



Industrial Waste and Pollution Prevention Section of the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services Division

Who We Are

The Environmental Services division of the Metropolitan Council designs, constructs, and operates the Metropolitan Disposal System (MDS), a publicly owned system of interceptor sewers and water resource recovery facilities, for the conveyance, treatment, and disposal of domestic, industrial and other wastewater from residential, commercial, institutional and industrial users in the metropolitan area.

The Environmental Services division must implement national and state pretreatment standards and requirements and maintain a program to regulate use of the MDS, enforce applicable standards and requirements, and charge for services and activities necessary to carry out its obligations under federal and state law (Code of Federal Regulations, title 40, chapter I, subchapter N and applicable provisions of Minnesota Rules, chapter 7049).

The Metropolitan Council is the delegated control authority under the General Pretreatment Regulations and Minnesota Rules, chapter 7049 and has adopted Waste Discharge Rules for the MDS pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, chapter 473. These rules apply to the use of the MDS by all persons and facilities whether served directly or indirectly by the MDS.

The Industrial Waste and Pollution Prevention (IWPP) section of the Metropolitan Council is the delegated Pretreatment Program authority for the seven-county service area. With a vision of clean water for future generations, IWPP has the purpose of protecting Metropolitan Council water resource recovery facilities, the wastewater conveyance system, public health and safety, and the region's environmental health by monitoring and regulating users of the MDS.

Right of Access

Under Minnesota Rule 7049.0163 and Waste Discharge Rule 214.00, IWPP personnel, upon presentation of credentials (Met Council Government Employee Identification Card), have the right to enter the premises of any industrial user to determine compliance with the Waste Discharge Rules for the MDS and any permit issued under the rules. The industrial user must allow IWPP personnel access to enter the premises to inspect the facility, the waste discharge, pretreatment systems, pretreatment solids disposal methods, or monitoring methods. IWPP personnel have the right to install on the industrial user's premises necessary devices to conduct sampling, inspection, compliance monitoring, and/or wastewater flow measuring. When requested, a permittee must provide reasonable access to waste disposal records and any information relevant to indirect discharge. The Metropolitan Council may examine, and copy records relevant to indirect discharge, pass-through, or interference.

IWPP personnel are prohibited from signing any document agreeing to conditions of entry, including, but not limited to confidentiality of information.

Inspecting Permitted Industrial Users

IWPP is required to inspect permitted industrial users to determine compliance with the applicable federal, state, and local rules and permit requirements and conditions (40 CFR 403.8(f)(2)(v)). IWPP must inspect Significant Industrial Users (SIUs) at least annually. IWPP typically inspects non-SIUs once per permit cycle, generally around the time of permit renewal. IWPP inspections are typically scheduled with the Permittee but may be unannounced.

What to expect when IWPP is inspecting your facility:

- IWPP staff will typically start the inspection with an opening conference.
- For a routine inspection at a permitted facility issued a standard industrial discharge permit, IWPP staff will complete an inspection checklist.
 - Much of the checklist may be completed during the opening conference.
 - The checklist covers a variety of topics, including:
 - Process Operations
 - Stored Chemicals, Raw Material and Product Tanks
 - Process Wastestreams
 - Other Discharged Wastestreams
 - Pretreatment
 - Meters and Volume/Flow Determination
 - Monitoring Points, and
 - Waste Management
- IWPP staff will tour the facility to verify information submitted to us and to verify compliance with the applicable rules and your industrial discharge permit.
- IWPP staff may request to review waste disposal records.
- IWPP staff will typically end the inspection with a closing conference.
 - During the closing conference, IWPP staff may review any action items from the inspection, including action items for IWPP and action items for the industrial user.
- Throughout the inspection, IWPP staff answer any questions that you have concerning the rules and your industrial discharge permit.
 - IWPP strives to build a collaborative relationship with industrial users by inviting questions, sharing knowledge, and establishing and maintaining solid communication.

Monitoring Permitted Industrial Users

IWPP is required to monitor permitted industrial users to verify compliance and discharge characteristics (40 CFR 403.8(f)(2)(v)). IWPP must monitor SIUs at least annually. IWPP typically monitors non-SIUs once per permit cycle. IWPP monitoring projects are mostly unannounced and typically span three operating days. You may request split samples for each day IWPP monitors your facility.

What to expect when IWPP monitors your wastewater discharge:

- An IWPP technician will request access to the permit-designated monitoring points if needed.
- For monitoring points with continuous flow:
 - An automatic sampler will be set up to collect samples at a set frequency.
 - Flow and pH monitoring equipment may also be set up.
 - The sampler and other equipment will be serviced daily.
- For monitoring points with intermittent or batch flow:

- Grab samples will be collected by IWPP if possible.
- If samples cannot be collected by IWPP, IWPP may leave containers and instructions on how to collect the samples.
- You may be required to collect hourly water or effluent meter readings:
 - If required, these readings must be submitted to the IWPP technician each day after the first day of the project and within two hours of their arrival.
 - The failure to collect accurate and complete hourly meter readings and/or the failure to provide the readings to the IWPP technician within two hours from the time that the technician arrives at your facility is an administrative violation.