

TRUCKED AND HAULED SEPTAGE PROGRAM POLICY



CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

Public Works Utilities
P.O. Box 5021
Great Falls, MT 59403
(406) 727-8390

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1. Forward

It is the policy of the City of Great Falls (City) to set forth uniform requirements for discharges from all industrial users into the Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW), and to any persons outside the City who are, by permit, contract or agreement with Great Falls, users of the City POTW and enable the City to comply with applicable state and federal laws including the Clean Water Act and the General Pretreatment Regulations at 40 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) Part 403 (12.13.010 Official Code of the City of Great Falls). Toward that end, the City finds there are important benefits to human health, and the environment, to provide sanitary sewer disposal services to residences in the greater Great Falls area that are not directly connected to the sanitary sewer. Along with providing that service, comes recognition that there is a need to protect the City's wastewater treatment plant from illicit discharges of harmful substances that could cause upset of the treatment process or pass-through of pollutants from Trucked and Hauled Waste indirect discharges.

2. Purpose

Pursuant to 40 CFR 403.8, the City of Great Falls has developed and implemented an approved industrial pretreatment (IPT) program. As part of its IPT program, the City has adopted in the Official Code of the City of Great Falls (OCCGF) "Sector Control Program(s)." The purpose of this Trucked and Hauled Waste Sector Control Program document is to establish a framework to implement a Trucked and Hauled Waste permitting program.

Specifically, this program has been developed to implement The OCCGF section 13.12.090 (B), and Prevent:

1. Adverse effects on worker health and safety;
2. Pass-through of pollutants to the Missouri River;
3. Interference with plant operations at the City of Great Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP); and
4. Contamination of municipal sludge at the WWTP.

3. Scope and Applicability

This program includes requirements related to all discharges of Hauled Waste to the City POTW and applies to all persons proposing to discharge Hauled Waste to the City of Great Falls POTW. This program also applies to any persons that propose to, or currently own or operate, a recreational vehicle dump station that is connected to the City sanitary sewer and includes requirements related to operation, security, and maintenance related to these facilities.

4. Program Administration

4.1 Authority

This program was developed under the authority of OCCGF (13.12.090) as a Sector Control component of the City's Industrial Pretreatment program. This program is administered by the Public Works Department (13.12.010).

4.2 Program Implementation

The Trucked and Hauled Waste program, described in this document, consists of general prohibitions and requirements devised to protect the POTW from indirect discharges that will cause interference or pass through. Pursuant to 13.12.090 6.B.2.a. (OCCGF), the requirements in this policy will be implemented by issuing, or denying, a Septage Waste Hauler Discharge Permit (permit) to each applicant. The permit will conditionally allow discharge of Hauled Waste to the POTW. The conditions of the permit will reflect the specifically authorized activity, associated requirements and prohibitions, and reflect the City Industrial Pretreatment Program compliance and enforcement components as described herein.

The City will determine user permit and program compliance, by conducting compliance monitoring activities. Compliance monitoring activities will include reviewing User manifests, User submitted sampling results, inspecting the SWRA and vehicles using the SWRA, and random sampling of User discharges. Sampling will include collection of a representative sample, laboratory analysis, and applicable reporting. Permittees are encouraged to collect, preserve, and analyze split samples alongside City sampling efforts.

The City may periodically make arrangements with a Permittee to inspect applicable records including, but not limited to, vehicle tank cleaning records, haul load manifests, current Certificate of Liability Insurance, copies of all valid permits and licenses, Performance Bond of at least \$25,000 against damages, and current City Business License.

5. Requirements

5.1 Prohibitions

In addition to the prohibitions at 13.12.030 A. and B. OCCGF, the following discharges to the City POTW are prohibited:

1. Acceptable Wastes without a Septage Waste Hauler Discharge Permit;
2. Hauled Waste originating from facilities or properties located outside the boundary of Cascade County Montana unless approved in writing prior to discharge;

3. Industrial Waste. For the purpose of this prohibition domestic waste, septic tank waste, or any other approvable waste that is mixed with any quantity of industrial waste is classified as industrial waste;
4. Wastes other than acceptable wastes or septage, unless approved in writing prior to discharge;
5. Wastewater treatment sludge or biosolids unless approved in writing prior to discharge;
6. Acceptable Wastes, to any location of the POTW other than the location specifically authorized by this document and the permit;
7. Acceptable Wastes or septage exceeding 5.0 % solids or 10,000 mg/L 5-day biological oxygen demand (BOD₅) unless approved in writing prior to discharge;
8. Waste with a pH greater than or equal to 12.5 or less than 5.5 standard units;
9. Categorical or Listed Hazardous Wastes as defined in federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA);
10. Hauled Waste originating from food service establishment oil\grease traps or interceptors; and
11. Hauled Waste from sources subject to the Effluent Guidelines and Standards at Title 40, Chapter I, Subchapter N Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

