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FACT SHEET

Handling of Dewatering Effluent from Utility Manholes and Other Maintenance and Operations Substructure Facilities

Background

The NPDES Permit issued by the State Department of Health (DOH) to the City and County of Honolulu for its municipal separate storm sewer system provides in pertinent part as follows:

B. DISCHARGE LIMITATIONS

2. The following non-storm water discharges may be discharged into the Permittee's separate storm sewer system without an NPDES permit, provided that the Permittee determines that such discharges will not contain pollutants in amounts that will cause or contribute to a violation of an applicable water quality standard and the Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) shall identify and ensure the implementation of appropriate pollution prevention measures for the non-storm water component(s) of the discharge.
 - f. Uncontaminated pumped ground water.
 - k. Water from crawl space pumps, including discharge from buildings with basements, and crawl space pumps used by utility companies to dewater utility manholes and other maintenance and operations substructure facilities.

Section 14-12.22(a) of the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu states in part that "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."

Section 14-1.9 (a) of the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu states that "No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any storm water, surface water, groundwater, roof runoff, or subsurface drainage into any public sewer or any private sewer which is connected to the public sewer."

Handling Procedure

Where feasible, the effluent from a utility manhole that is pumped out should be stored temporarily in another utility manhole/vault to allow sediment to separate and then pumped back into the same structure. If effluent cannot be temporarily stored, the City may allow effluent from a utility manhole into its separate storm sewer system if certain protocols are followed: Where feasible, duct seal bladders should be used to reduce the flow of sub surface water into the manholes.

1. Visual inspection for debris and other basic water quality parameters should be conducted.
2. Field tests for the presence of various contaminants (PH (acid/base), lead, organic solvent/petroleum distillate, hydrogen sulfide, nitrite etc.) should be conducted.
3. If the effluent passes both visual and field tests, then it may be discharged into the City's separate storm sewer system with the approval of the Storm Water Quality Branch (SWQB) of ENV. Accordingly, an Effluent Discharge Permit from the ENV is required. Applications for Effluent Discharge Permit are available at Kapolei Hale, 1000 Uluohia Street, Suite 303, Kapolei, Hawaii 96707. For more information, please call SWQB of ENV @ 768-3245.
4. All planned discharges to the separate storm sewer system must be reported to the SWQB of ENV by phone 768-3245, Fax 768-3289 or e-mail banagaran@honolulu.gov, at least 24 hours in advance of said discharge. The information reported to the City should include the location, date and volume of discharge. It should also include the contractor's name and phone number, as well as the utility company's contact person and phone number. All discharges must be piped into the separate storm sewer system.
5. If there is no storm drain system nearby and discharge on lot and street will create a nuisance or hazardous condition, the effluent may be discharged into the sanitary sewer system with the approval of the Regulatory Control Branch of ENV. Accordingly, an industrial wastewater discharge permit (IWDP) from the ENV is required.
6. If the effluent does not pass both visual and field tests, then it can be treated as industrial waste and may be discharged into the City's sanitary sewer system with the approval of the Regulatory Control Branch of ENV. Accordingly, an IWDP from the ENV is required.
7. Applications for IWDPs are available at Kapolei Hale, 1000 Uluohia Street, Suite 303, Kapolei, Hawaii 96707. For more information, please call Regulatory Branch of ENV @ 768-3262.
8. Under emergency situations, the field test may be waived and the effluent may be discharged to the City's separate storm sewer system. However, a sample must be collected for testing. The emergency situation must be well documented to justify the field test waiver. All such emergency discharges must be reported to the SWQB within 24 hours after the discharge. The test results and all documentation must be submitted and received by the SWQ Branch within twenty working days after the emergency discharge.
9. Because of health concerns, the discharger shall take every precaution not to discharge into storm drains that drain directly to any beach.