

CHAPTER 943

Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connections

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943.01 PURPOSE AND SCOPE.

The purpose of this chapter is to provide for the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the City through the regulation of illicit discharges to the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4). This chapter establishes methods for controlling the introduction of pollutants into the MS4 in order to comply with requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit process as required by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). The objectives of this chapter are:

- (a) To prohibit illicit discharges and illegal connections to the MS4.
- (b) To establish legal authority to carry out inspections, monitoring procedures, and enforcement actions necessary to ensure compliance with this regulation.

(Ord. 27-09. Passed 10-5-09.)

943.02 APPLICABILITY.

This chapter shall apply to all residential, commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities responsible for discharges to the MS4 and on any lands in the City, except for those discharges generated by the activities detailed in Section 943.07(a)(1) to (a)(3).

(Ord. 27-09. Passed 10-5-09.)

943.03 DEFINITIONS.

The words and terms used in this chapter, unless otherwise expressly stated, shall have the following meaning:

(a) "Best Management Practices (BMPs)" means schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, general good housekeeping practices, pollution prevention and educational practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to storm water. BMPs also include treatment practices, operating procedures, and practices to control site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or water disposal, or drainage from raw materials storage.

(b) "Environmental Protection Agency or United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)" means the United States Environmental Protection Agency, including but not limited to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), or any duly authorized official of said agency.

(c) "Floatable material" means, generally, any foreign matter that may float or remain suspended in the water column, and includes but is not limited to, plastic, aluminum cans, wood products, bottles, and paper products.

(d) "Hazardous material" means any material including any substance, waste, or combination thereof, which because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics may cause, or significantly contribute to, a substantial present or potential hazard to human health, safety, property, or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed.

(e) "Illegal connection" means any drain or conveyance, whether on the surface or subsurface, that allows an illicit discharge to enter the MS4.

(f) "Illicit discharge," as defined at 40 C.F.R. 122.26 (b)(2), means any discharge to an MS4 that is not composed entirely of storm water, except for those discharges to a MS4 pursuant to a NPDES permit or noted in Section 943.07 of this

chapter.

(g) "Municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4)," as defined at 40 C.F.R. 122.26 (b)(8), means a conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains):

(1) Owned or operated by a State, city, town, borough, county, parish, district, municipality, township, association, or other public body (created by or pursuant to State law) having jurisdiction over sewage, industrial wastes, including special districts under State law such as a sewer district, or similar entity, or an Indian tribe or an authorized Indian tribal organization, or a designated and approved management agency under section 208 of the Clean Water Act that discharges to waters of the United States;

(2) Designed or used for collecting or conveying storm water;

(3) Which is not a combined sewer; and

(4) Which is not part of a publicly-owned treatment works (POTW) as defined at 40 C.F.R. 122.2.

(h) "National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Storm Water Discharge Permit" means a permit issued by EPA (or by a State under authority delegated pursuant to 33 USC § 1342(b)) that authorizes the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States, whether the permit is applicable on an individual, group, or general area-wide basis.

(i) "Off-lot discharging home sewage treatment system" means a system designed to treat home sewage on-site and discharges treated wastewater effluent off the property into a storm water or surface water conveyance or system.

(j) "Owner/operator" means any individual, association, organization, partnership, firm, corporation or other entity recognized by law and acting as either the owner or on the owner's behalf.

(k) "Painesville" means the City of Painesville, its designated representatives, boards, commissions, or assigns.

(l) "Pollutant" means anything that causes or contributes to pollution. Pollutants may include, but are not limited to, paints, varnishes, solvents, oil and other automotive fluids, non-hazardous liquid and solid wastes, yard wastes, refuse, rubbish, garbage, litter or other discarded or abandoned objects, floatable materials, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, hazardous materials, wastes, sewage, dissolved and particulate metals, animal wastes, construction residues, and noxious or offensive matter of any kind.

(m) "Storm water" is any surface flow, runoff, and drainage consisting entirely of water from any form of natural precipitation, and resulting from such precipitation.