5.2 Permit Application

Section 13.12.090 B.1 (OCCGF) prohibits discharges of trucked or hauled pollutants, except as authorized by a permit. A hauled waste operation owner, or operator, wishing to discharge to the POTW may obtain a Septage Waste Hauler Discharge Permit (permit) by filing a complete application 90 days prior to beginning operation, or prior to expiration of, a current permit (13.12.090 6.B.2.c OCCGF). A complete application must include the following:

1. Completed and signed Trucked and Hauled Septage Hauler Application Form;
2. Completed Septic Waste Fleet Identification Form for each vehicle;
3. Certificate of Liability Insurance;
4. Copies of all valid permits and licenses. To include copies of current Montana Department of Environmental Quality Septic Tank, Cesspool and Privy Cleaner Licenses/Permit(s) and any other applicable state of Montana permits;
5. Performance Bond of at least \$25,000 against damages. Proof of Performance Bond shall be provided to the City with the Permit Application Form;
6. Copy of current City of Great Falls Business License and
7. Permit application fee.

5.3 Discharge Locations

Discharges of Hauled Waste at unauthorized locations, may result in unintended and unauthorized direct discharges to State water, sanitary sewer hydraulic overload, sanitary sewer blockages that contribute to sanitary sewer overflow (SSO), and/or atmosphere within the POTW that is hazardous to human health, and/or deleterious to City infrastructure. Further, 40 CFR 403.5 prohibits the discharge of trucked or hauled

pollutants, except at points designated by the POTW. Finally, disposal of trucked hauled wastes at sites, other than those specifically allowed by the City, is prohibited and a violation of City Ordinance (13.12.090 6.B.2.f. OCCGF). As such, the City provides a Septic Waste Receiving Area (SWRA), located on the property grounds at the waste water treatment plant. It is the responsibility of each and every user to maintain sanitary and safe conditions at the SWRA in accordance with section 13.12.090 6.B.2.g.

5.4 Monitoring & Reporting

Pursuant to 40 CFR 403.5 and 403.8, qualified pretreatment programs, such as the City's, are required to develop and maintain local limits to protect the POTW from interference and pass through. Pursuant to 40 CFR 122.44(j)(2)(ii), The City's Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) permit requires the City to conduct a technical evaluation of the need to revise its local limits each time the MPDES permit is renewed. This requirement was reinforced by EPA when it audited the City's pretreatment program in 2015.

A technical evaluation of the local limits includes quantification and accounting of pollutants discharged to the POTW relative to treatment removal efficiencies and the City's MPDES permit limits. Discharges to the City by Hauled Waste program Users must be accounted for by the technical evaluation. In order to maintain an adequate data-set to conduct the technical evaluation and pursuant to section 13.12.090 6.B.2.h, the discharge permit will require each User to collect, and report, the analytical results of one sample per year. The sample must be collected from a load that is representative of the volume and nature of the Users discharge to the WWTP. The sample shall be analyzed for the parameters using the methods described in the permit and the result reported, on or before, January 28, of the following calendar year. Sample results for 2025 taken from representative load delivered on June 14, 2025, must be reported on, or before, January 28, 2026. Sample reports must include sample date, sample time, a copy of the hauled waste manifest for the load, sample chain of custody, analytical results for parameters required in the permit, and laboratory bench sheets.

All Users will also be required to provide a copy of the Trucked and Hauled Waste Manifest, at the time of discharge. The Manifest will include details for each load delivered including transporter\permittee information, waste generator administrative and contact information, date pumped, proportional distribution for multi-generator loads, and a certification statement with original signature. Permittees are also required to maintain and make available, upon request, other operational documentation as mentioned in section 4.2, 5.2 and 5.5; however, users will not be required to report this information.

5.5 Vehicle Maintenance

Section 13.12.090 6.B.2.b. requires that all permitted Users, under this program design, maintain, and operate their haul vehicles in a manner that allows for convenient and safe inspection, convenient and safe sampling of tank contents, and general good operating conditions to promote good housekeeping at the POTW and SWRA. All Users will be

required to document and maintain records of vehicle tank cleaning and maintenance for a minimum of 3 years.

