

Discharge of Wastewater from a Construction Site Located in the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago Service Area

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (District) has established the following guidelines for discharges of wastewater from construction and similar sites to the District's sewerage system. Such discharges must not exceed the pollutant concentration limits in Appendix B of the District's Sewage and Waste Control Ordinance (SWCO), nor contain other hazardous wastes. A copy of the SWCO is available at:

<https://mwr.org/sites/default/files/documents/SWCO%20Signed%20-%202023.pdf>

Wastewater as defined herein means groundwater, stormwater, or other miscellaneous waters with no exposure to manufacturing, processing, or material storage areas at an industrial facility. As detailed below, this does not include certain wastewater from remediation sites, which are governed by the District's Environmental Wastewater Remediation Ordinance (ERWO).

To be eligible for construction site discharge, sites must be located in the District's combined sewer service area, which may be found at:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/1d1d074c38a141ea8d651aae3fc43ce3>.

Wastewater discharged from construction sites located in areas not served by District combined sewers will not be accepted. If you are uncertain whether your site is located within a combined or separate sewer area, please contact the District's Industrial Waste Division (IWD) at the number or email address below to determine whether your site is eligible.

The District will allow the discharge of applicable wastewaters as defined above from construction sites as long as the following conditions are met:

1. You must conduct an environmental assessment and obtain analytical results indicating that the wastewater to be discharged conforms to the pollutant concentration limits and discharge prohibitions listed in Appendix B of the SWCO. A report of the analytical results must be maintained, kept on file and made available to the District upon request until one year following the discharge.
2. If necessary to be in compliance with the SWCO, pretreatment systems for abating any potential contaminants must be installed and properly utilized and supervised.
3. Upon request by District staff, you must provide a site map that identifies and describes each discharge location at which the discharge will enter the public sewer system (e.g., an existing sewer connection, manhole, etc.).
4. The local municipality must approve the discharge if its sewerage system is to be used.
5. You must prepare a report of every accumulated stormwater discharge occurrence during dry weather. The report shall specify the date of the

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occurrence, start time and end time of discharge, discharge inlet location, pump make, pump flow rate, and volume of each discharge. The report should be kept on file and made available to the District upon request for one year following the discharge. **There shall be no wastewater discharge during rain events.**

6. If use of, or access to, District property is required for the discharge, a General Permit from the District must be obtained. To request a permit, please send a letter on company letterhead to:

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Law Department
Attn: Head Assistant Attorney, Real Estate Division
100 East Erie, 3rd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60611

The letter should describe the site location, the location of each discharge point, the sewers that will be utilized for the discharge, the nature of the project, the purpose for which the permit is needed, and the anticipated duration of the project requiring such discharge.

7. Pumping rates of the discharge shall be controlled so as not to cause sewer surcharge.
8. In the event that unacceptable conditions are observed onsite, the discharge to the sewerage system must be immediately suspended upon notification from the IWD. Resumption of discharge may commence upon written notification from the IWD.
9. Failure to comply with all terms and conditions of the SWCO may result in the commencement of an enforcement action by the District.

Applicants seeking to discharge to any Illinois waterway must apply for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency at <https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/illinois-mpdes-permits> or by calling 217-782-0610.

Discharge of environmental remediation wastewater subject to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, landfill leachate, or a site having a leaking underground storage tank requires a Special Discharge Authorization permit pursuant to the ERWO, found at https://mwr.org/sites/default/files/documents/ERWOrdinance_0.pdf. Similar to the construction sites program described above, these sites must be located in a combined sewer area under the District's jurisdiction to be eligible for a Special Discharge Authorization permit.

Contact the IWD at mwr-ucts@mwr.org, or (312) 751-3000 with any questions.