

WAYLAND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT COMMISSION

WWMDC

Date: 2011 Nov 13
To: Waste Water Management District Users
From: Waste Water Management District Commission
Fred Knight, chair
David Schofield
Sam Potter
Bill Prendergast, Director
Subject: Civil fine for improper discharge

The Waste Water Management District Commission (WWMDC) has noticed a dramatic increase in the waste water flow to the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) over the past eight months. This increase follows an extremely large flow during the flooding of March and April 2010 and a slightly elevated flow during the remainder of 2010. Before the flooding of spring 2010, average daily flow was 10,900 gallons per day (gpd). During the remainder of 2010 after the flooding, the flow was elevated to an average of 12,700 gpd. Since Feb 2011, flows have ranged up to 29,000 gpd. During this period (2010-2011) no dramatic increases in winter water usage by WWTP users have been measured. In addition, the large increases in flow have varied over seasons, when ground water levels have also varied. Although there is no definitive correlation between ground water levels and increased flows, the evidence for seasonal variation is strong while winter water usage has remained relatively constant. The hypothesis of the WWMDC is that illegal dumping of ground water into the Waste Water Management District (WWMD) system is occurring by users.

The consequence of this situation could be exceeding the operating permit from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection when all users are connected. The WWMDC feels strongly that steps have to be taken to avoid exceeding the operating permit.

The WWMDC Regulations (see http://www.wayland.ma.us/Pages/WaylandMA_BComm/Wastewater/Documents/PermanentDocuments/WWMDCRegulations.pdf) contain the following three important sections.

ARTICLE III. BUILDING SEWERS AND CONNECTIONS

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SECTION 7. SURFACE RUNOFF AND GROUNDWATER DRAINS

No person shall connect roof, foundation, areaway, parking lot, roadway, or other surface runoff or groundwater drains to any sewer that is connected to a wastewater treatment facility unless such connection is authorized in writing by the Director.

ARTICLE VII. WASTEWATER SERVICE

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SECTION 3. PENALTIES FOR EXCESSIVE USE

Each user is encouraged to conserve water. Each connection permit will specify the amount of capacity in the Wastewater Management System that has been allocated to that user. Discharges into the Wastewater Management System in excess of the permitted capacity are prohibited. In the event that a user discharges excessive amounts of wastewater, the Director may assess a civil fine fee. The civil fine fee shall be set in accordance with Section 6 of Article II.

ARTICLE II. GENERAL PROVISION

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SECTION 6. FEES AND CHARGES

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(c) All fees and charges payable under the provisions of these Rules and Regulations are due and payable within thirty (30) days of the receipt of notice of charges. Unpaid charges shall become delinquent and shall be subject to civil fine and interest charges as provided by law. Bills unpaid for ninety (90) days shall be turned over to the Board of Assessors for collection as a lien against the property.

As a result of this situation and following a public hearing, the WWMDC proposes to approve a civil fine of up to \$2,000 per violation of surface runoff or groundwater drainage into the WWMD system.

For example, no sump pump discharge can be put in the WWMD system. This civil fine will become effective immediately following passage by the WWMD Council that is planned to occur after the public hearing. For any violation, the WWMD Council Regulations state that the civil fine fee is payable within 30 days.

In summary, the WWMD Council proposes to implement a civil fine of up to \$2,000 for a violation of adding surface runoff or groundwater discharge to the WWMD system, effective following the completion of a public hearing and subsequent passage by the WWMD Council. The sole motivation for this civil fine is to eliminate the excess flow seen recently to maintain compliance to the operating permit.

The WWMD Council cannot stress enough that the entire system is in jeopardy if this situation is not remedied.