6. Recreational Vehicle Dump Stations

The City acknowledges that it has authorized several Recreational Vehicle (RV) Dump Stations that are directly connected to the POTW. They are as follows:

1. Montana Expo Park #1:
 - a. Location: In the RV Park west of the FFA building
 - b. Address: 400 3rd Street Northwest
 - c. Owner : Cascade County
2. Montana Expo Park #2 – 400 3rd Street Northwest:
 - a. Location: In RV Park west of the FFA building
 - b. Address: 400 3rd Street Northwest
 - c. Owner : Cascade County
3. Montana Expo Park #3 – 400 3rd Street Northwest:
 - a. Location: Southwest the Livestock Buildings complex
 - b. Address: 400 3rd Street Northwest
 - c. Owner : Cascade County
4. Town Pump #1015:
 - a. Location: South of car wash
 - b. Address: 505 Northwest By-Pass
 - c. Owner: Town Pump, Inc.
5. Holiday Station Stores:
 - a. Location: East of carwash
 - b. Address: 601 Northwest By-Pass
 - c. Owner: Holiday Station stores, Inc.
6. Flying J Travel Plaza:
 - a. Location: East of pump islands
 - b. Address: 3715 31st Street Southwest
 - c. Owner: Town Pump, Inc.
7. Love's Travel Shop:
 - a. Location: West side of Parking Lot
 - b. Address: 3219 Airport Dr.
 - c. Owner: Love's
8. Mountain View Co-op:
 - a. Location: North side of main building,
 - b. Address: 1105 Smelter Avenue
 - c. Owner: Mountain View Co-op
9. Dick's RV Park:
 - a. Location: West of lot as you enter
 - b. Address: 1403 11th St SW
 - c. Owner: Kathy, Bob and Jim Dick
10. Benefis Ann Thornton Memorial RV Park:
 - a. Address: 540 17th Ave South

- b. Owner: Benefis
- 11. Malmstrom Base FamCamp Annex
 - a. Address: Avenue J and 4th Ave North
 - b. Owner: Malmstrom USAF
- 12. Big Iron Truck Wash
 - a. Address: 2801 Poplar Dr.
 - b. Owner: Aaron Corbett

Pursuant to section 13.12.030, the above listed facilities are not required to obtain a Permit nor are the private recreational vehicles that use these RV Dump Stations. However, RV Dump Stations are only authorized to accept hauled waste discharged directly from personal use recreational vehicles that originates, and has been generated, through the normal private use of said RV. RV Dump Stations are not authorized to accept wastes from any other source and are responsible for providing signage at, and security of, the discharge location to prevent illicit discharges. These facilities and/or the discharger may be subject to enforcement in accordance with section 13.12.100 (OCCGF) and the Industrial Pretreatment Enforcement Response Plan for any illicit discharges introduced to the POTW from by the RV Dump Stations.

7. Fees

Pursuant to 13.2.050, the City has established a Hauled Waste Disposal Fee. Hauled waste disposal, and permit application fees, apply as adopted annually through Commission resolution. In accordance with Commission Resolution, Table 3 and 4 provide the application and disposal fees effective June 1, 2025. Note, these rates are subject to change annually contact the Public Works Environmental Division (406) 727-8390 for current rates.

Table 3 – Septage Waste Hauler Discharge Permit Application Fees			
Proposed Discharge in Gallons per Day	0-10,000	10,001-25,000	25,001-100,000
Hauled Waste Permit Application Fee	\$128	\$207	\$265

Table 4 – Septage Waste Hauler Disposal Fee	
Fee per 1,000 Gallons Discharged, or Portion Thereof	\$68.37

Disposal fees will be invoiced to the User on a regular basis, usually monthly. Load quantities (in gallons) shall be billed by tank size/capacity only and not by an estimate of gallons contained within.

8. Security & Access

After obtaining the proper Septage Waste Hauler Discharge Permit, an Access number and PIN number will be issued for each facility to activate the SWRA. Loads of hauled waste will be declined from any User that does not have an access number and pin number. Access number and Pin Numbers are not transferable.

The SWRA hours of operation are 24 hours, seven days a week. The City of Great Falls reserves the right to refuse access after normal business hours to individual permittee(s). Entry to the SWRA may be recorded on an automated system for record keeping and security purposes.

