

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	June 4, 2012
Subject:	Authorization to Hold Public Meeting on Proposed Revisions to the Waste Discharge Rules (WDR) for the Metropolitan Disposal System (MDS)
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 Environment Committee authorizes staff to hold a public information meeting to solicit public comment on proposed revisions to the Waste Discharge Rules.

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.

Until this time, the proposed WDR revisions have been proposed and developed internally within MCES. Information regarding the revisions has been provided to the Environment Committee, most recently on March 27 of this year.

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

The Office of General Counsel has reviewed and approved the proposed WDR revisions, and the MPCA has also given written approval. 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.