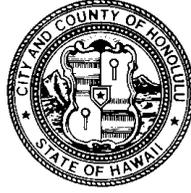


DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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Discharge of Effluent Other Than Storm Water Runoff

Background Information

The Clean Water Act was established in 1972 with the goal to make US waters clean enough to be swimmable and fishable. To do this, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program.

Since the City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), or drainage system, discharges directly to streams and the ocean, the City is required to obtain an NPDES permit from the State Department of Health. This permit requires the City to reduce the amount of pollutants discharged from the City's MS4 in order to meet the water quality standards of the State of Hawaii to the maximum extent practicable.

The City's MS4 is the system for the conveyance of storm water, and includes roads and streets with drainage systems, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, and storm drains owned by the City.

Components of the City's permit include investigating complaints of pollutant discharges, pursuing enforcement action against dischargers, and requiring licenses for all private storm drain connections to the City's MS4.

What is the law saying?

The City's MS4 was designed to convey storm water, not trash or pollutants. Effluent discharges are subject to certain requirements and may require an Effluent Discharge Permit issued by the City. For information about non-storm discharges that are allowed, see the back of this page under "Frequently Asked Questions."



Certain non-storm water discharges that are not considered as significant sources of pollution may be allowed under the City's NPDES permit or by individual NPDES and City permits

The Ordinance

The Revised Ordinances of Honolulu (ROH), Section 14-12.22 outlines the rules for discharges of effluent other than storm water runoff:

"a) No person shall discharge any effluent other than storm water runoff onto any public right-of-way and/or into any drainage facility without first obtaining a permit from the chief engineer. The chief engineer will only issue a permit upon application when the chief engineer determines that such discharge will not create a drainage or pollution problem or cause a violation of any provisions of the city NPDES permit. The chief engineer may condition the granting of the permit with requirements to prevent drainage and/or pollution problems or mitigative measures which will meet any conditions of the city NPDES permit. Except for those non-storm water discharges authorized by the city NPDES permit, no discharge shall commence unless an NPDES permit is first obtained from the Department of Health, State of Hawaii, for the discharge of any pollutant into state waters through the municipal separate storm sewer system.

e) Any discharge which violates any condition of the permit or the state water quality standards in Chapter 11-54, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), shall also be a violation of Article 12 of this chapter and may result in a cease and desist order. In addition, the city by written notice may terminate the permit for any discharge which violates any condition of the permit or the state water quality standards in Chapter 11-54 HAR."



Surface runoff from industrial facilities and discharge from construction activities may require a State NPDES permit and a Discharge Permit/Form from the City for any discharges entering a City drainage facility.

Examples of Discharges Allowed under the City's NPDES Permit:



Residential car wash water is an allowed discharge.



Swimming pool water must be dechlorinated before it is allowed to enter the City's MS4. In addition, a permit must be obtained before discharge.



Power washing of sidewalks, plazas, and driveways, with water only, is an allowed non-storm water discharge. Pollutants should be filtered from runoff before it enters the City's MS4.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What types of non-storm water discharges are allowed under the City's NPDES permit?

A: Part B.2 of the City's NPDES permit lists the following non-storm discharges that may be discharged* into a City drainage facility without a separate State NPDES permit:

- Water line flushing (excludes construction related activities such as hydrotesting or chlorination)
- Landscape irrigation
- Diverted stream flows
- Rising ground waters
- Uncontaminated ground water infiltration
- Uncontaminated pumped ground water
- Discharges from potable water sources and foundation drains
- Air conditioning condensate
- Irrigation water
- Springs
- Water from crawl space pumps and footing drains
- Lawn watering runoff
- Water for individual residential car washing
- Water from charity car washes
- Flows from riparian habitats and wetlands
- **Dechlorinated swimming pool discharges
- Exterior building wash water (water only)
- Residual street wash water (water only), including wash water from sidewalks, plazas, and driveways, but excluding parking lots
- Discharges or flows from fire fighting activities

* Best management practices (BMPs) should be used to minimize discharge of pollutants. More information is available in separate Fact Sheets from the City's website. In addition, if any discharge is directly connected to the City's MS4, such as through a pipe or channel, a Private Storm Drain Connection permit is required.

** Discharge of dechlorinated swimming pool water requires a City discharge permit.

Q: Am I allowed to discharge effluent not listed under the City's NPDES permit?

A: Discharging of effluent not listed above may be allowed if a separate NPDES permit and City discharge permit are obtained. Typical NPDES-permitted discharges include storm water associated with industrial facilities, and effluent associated with construction activities, such as dewatering or hydrotesting.

Q: What types of discharge permits does the City require?

A: City permits are required for the following conditions:

- Private storm drain connections
- Dechlorinated swimming pool water (allowed under City's NPDES permit)
- Surface runoff from industrial facilities (requires separate NPDES permit)
- Water line flushing or surface runoff from construction activities (requires separate NPDES permit)
- Other effluent that requires separate NPDES permit

Copies of these forms can be found on the City's website www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com and clicking on the Forms tab on the left.

Enforcement

The City may issue warnings or fines depending on the severity of the violation, which could range from \$1,000 to \$25,000 per violation per day.

How can I get more information?

Storm Water Quality Branch..... 768-3242
 Environmental Concern Line..... 768-3300

Visit the City's website at www.cleanwaterhonolulu.com