

CITY OF GREENSBORO
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT - INDUSTRIAL WASTE SECTION
CONTAMINANTS OF EMERGING CONCERN POLICY

Purpose

The City of Greensboro (“City”) Water Resources Department Industrial Waste Section (“IWS”) developed this policy in order to outline the approach the City will use in addressing Contaminants of Emerging Concern (“CECs”).

The City has determined that the discharge of CECs to the Greensboro wastewater system may bring about risks or harm to the T. Z. Osborne Water Reclamation Facility, receiving waters, human health, or other environmental impacts addressed by the City of Greensboro Sewer Use Ordinance and pretreatment program.

Legal Authority

The City of Greensboro Sewer Use and Pretreatment Ordinance includes the following language:

Article I. Section 4. (24.) Definitions

Harm - Damage to public or private property; injury to any person(s); POTW process upset/inhibition/disruption and/or adverse change in POTW effluent characteristics/concentrations; adverse change in POTW sludge characteristics/concentrations; and/or adverse impact on the environment including sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs).

Article II. Section I. (B)(4.) Prohibited Discharge Standards

Any pollutant, including oxygen demanding pollutants (BOD, etc.), released in a discharge at a flow rate and/or pollutant concentration, either singly or by interaction with other pollutants, which will cause harm and/or interference with the POTW.

Article II, Section 20 - User Monitoring Requirements

The Industrial Waste Section may, by regulation, order, permit, written notification, enforcement action or otherwise, require any user who discharges into the wastewater system to:

- 1. Establish and maintain records;*
- 2. Submit reports;*
- 3. Install, calibrate, use, and maintain sampling and monitoring equipment or methods;*
- 4. Sample discharges and effluents (in accordance with the methods, at the locations, at the intervals, and in the manner as the Industrial Waste Section shall prescribe); and*
- 5. Provide other information relating to discharges into the wastewater system.*

Contaminants of Emerging Concern

The City of Greensboro will address CECs in the following manner when the Industrial Waste Section determines it necessary in order to comply with T. Z. Osborne effluent criteria, protect downstream drinking water intakes, and/or implement other Federal or state requirements.

- 1. Information.** The City may require Users to provide specified information on raw materials, products, processes, chemical reactions, and internal waste-streams that may contribute to the creation or discharge of CECs, including information on the purchase, use, manufacture (intentional or incidental), wastewater discharge, or other information or data on specified CECs.
- 2. Data.** The City may require Users to initiate routine grab or composite sampling, sample retention, and sample analysis for specified CECs at any time and at the User's expense. The City may also require that all CECs data generated be provided/submitted to the City, including any existing or historical data.
- 3. Source Investigation, Evaluation, and Survey.** The City may require Users to conduct a Source Investigation, Evaluation and Survey.
- 4. Monitoring and Control of CECs.** When the City determines it is necessary for the purposes of this policy, the IWS may require additional actions by Users to address CECs. Such actions may include (a) further or routine monitoring requirements; (b) technically-based or technology-based uniform or User specific numeric discharge values in existing control mechanisms, including but not limited to: wastewater discharge permits, local pollutant allocation documents, or letters of acceptance; and (c) requirements for Best Management Practices (BMPs) or Pollutant Management Plan (PMP).

Any such additional requirements/actions may be based on ensuring compliance with numeric T.Z. Osborne effluent criteria, protection of downstream drinking water sources, and/or implementation of other Federal or state mandates for CECs.

- 5. Oversight and Enforcement.** When the IWS determines that a User is not in compliance with the requirements included in the CECs Policy, enforcement actions will follow the guidelines in the City of Greensboro Enforcement Response Plan.

Definitions

Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs). Chemical and other waste contaminants posing unique issues and challenges to the environmental community as a result of (a) the recent development of new chemicals or other products; (b) new or recently identified byproducts or waste products; (c) newly discovered or suspected adverse health or environmental impacts; (d) physical or chemical properties that are not fully evaluated or understood; (e) an absence of or pending changes to fully defined risk levels, water quality standards or guidance or other environmental program levels of control; and (f) other factors.

CECs include, but are not limited to: PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances), 1,4-dioxane, nanomaterials, pharmaceuticals and their constituents, and steroids and hormones.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) or Pollutant Management Plan (PMP)

An integrated plan that includes schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and structural and/or managerial practices approved by the City IWS that, when used singly or in combination, control, prevent or reduce the discharge of specified CECs to the T. Z. Osborne Water Reclamation Facility.

BMPs/PMPs may include physical controls, pretreatment processes, operational procedures, staff training, material or product substitution, and practices to control spills or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw material storage. BMPs/PMPs can be applied before, during, and/or after pollution generating activities to reduce or eliminate the introduction of CECs into the City wastewater system.

Confidential Business Information (CBI)

Certain information generated and submitted in response to the requirements in this policy may be held confidential or proprietary under 40 CFR 403.14 at the request of the User and acceptance by the City IWS.

- Confidential information or Confidential Business Information is information that is considered proprietary, trade secret, or may have an adverse impact on a business advantage should it be divulged.
- *The request for confidentiality must be made at the time of the initial submission of the information by stamping/marketing the words “confidential” or “confidential business information” on each page containing such information.*
- Requests for confidential treatment shall be governed by procedures specified in 40 CFR Part 2 [Federal Regulations] and Article X of the Greensboro Sewer Use and Pretreatment Ordinance. *In accordance with 40 CFR Part 403.14, information and data provided that identifies the content, volume and frequency of the effluent wastewater discharge cannot be claimed as confidential and shall be available to the public without restriction.*