(n) "Wastewater" means the spent water of a community. As considered a source, it may be a combination of the liquid and water-carried wastes from residences, commercial buildings, industrial plants, and institutions.

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943.04 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY.

Compliance with the provisions of this chapter shall not relieve any person from responsibility for damage to any person otherwise imposed by law. The provisions of this chapter are promulgated to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the public and are not designed for the benefit of any individual or for the benefit of any particular parcel of property.

(Ord. 27-09. Passed 10-5-09.)

943.05 CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, NUISANCES AND RESPONSIBILITY.

(a) Where this chapter is in conflict with other provisions of law or ordinance, the most restrictive provisions, as determined by the City, shall prevail.

(b) If any clause, section, or provision of this chapter is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, the validity of the remainder shall not be affected thereby.

(c) This chapter shall not be construed as authorizing any person to maintain a nuisance on their property, and compliance with the provisions of this chapter shall not be a defense in any action to abate such a nuisance.

(d) Failure of the City to observe or recognize hazardous or unsightly conditions or to recommend corrective measures shall not relieve the site owner from the responsibility for the condition or damage resulting therefrom, and shall not result in the City, its officers, employees, or agents being responsible for any condition or damage resulting therefrom.

(Ord. 27-09. Passed 10-5-09.)

943.06 RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADMINISTRATION.

The City and/or the Lake County Stormwater Management Department shall administer, implement, and enforce the provisions of this chapter.

(Ord. 27-09. Passed 10-5-09.)

943.07 DISCHARGE AND CONNECTION PROHIBITIONS.

(a) Prohibition of Illicit Discharges. No person shall discharge, or cause to be discharged, an illicit discharge into the MS4. The commencement, conduct, or continuance of any illicit discharge to the MS4 is prohibited except as described below:

(1) Water line and hydrant flushing; landscape irrigation; diverted stream flows; rising ground waters; uncontaminated ground water infiltration; uncontaminated pumped ground water; discharges from potable water sources; foundation drains; air conditioning condensate; irrigation water; springs; water from crawl space pumps; footing drains; lawn watering; individual residential car washing; flows from riparian habitats and wetlands; de-chlorinated swimming pool discharges; street wash water; and discharges or flows from fire fighting activities. These discharges are exempt until such time as they are determined by the City to be significant contributors of pollutants to the MS4.

(2) Discharges specified in writing by the City as being necessary to protect public health and safety.

(3) Discharges from off-lot discharging home sewage treatment systems permitted by the Lake County Board of Health for the purpose of discharging treated sewage effluent in accordance with Ohio Administrative Code 3701-29, or other applicable Lake County Board of Health regulations, until such time as the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency issues an NPDES permitting mechanism for Household Sewage Treatment Systems existing prior to January 1, 2007. These discharges are exempt unless such discharges are deemed to be creating a public health nuisance by the Lake County Board of Health.

In compliance with the City Storm Water Management Program, discharges from all off-lot discharging home sewage treatment systems must either be eliminated or have coverage under an appropriate NPDES permit issued and approved by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. When such permit coverage is available, discharges from off-lot discharging home sewage treatment systems will no longer be exempt from the requirements of this regulation.

(b) Prohibition of Illegal Connections. The construction, use, maintenance, or continued existence of illegal connections to the MS4 is prohibited.

(1) This prohibition expressly includes, without limitation, illegal connections made in the past, regardless of whether the connection was permissible under law or practices applicable or prevailing at the time of connection.

(2) A person is considered to be in violation of this chapter if the person connects a line conveying illicit discharges to the MS4, or allows such a connection to continue.

(Ord. 27-09. Passed 10-5-09.)

943.08 MONITORING OF ILLICIT DISCHARGES AND ILLEGAL CONNECTIONS.

(a) Establishment of an Illicit Discharge and Illegal Connection Monitoring Program The City shall establish a program to detect and eliminate illicit discharges and illegal connections to the MS4. This program shall include the mapping of the MS4, including MS4 outfalls and home sewage treatment systems; the routine inspection of storm water outfalls to the MS4, and the systematic investigation of potential residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional facilities for the sources of any dry weather flows found as the result of these inspections.

