

***** COUNTY OF ERIE*****
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING
DIVISION OF SEWERAGE MANAGEMENT

**GUIDELINES FOR THE DISCHARGE OF PETROLEUM CONTAMINATED
WATER AND GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION**

Discharge of the contents of petroleum storage tanks and petroleum contaminated groundwater to the County's sanitary sewerage system is prohibited without prior written permission of the Erie County Sewer District. The design of the sanitary sewers is intended for residential and industrial wastewater and therefore, groundwater, hydrocarbons, and other related substances are generally prohibited.

The following are the minimum guidelines under which Erie County Sewer Districts may accept the discharge from water filled petroleum storage tanks, contaminated ground water from the tank pit, or treated groundwater from remediation sites. Acceptance of the discharge water must not infringe on, or limit the available capacity of the sanitary sewer system for existing or future sanitary or industrial wastewater users. Requests are considered on a case by case basis.

A written request to discharge petroleum contaminated water (or treated groundwater) must be submitted to the Division of Sewerage Management that addresses the provisions above and includes the following information:

1. Name and address of the facility owner and operator (if different from the owner).
2. Name and address of the contractor.
3. Description of the wastewater in the tank or causing the contamination.
4. Description of the proposed operation and treatment methods. A flow delivery system that allows for the discharge to be reduced or stopped if necessitated by the District due to wet weather conditions or as otherwise determined by the District should also be included if applicable.
5. The volume, rate, and duration of the discharge. The discharge must be of a limited duration or of a specific volume.
6. A sketch of the well(s), storage tank(s), and disposal point.
7. The following analytical data must be submitted prior to approval:
 - a) pH
 - b) Pensky-Martens Closed Cup Test
 - c) Metals – arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury, selenium, silver, nickel, copper, and zinc.
 - d) EPA methods 624 and 625 (or BTEX as appropriate).

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8. Results of the above tests must meet the following limits:
 - a) pH must be between 5 – 12 s.u.
 - b) Flashpoint must be greater than 140°F
 - c) Metals must be below RCRA TCLP limits and /or Sewer District limits.
 - d) Results of the toxic organics tests will determine if the wastewater will require pretreatment prior to discharge.

9. Groundwater from remediation sites must meet District limits for discharge, have no other contaminants of concern, and must be treated prior to discharge.

10. Applicants for groundwater remediation discharges must also submit a plan for an alternate method of disposal should the District, at a later time, require that discharge can no longer be accepted into the sewer system.

11. A letter or specific statement from the NYSDEC stating the necessity for the District's acceptance of remediated groundwater is required for remediation site requests.

If the written request is complete, a representative of the Division of Sewerage Management will be assigned to inspect the location. Once the information has been verified and the application is approvable, a letter of authorization would detail the proper discharge procedures, any limitations and charges. A temporary permit may then be issued depending on the conditions found.

The approval to discharge, if granted, is limited to discharge into those facilities that are completely under the jurisdiction of the County of Erie and do not constitute approval for discharge into sewerage facilities that are owned/operator by other entities. It is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain the permission of those entities prior to requesting permission from the County Sewer District. Nor does this approval supersede approval required of any other regulating body if required (i.e. DEC, EPA, et al.)

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