

**WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES
WET WEATHER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES
2011**

In an effort to protect human health and the environment, the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is sending you this informational letter. Many wastewater treatment facilities (WWTF) operate near bodies of water, and when these water bodies flood, treatment facilities can be damaged. WWTF can also be affected by excess water flowing into the system, such as sump pumps placed in the sewer and damaged collection lines. This spring, flooding is possible in many areas of the state. This could potentially cause damage to wastewater treatment systems or result in untreated wastewater entering waters of the state.

Here are some items to consider this spring as you make your preparations for any possible flooding:

- If your facility currently planning to discharge this spring or summer, you may want to consider discharging soon before thaw. This will give you more room to store wastewater, as flows into the system tend to increase during the spring thaw.
- If your facility is required to get permission from DENR before discharging, consider sampling now and begin preparations for the discharge. It can take a week or more for labs to provide you with your sample results.
- Make sure sample kits are available in case wastewater is released from your system. If your facility does not have kits available, they can be ordered from the state health lab at 605-773-3368 or contact your laboratory provider.
- Notify land owners that may be affected by any release as soon as you are aware of need for such a release.
- Make sure any releases do not affect drinking water sources. If the wastewater can not be prevented from reaching drinking water sources, inform the public, your local drinking water personnel and DENR so appropriate steps can be taken to protect public health.
- Make sure all generators and standby pumps are working in case they are needed. If your facility does not have backup generators or pumps, try to make arrangements with other nearby facilities. If you have extra backup generators, consider helping others who may be in need. The South Dakota Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network (SDWARN) is a good way to facilitate these arrangements.
- Make sure the facility has any spare parts for critical equipment that may be needed during high flow events.
- Prevent and reduce excess inflow into the system as much as possible. This time of year, sump pumps can bring large amounts of water into systems and can contribute to problems with capacity in your system. If your community has a sump pump ordinance, please begin enforcing the requirements of these ordinances.
- Make sure emergency procedures and call lists are up to date and known to all personnel.
- You are required to notify DENR within 24 hours of any unauthorized release of wastewater from your system. If your facility does have an unauthorized release, contact DENR at DENR.SWDreporting@state.sd.us or 605-773-3351.

Your Surface Water Discharge Permit allows for emergency discharges. However, please be aware that advance planning can help your system to avoid an emergency situation.

Thank you for your continued efforts to protect the environment and natural resources of South Dakota. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (605) 773-3351.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Hill
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South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Surface Water Quality Program