

OPEN CHANNEL NEWS

News bulletin from Metropolitan Council Environmental Services



April 2025 - Issue #65

Environmental Services is one of three primary organizational divisions of the Metropolitan Council, a regional public agency working for the seven-county metropolitan area. Our mission is to partner, plan, and provide services to protect our region's water. This includes 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 the Met Council 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. IWPP also responds to sewer-related spills and community sewer problems. These functions protect Met Council and community wastewater collection and treatment facilities, process efficiency, operating personnel, and the environment.

In this issue

- 2025 Industrial Customer Workshops
- Wastewater rates remain below national average
- IWPP monitoring for PFAS
- Spill reporting poster now available in four languages
- New webpage for Standard Industrial Discharge Permits
- New general permit for PFAS-impacted water treatment plants
- MnTAP's 2024 intern projects result in big water saving solutions for local industries
- 2025 Industrial User rates and fees
- Let's stay connected!

2025 Industrial Customer Workshops

Attend one of our annual industrial customer workshops to learn about the proposed 2026 budget, preliminary rates and process, pretreatment program news and updates, and to hear from you on matters that concern your business.

The [2026 preliminary industrial user rates and fees are available online](#) and will be presented at these workshops. Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP) staff will present their services and continued work to reduce per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). We will also discuss other emerging contaminants of concern.

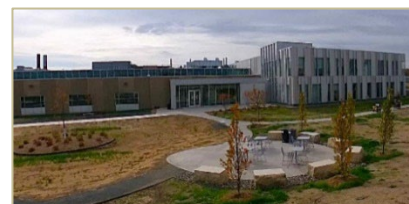
Choose from an in-person or virtual workshop. The in-person workshop will be held at our new office location at the Metropolitan Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF). We're excited to offer a tour of the Metro WRRF following the May 8 in-person workshop. Advance registration for the tour is required.

- **In-Person:** Thursday, May 8, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Doors open at 8:00 am and staff will be available before and after the workshop to answer questions.

- **Facility Tour:** Thursday, May 8, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Maximum of 40 attendees)

- **Virtual:** Tuesday, May 20, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.



All customers holding a Met Council permit are invited to join the workshops. Watch your email inbox for an invitation from METC@public.govdelivery.com to register. We look forward to your participation and hearing from you.

Liquid Waste Hauler open house

We are holding an open house for liquid waste haulers this year instead of a workshop. The open house will be held **May 1, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** at our Metro Liquid Waste Receiving facility. Information provided will include handouts of our Liquid Waste Hauler Program, load charges, and accepted waste types by sites. There will be an opportunity to view and ask questions about the LWH load tracker template, as well as take a brief behind-the-scenes tour of our liquid waste receiving site.

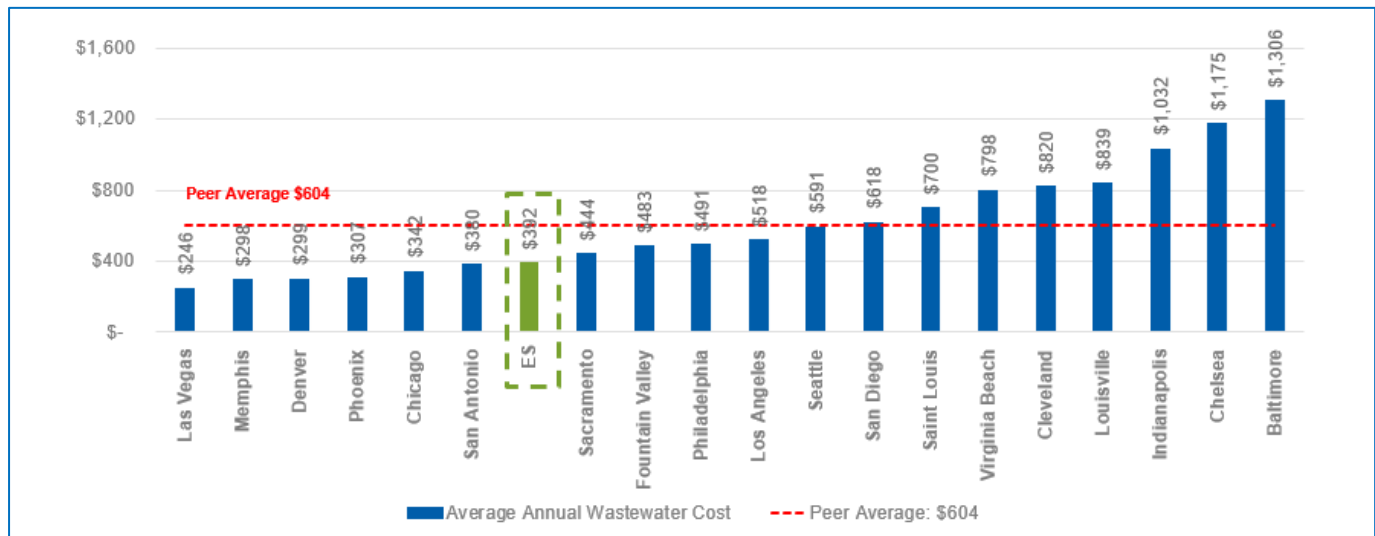
All customers holding a Liquid Waste Hauler permit are invited to attend the open house. Invites have been sent from METC@public.govdelivery.com. If you missed the invite, please contact our office at iwpp@metc.state.mn.us or call 651-602-4703.

