



Environment Committee

Item: 2011-18

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of January 26, 2011

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date Prepared: January 11, 2011

Subject: Authorization to Hold Public Meeting to Solicit Public Comment on Proposed Revisions to the Waste Discharge Rules for the Metropolitan Disposal System

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes staff to hold a public meeting to solicit public comment on proposed revisions to the Waste Discharge Rules (WDR) for the Metropolitan Disposal System (MDS).

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

In response to questions from council members, staff informed the committee that final revisions will be brought before the committee and full council in the spring, after the required 90-day comment period. Staff expects to hear positive comments about incorporating all of our policies and procedures into a single document.

Motion to approve proposed action was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.



ADVISORY INFORMATION	
Date:	January 5, 2011
Subject:	Authorization to Hold Public Meeting to Solicit Public Comment on Proposed Revisions to the Waste Discharge Rules for the Metropolitan Disposal System
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Waste Discharge Rules for the Metropolitan Disposal System; MN Statutes, Chapter 473; MN Rules Chapter 7049
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Keith J. Buttleman 651-602-1015; Leo H. Hermes 651-602-4701
Division/Department:	MCES c/o William G. Moore 651-602-1162

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes staff to hold a public meeting to solicit public comment on proposed revisions to the Waste Discharge Rules (WDR) for the Metropolitan Disposal System (MDS).

Background

The WDR specify standards and requirements which must be met by users of the sewer system, including industrial and commercial permittees, and customer communities. The WDR are required as a component of the federal pretreatment program delegated to the Metropolitan Council to implement and administer. The WDR were last revised in 1998, and the revisions now proposed involve three main categories as follows:

- 1) Incorporation of a wide range of requirements involving customer communities, which are the cities and townships served by the MDS. Most of the items included are existing requirements or procedures, and inclusion in the WDR will serve to consolidate all such requirements into a single document.
- 2) Revisions required by MPCA, resulting from the adoption of "Minnesota Pretreatment Rules" in 2008 (Minnesota Rules, Chapter 7049).
- 3) Other additions, updates and clarifications based on current or anticipated conditions, and staff experience in implementing the WDR and federal and state pretreatment program requirements.

Rationale

MCES staff and management believe that the proposed WDR revisions are needed for the continued efficient, economic and safe operation of the MDS. In addition, the proposed revisions will better define and codify requirements related to customer communities served by the MDS.

Funding

The proposed WDR revisions do not specify any additional fees or programs which would result in new revenue for MCES. Further, MCES costs are not projected to increase due to these revisions.

Known Support / Opposition

Until this time, the proposed WDR revisions have been proposed and developed internally within MCES. Information regarding the revisions was provided previously to the Environment Committee on April 22, 2008 and September 4, 2010. Discussions with the Office of General Counsel regarding the proposed revisions have occurred, and the revisions were submitted to and approved by the MPCA in a letter dated December 7, 2010. Findings related to support and opposition to the proposed WDR revisions will be obtained at the public information meeting, if authorized. Resulting changes to the currently proposed revisions, if any, will then be made prior to bringing final WDR revisions to the Environment Committee and Metropolitan Council for consideration and adoption.