9. Enforcement

The Permittee must comply with all conditions of the permit, Title 13 Chapter 12 of the Official Code of the City of Great Falls and all applicable state and federal requirements. Any discharge, or vehicle permit, will be subject to suspension or revocation by the City, at its discretion, for any infraction of the Official Code of the City of Great Falls Title 13, or if the Public Works Director determines it is necessary to protect the City's facilities.

Violations will be addressed in accordance with the City's Industrial Pretreatment Enforcement Response Plan. Enforcement may include, but is not limited to, immediate suspension and/or revocation of the permit (OCCGF 13.12.090 6.B.2.d.), enforcement pursuant to section 13.12.100 OCCGF, and/or the imposition of civil and/or criminal penalties as provided for in Federal, State or local law.

9.1 POTW Violation

If the POTW is fined by the State, or Federal government, for a violation of their Nation Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, as the result of the actions or inaction of a Permittee, the fine and other related costs shall be charged to the responsible Permittee.

10. Review and Revision Schedule

This policy may be reviewed and revised at the City's discretion, in response to User request, public complaint, or as necessary to comply with existing or new and evolving federal or state requirements.

This policy has been approved and issued by the City of Great Falls Public Works.

11. Definitions and Acronyms

Acceptable Waste: Only septage from domestic sanitary septic tanks and portable toilet wastes.

Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD): BOD is the amount of dissolved oxygen needed by aerobic biological organisms to break down organic material present in a given water sample at certain temperature over a specific time period.

Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR): DMR is a United States regulatory term for a periodic water pollution report prepared by industries, municipalities, and other facilities discharging to surface waters.

City: The City of Great Falls.

Code of Federal Regulation (CFR): CFR is the codification of the general and permanent rules and regulations published in the Federal Register by the executive departments and agencies of the federal government of the United States.

Hauled Waste: Hauled Waste has the meaning provided at 13.12.020 OCCGF and includes sewage, domestic waste, industrial waste, or other waste that is pumped, siphoned, or otherwise drained from a holding tank, pond, privy, privy vault, pit, portable toilet (“porta-potty”), cesspool, septic tank, septic system, grease trap, or other storage device and transported to the POTW by vehicle, railcar or other mode not including through pipes directly connected to the City’s sanitary sewer.

Industrial Waste: The liquid or solid wastes from industrial manufacturing processes, trade or business activities producing non-domestic or non-residential sewage as distinct from domestic wastewater.

Industrial Pretreatment (IPT): The treatment of wastewater by commercial and industrial facilities to remove harmful pollutants before being discharged to a sewer system under the control of a publicly owned treatment works (POTWs).

Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES): The system developed by the Montana Board of Health and Environmental Sciences and the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences for issuing permits for the discharge of pollutants from point sources into state waters.

Official Code of the City of Great Falls (OCCGF): An ordinance law passed by a municipal government. A municipality, such as a city is a political subdivision of a state within which a municipal corporation has been established to provide local government to a population in a defined area.

Permittee: A person or business holding a Septage Waste Hauler Discharge Permit, including, but not limited to, persons authorized to act on behalf of the permittee and/or employees of the permittee.

Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW): A treatment works as defined by Section 212 of the Act (33 U.S.C. 1292), which is owned in this instance by the City. This definition includes any sewers that convey wastewater to the POTW treatment plant, but does not include pipes, sewers or other conveyances not connected to a facility providing treatment.

Recreational Vehicle (RV): The usual term for a motor vehicle or trailer equipped with living space and amenities found in a home.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA): The RCRA is the principal federal law in the United States governing the disposal of solid waste and hazardous waste.

Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO): SSO is a condition in which untreated sewage is discharged from a sanitary sewer into the environment prior to reaching sewage treatment facilities.

Septage: The partially treated waste contained in a septic tank. Septage consists of household wastes that are disposed of through a home's plumbing system that neither drain out into the soil or are converted to gases by the bacteria in the tank.

Users: Persons or Companies that have obtained the proper septage disposal permit and window decal assigned to each vehicle to enter the WWTP.

Septic Waste Receiving Area (SWRA): The receiving area located on the Wastewater Treatment Plant's property designated for receiving trucked and hauled septage into the POTW.

Trucked and Hauled Waste Manifest: A septage hauler and septage waste generator identification form used for each load that disposal is permitted

Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP): Means that portion of the POTW designed to provide treatment to wastewater.