Important dates:

- April 30, 2025 – All Standard and Special quarterly reports due using the [Industrial Online Reporting System](#)
- May 1, 2025 – Liquid Waste Hauler Open House at Metro Plant Liquid Waste Receiving
- May 8, 2025 – Industrial Customer Workshop at Metro Plant Services Building
- May 20, 2025 – Industrial Customer Workshop virtual via MS Teams

Wastewater rates remain below national average

Metropolitan Council Environmental Services strives to keep wastewater rates predictable and justifiable. According to data from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), our region's average wastewater services retail rate is 36% lower than our peer group. Our peer group consists of 20 agencies that treat more than 100 million gallons per day and report their rates to NACWA.



Because Environmental Services provides cost-effective wastewater management, Twin Cities metro area wastewater services retail rates (city rates, which include our wholesale charges) are competitive, making the region more affordable than other metropolitan areas.

Our 2025 report on residential wastewater rates is published on the Met Council's [rates and fees webpage](#).

IWPP monitoring for PFAS

Metropolitan Council Environmental Services continues to follow its PFAS pollutant management plan. This plan was finalized in June 2024 and is part of a continued partnership with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to identify and reduce per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in Minnesota's environment.

As part of this plan, Industrial Waste and Pollution Prevention (IWPP) staff will conduct PFAS sampling over the next two years at all permitted industries that are classified as Significant Industrial Users (SIUs) and have the potential for PFAS in their discharge. We will sample at some non-SIUs that have PFAS-containing-discharge potential and will also study PFAS in residential and commercial wastewater sources. This sampling is being partially funded by a grant that Met Council received from the MPCA. The analytical results will be used to identify industries that are contributing PFAS to the influent of our water resource recovery facilities.

Industries to complete a PFAS desktop screening tool and products survey

Later this year, we will ask all permitted industries to complete [MPCA's Desktop Screening Tool](#) to assess their PFAS risk, and to report this risk result to IWPP on our PFAS Products Survey. The survey will also require that all PFAS-containing products in use at your facility be reported to us.

IWPP is focused on source identification and reduction, there are no local pretreatment standards for PFAS. If your facility uses products with PFAS, we encourage you to find a PFAS-free substitution or to reduce the use as much as possible and prevent it from entering your wastewater discharge.

You can attend one of our upcoming Customer Workshops to learn more about IWPP's source identification and reduction activities and the PFAS regulatory landscape, or visit our PFAS webpage at [PFAS - Metropolitan Council](#).

Spill reporting poster now available in four languages

It is a requirement of your permit that you display spill reporting instructions in prominent areas for employees to see in the event of an accidental spill to the sanitary sewer. We have a spill reporting poster for you to display that is now available in four languages: English, Hmong, Somali, and Spanish. Please visit our website to download posters for your facility.



[Spill Reporting - Metropolitan Council](#)

New webpage for Standard Industrial Discharge Permits

Our new webpage for permittees holding a Standard Industrial Discharge Permit is full of information about your permit requirements and our standard permitting process. Find permit forms, how-to documents, and other resources to assist you. Please visit the webpage at:



[Standard Industrial Discharge Permits - Metropolitan Council](#)

New general discharge permit for PFAS-impacted water treatment plants

Metropolitan Council's Environmental Services division has implemented a new general permit for PFAS Impacted Water Treatment Plants. This permit type is specifically for municipal water treatment facilities that have implemented a pretreatment system designed to treat source water that is impacted with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).