(b) Inspection of Residential, Commercial, Industrial, or Institutional Facilities

(1) The City shall be permitted to enter and inspect facilities subject to this regulation as often as may be necessary to determine compliance with this regulation.

(2) The City shall have the right to set up at facilities subject to this regulation such devices as are necessary to conduct monitoring and/or sampling of the facility's storm water discharge, as determined by the City.

(3) The City shall have the right to require the facility owner/operator to install monitoring equipment as necessary. This sampling and monitoring equipment shall be maintained at all times in safe and proper operating condition by the facility owner/operator at the owner/operator's expense. All devices used to measure storm water flow and quality shall be calibrated by the City to ensure their accuracy.

(4) Any temporary or permanent obstruction to safe and reasonable access to the facility to be inspected and/or sampled shall be promptly removed by the facility's owner/operator at the written or oral request of the City and shall not be replaced. The costs of clearing such access shall be borne by the facility owner/operator.

(5) Unreasonable delays in allowing the City access to a facility subject to this chapter for the purposes of illicit discharge inspection is a violation of this chapter.

(6) If the City is refused access to any part of the facility from which storm water is discharged, and the City demonstrates probable cause to believe that there may be a violation of this chapter, or that there is a need to inspect and/or sample as part of an inspection and sampling program designed to verify compliance with this chapter or any order issued hereunder, or to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, the City may seek issuance of a search warrant, civil remedies including but not limited to injunctive relief, and/or criminal remedies from any court of appropriate jurisdiction.

(7) Any costs associated with these inspections shall be assessed to the facility owner/operator.

(Ord. 27-09. Passed 10-5-09.)

943.09 ENFORCEMENT.

(a) Notice of Violation. When the City finds that a person has violated a prohibition or failed to meet a requirement of this chapter, the City may order compliance by written notice of violation. Such notice must specify the violation and shall be hand-delivered, and/or sent by registered mail, to the owner/operator of the facility. Such notice may require the following actions:

- (1) The performance of monitoring, analyses, and reporting;
- (2) The elimination of illicit discharges or illegal connections;
- (3) That violating discharges, practices, or operations cease and desist;
- (4) The abatement or remediation of storm water pollution or contamination hazards and the restoration of any affected property; or
- (5) The implementation of source control or treatment BMPs.

(b) Deadline. If abatement of a violation and/or restoration of affected property are required, the notice of violation shall set forth a deadline within which such remediation or restoration must be completed. Said notice shall further advise that, should the facility owner/operator fail to remediate or restore within the established deadline, a legal action for enforcement may be initiated.

(c) Compliance Standards. Any person receiving a notice of violation must meet compliance standards within the time established in the notice of violation.

(d) Administrative Hearing. If the violation has not been corrected pursuant to the requirements set forth in the notice of violation, the City or its designee shall schedule an administrative hearing to determine reasons for non-compliance and to determine the next enforcement activity. Notice of the administrative hearing shall be hand delivered and/or sent by registered mail.

(e) Injunctive Relief. It shall be unlawful for any owner/operator to violate any provision or fail to comply with any of the requirements of this chapter pursuant to Ohio R.C. 3709.211. If an owner/operator has violated or continues to violate the provisions of this chapter, the City may petition for a preliminary or permanent injunction restraining the owner/operator from activities that would create further violations or compelling the owner/operator to perform abatement or remediation of the violation.

(Ord. 27-09. Passed 10-5-09.)

943.10 REMEDIES NOT EXCLUSIVE.

The remedies listed in this chapter are not exclusive of any other remedies available under any applicable Federal, State or local law and it is in the discretion of the City to seek cumulative remedies.

(Ord. 27-09. Passed 10-5-09.)

943.99 PENALTY.

Whoever violates any provision of this chapter is guilty of a Third degree misdemeanor. A separate offense shall be deemed committed for each day such violation continues.

(Ord. 27-09. Passed 10-5-09.)