Support Team: MCESIndustrialOnlineReporting@metc.state.mn.us, 651-602-4789

Visit [Online Reporting](#) for more information and resources.

Dental clinic program transitions to General Permits

In July, MCES is transitioning the dental clinic Amalgam Recovery Program to be permit based, similar to other commercial and industrial users of the metropolitan disposal system. The permit will be a General Permit issued for five years with a new Certificate of Compliance and a requirement to submit an Annual Certification Statement. Late statements will be subject to a cost-recovery late fee. IWPP staff will continue to conduct inspections of dental clinics to observe the operation of the amalgam separator and verify compliance with the EPA Dental Rule and local regulations.



All dental clinics located within the MCES service area (seven-county metropolitan area) that place or remove amalgam are required to participate in and comply with the MCES Amalgam Recovery Program according to federal regulations and the MCES Waste Discharge Rules.

Since the beginning of the [Amalgam Recovery Program](#), MCES has seen a 67% decrease in the loading of mercury coming into the Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant in St. Paul.

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Jami Haider / 651-602-4703

For information about industrial user rates, fees, and ICC/SAC: contact Kristi Goble / 651-602-8114

For online reporting information and assistance: contact our support team / 651-602-4789

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



2023 Industrial User rates and fees

Permit fees (paid annually):

- \$650 to \$11,575 depending on permit status for Standard, Special, and Liquid Waste Hauler Permits
- \$425 for Sewer Cleaning Waste Hauler General Permits
- \$475 for all other General Permits

Strength charges for wastewater discharged on site:

- \$0.292 per excess pound of total suspended solids (TSS)
- \$0.146 per excess pound of chemical oxygen demand (COD)

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

- \$0.4130 per excess pound of TSS
- \$0.2065 per excess pound of COD

Production-based strength charge for microbrewery and brewpub facilities on General Permit:

- \$0.916 per beer barrel

Liquid Waste Hauler load charges:

- \$11.69 per 1,000 gallons for Domestic Holding Tank wastes
- \$60.24 per 1,000 gallons for Domestic Septage and Commercial wastes
- \$77.46 per 1,000 gallons for Portable Toilet wastes
- \$75.24 per 1,000 gallons for Out-of-Service Area Domestic wastes

Service fee for Out-of-Service Area loads:

- \$15.00 per 1,000 gallons

Industrial Capacity Charge (ICC):

- \$2.25 per 1,000 gallons
- \$2.88 per 1,000 gallons Rural Center – East Bethel
- \$4.24 per 1,000 gallons Rural Center – Elko New Market



Sewer Availability Charge (SAC): (paid to the local community for use of the metropolitan disposal system (MDS))

- \$2,485 per SAC unit (1 unit = 274 gallons per day)
- \$3,185 per SAC unit Rural Center – East Bethel
- \$4,685 per SAC unit Rural Center – Elko New Market

Temporary Capacity Charge (TCC): (paid directly to MCES for temporary use of the MDS)

- \$1.25 per 1,000 gallons
- \$1.60 per 1,000 gallons Rural Center – East Bethel
- \$2.36 per 1,000 gallons Rural Center – Elko New Market

For more information about the MCES Industrial User rates and fees, visit the [MCES Industrial User Rates and Fees](#) website. The 2024 preliminary rates will be presented at the customer workshops and available on our website after the workshops.

Let's stay connected!

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

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



To update your contact information, please contact the [MCES staff](#) assigned to your permit or email iwpp@metc.state.mn.us.