

**Pretreatment Ordinance  
Executive Summary of Changes**

## **Purpose**

Enacting of a Pretreatment Ordinance is recommended. While not yet mandated by the US EPA or Illinois EPA, a Pretreatment Ordinance will help to control the discharge of toxic, harmful or untreatable wastewater to the public sewer system and transported to the Local Public Owned Treatment Works (POTW). The purpose of the program is to protect the general health and safety of the public, the Lake County Public Works (LCPW) staff, and the integrity of the plant's effluent. Restrictions on harmful pollutants will also protect the sewer system, the reclamation facilities, the biosolids program, and the environment.

Enforcement of the Ordinance will promote the reuse of biosolids, or sludge, produced at the Wastewater Reclamation Facilities (WRFs) and will prevent non-compliance with the Illinois EPA issued NPDES permits.

### **Article 1: Purpose and Definitions**

Establishes authority, jurisdiction and minimum requirements. The ordinance applies to municipalities that discharge to a LCPW treatment facility and does not have its own pretreatment ordinance. Technical terms, abbreviations and definitions are listed with attention to clarity and better understanding.

### **Article 2: Categories of Discharges**

The Pretreatment Ordinance also applies to and significant industrial users within the service area of a LCPW treatment facility. The provisions of the Ordinance are as follows:

1. Prohibited discharges
2. Federal categorical pretreatment standards and Illinois state requirements
3. Local pollutant limits
4. Surcharge Program
5. Inspections

Users are subject to each of these restrictions.

- 1) Prohibited discharges include waste materials that may create potential hazards. Prohibited discharges include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - Pollutants that would create a fire or explosion
  - Oil and grease
  - Discharges that would cause structural damage to the WRFs
  - Solid or viscous substances
  - Pollutants that result in toxic gases, vapors or fumes

- 2) Federal categorical pretreatment standards and Illinois state requirements are incorporated into the Ordinance by reference.
- 3) Local Limits were calculated on a site-specific basis for each of the three Wastewater Reclamation Facilities: Des Plaines River, New Century Town, and Mill Creek. Local Limits prevent industrial pollutants from passing through the Wastewater Reclamation Facility without receiving adequate treatment. Pollutants that will impact the operation of the WRF and result in a violation of the NPDES are also restricted. The Ordinance requires new discharge sources to be compliant with the Local Limits as of the effective date of the Ordinance and existing sources to be compliant within two years of the effective date.
- 4) The Ordinance includes provisions to work with stakeholders in order to have a reduction in the concentration of radium discharged from water systems with treatment process.
- 5) The Pretreatment Ordinance includes provisions for a Surcharge Program. Some pollutants (i.e., Biological Oxygen Demand (CBOD<sub>5</sub>), Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and Ammonia Nitrogen (NH<sub>3</sub>-N)) are deemed compatible with the wastewater treatment process to a certain degree. A user who discharges above the stated surcharge level concentration will be charged a fee, in lieu of a violation. The fee is meant to recover the additional treatment costs.
- 6) The Pretreatment Ordinance includes provisions to allow Lake County to conduct inspections of each facility discharging to our treatment plants with the purpose of sampling, monitoring and metering of the user's discharge. Inspections will be coordinated with the owner/director of each facility. At the discretion of Lake County, a user may be required to install a control manhole or sampling chamber on each discharge, at the user's expense in order to conduct proper sampling.

### **Article 3: Wastewater Discharge Permit**

The Pretreatment Ordinance requires industrial users (IUs) to obtain a Wastewater Discharge Permit prior to connection or discharging to Lake County Wastewater Reclamation Facility. Conditions of the permit require the Permittee to report to Lake County any accidental or deliberate discharges, bypasses or upsets, outlines monitoring requirements, local limits, as well as to provide reports demonstrating compliance with the pretreatment standards set forth in the Ordinance. This permit is in conjunction with any required state or federal issued pretreatment permits.

### **Article 4: Enforcement**

The Ordinance shall be enforced through issuance of the following: Notice of Ordinance Violations, Consent Orders, Compliance Directives, and Cease and Desist Orders.