

Water Quality Permitting for the King County Conveyance and Treatment System

Betsy Cooper

NPDES Administrator, KCWTD

206-263-3728

MWPAAC April 4, 2007



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division

Presentation Outline

- Legal and regulatory framework for allowable discharges into surface waters
- Scope of NPDES permit process
- What permit contains
- Frequency of review and renewal
- Public's involvement in the process

Legal and Regulatory Framework for Discharge into Surface Waters

- Federal Clean Water Act
 - No discharge of pollutants in water of US without a permit
 - Permit can be granted by EPA or delegated agency
 - Discharge of pollutants can be allowed if such discharge does not create or significantly degrade water quality



Legal Framework (con't)

- EPA has delegated authority to WA State Department of Ecology to administer the pollution discharge permit program to meet CWA requirements
- Permit program is called National Pollution Discharge Elimination System - NPDES
- Ecology also has State Waste Discharge Permits for group septic systems and other discharges

Scope of NPDES Permit Process

- Ecology reviews of facilities and operations
 - Treatment, conveyance facilities and outfalls;
 - Capacity
 - Pollutant and toxicity data
 - Other programs (e.g. – pretreatment; CSOs; sediment management)
- Set limits on discharge of individual pollutants
- Set timing of submissions - data & deliverables
- Issue draft; takes comments; issue final with any revisions needed based on comments

King County WTD NPDES Permits

- West Point/West Section Permit
- South Plant/East Section Permit
- Vashon Treatment Plant Permit
- In the future:
 - Carnation Treatment Plant Permit
 - Brightwater Permit



What Does the NPDES Permit Contain?

- Discharge Limitations
 - Treatment Plants
 - BOD; TSS; FC; pH; Total Residual Chlorine
 - CSO Treatment Facilities
 - Annual TSS removal; FC; Settleable Solids; # of discharge events per year; 5-yr average volume
- Reporting and Monitoring Requirements
- Facility Loadings Analysis
- I/I Progress Report

Permit Contains (con't)

- Operation and Maintenance Requirement and Reporting
- Pretreatment Program Reporting and Program Operating Requirements
- Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing
- Sediment Monitoring (West Point only)
- CSO Program Reporting and Progress Requirements (West Section only)

Permit Contains (con't)

- Special Wet-Weather Operating Requirements
 - reduced % removal at West Point due to CSO treatment as part of plant operation
 - blending requirements for South Plant
- Alternate Outfall Requirements (South)
 - Green River Emergency and Maintenance Use
- Outfall Evaluation Requirements

How Frequently are Permits Renewed?

- KC must apply for permit renewal 6 months prior to the permit's expiration date
- Permit term is typically 5 years but can be extended if Ecology does not complete process in time
- Ecology will issue a draft permit; call for comments from public and agencies; then issue final permit – may also hold a hearing

How is Public Involved?

- Ecology issues an agency draft, then a public draft
- Notice of draft permit is issued in newspaper and on Ecology's website
- Public and appropriate federal and state agencies have 30 days to submit comments and request a public hearing
- Latest West Point permit also calls for a meeting with interested organizations 1 year before permit expiration to solicit issues/concerns

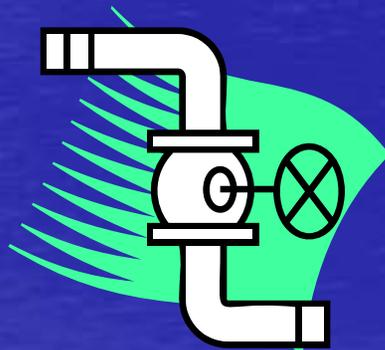


Current KC Permit Expiration

West Point/ West – December 2008

South Plant/ East – September 2009

Vashon Treatment Plant – August 2011





Questions?