MnTAP's 2024 intern projects result in big water saving solutions for local industries

The Minnesota Technical Assistance Program's (MnTAP) 2024 metropolitan area intern projects resulted in solutions that could save local industries approximately 21.9 million gallons of water usage and \$91,600 annually, as well as significant environmental impacts.

[Aacron, Inc. of Plymouth, Minnesota](#)

MnTAP intern Osama Samaha (Chemical Engineering, University of Minnesota Duluth) helped Aacron, which specializes in anodizing of aluminum, explore opportunities to reduce water use.

Solutions to reduce water use include installing continuous flow pipe restrictors and enforcing restricted well usage. These solutions have been implemented and are expected to reduce water use by 16.4 million gallons or \$35,200 per year.

[Aspire Bakeries of Chaska, Minnesota](#)

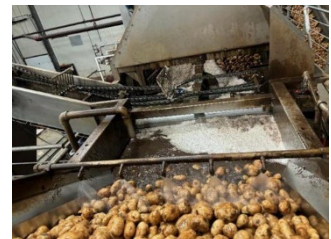
MnTAP intern Jackson Harris (Chemical Engineering, University of Minnesota Twin Cities) helped Aspire Bakeries, which manufactures a large variety of frozen cookie dough, identify areas to reduce water.

A solution to reduce water includes using a low flow nozzle tip for sanitation. If implemented, this solution could reduce water use by 780,000 gallons per year or \$7,400 per year.

[Michael Foods of Chaska, Minnesota](#)

MnTAP intern Padon Kinzley (Bioproducts & Biosystems Engineering, University of Minnesota Twin Cities) helped Michael Foods, a potato processing plant, identify areas for water savings

A solution to reduce water use is to install flow restrictors on peel starch separators. If implemented, this recommendation could reduce water use by 4,700,000 gallons or \$49,000 per year.



For more information about these and MnTAP's other 2024 intern projects, visit [2024 MnTAP Intern Solutions](#).

These water efficiency projects are supported by the Metropolitan Council Water Resources Group and funded by the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment. Learn more about this partnership with MnTAP, visit [MnTAP - Metropolitan Council](#).

Open Channel News

Published by the Industrial Waste and Pollution Prevention (IWPP) section of the Metropolitan Council's Environmental Services division.
390 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55101-1805

Contacts

Industrial Waste and Pollution Prevention Section Manager
Tina Nelson / 651-602-4728

Industrial Waste and Pollution Prevention general information
Jami Haider: 651-602-4703

Industrial user rates, fees, and Industrial Capacity Charge (ICC)/Sewer Availability Charge (SAC)
Kristi Goble: 651-602-8114

Online reporting and assistance
Support team: 651-602-4789

Open Channel News
Maggie Lundell: 651-602-4769



2025 Industrial User rates and fees

Permit fees (paid annually):

- \$750 to \$13,050 depending on permit status for Standard, Special, and Liquid Waste Hauler Permits
- \$475 for Sewer Cleaning Waste Hauler General Permits
- \$525 for all other General Permits

Strength charges for wastewater discharged on site:

- \$0.3320 per excess pound of total suspended solids (TSS)
- \$0.1660 per excess pound of chemical oxygen demand (COD)

Full-cost recovery rates for treatment of industrial wastewater hauled to Met Council 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:

- \$1.041 per beer barrel

Liquid Waste Hauler load charges:

- \$12.74 per 1,000 gallons for Domestic Holding Tank wastes
- \$64.65 per 1,000 gallons for Domestic Septage and Commercial wastes
- \$82.54 per 1,000 gallons for Portable Toilet wastes
- \$79.65 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):

- \$2.35 per 1,000 gallons
- \$3.01 per 1,000 gallons Rural Center – East Bethel
- \$4.43 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), city may include additional local charge)

- \$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 Met Council 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, visit [Industrial Waste Rates and Fees](#) on the Met Council website.

Let's stay connected!

To make sure you receive important information regarding your 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 [Industrial Waste and Pollution Prevention staff](#) assigned to your permit or email iwpp@metc.state.mn.us.