

CHAPTER 24

STORMWATER

Article

1. Definitions

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ARTICLE ONE

DEFINITIONS

Section

24-1-1. Definitions.

24-1-1. Definitions.

Wherever used in this Chapter, the following terms shall bear the meanings herein:

Accidental Discharge Means a discharge prohibited by this chapter which occurs by chance and without planning or thought prior to occurrence.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, general good house keeping practices, pollution prevention and educational practices, maintenance procedures and other management practices to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants directly or indirectly to storm water, receiving water, or storm water conveyance systems. 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.

Construction Activity means activities subject to the NPDES Construction Permits. Currently these include construction projects resulting in land disturbance of 1 acre or more. Such activities include but are not limited to clearing and grubbing, grading, excavation and demolition.

Hazardous Materials 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.

Illegal Discharge means any direct or indirect non-stormwater discharge to the storm drain system, except as exempted in §24-2-7 of this chapter.

Illicit Connections means any drain or conveyance, whether on the surface or subsurface, which allows an illegal discharge to enter the storm drain system including but not limited to any conveyances which allow any non-storm water discharge including sewage, process wastewater, and wash water to enter the storm drain system and connections to the storm drain system from indoor drains and sinks, regardless of whether said drain or connection had been previously allowed, permitted, or approved by an authorized enforcement agency or, any drain or conveyance connected from a commercial or industrial land use to the storm drain system which has not been documented in plans, maps, or equivalent records and approved by an authorized enforcement agency.

Industrial Activity means activities subject to NPDES Industrial Permits as defined in 40 CFR, Section 122.26 (b) (14).

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 33USC 1342 (B) that authorizes the discharge of pollutants to water of the United States, whether the permit is applicable on an individual, group, or general area-wide basis.

Non-Storm Water Discharge means any discharge to the storm drain system that is not composed entirely of storm water.

Person means any individual, association, organization, partnership, firm, corporation or other entity recognized by law and acting as either the owner or as the owner's agent.

Pollutant means any thing which causes or contributes to pollution. Pollutants may include, but are not limited to: paints, varnishes, and solvents; oil and other automotive fluids; non-hazardous liquid and solid wastes and yard wastes; refuse, rubbish, garbage, litter, or other discarded or abandoned objects, ordnances, and accumulations, so the same may cause or contribute to pollution; floatables; pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers; hazardous substances and wastes; sewage, fecal coliform and pathogens; dissolved and particulate metals; animal wastes; wastes and residues that result from constructing a building or structure; and noxious or offensive matter of any kind. Pollutants lead to the

human-made or human-induced alteration of the chemical, physical, biological or radiological integrity of an aquatic ecosystem

ARTICLE TWO

General Provisions

Section

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24-2-1. Purpose and Intent.

The purpose of this chapter is to protect the public health, safety, environment and general welfare through the regulation of non-storm water discharges to the City of Scottsbluff separate storm sewer system to the maximum extent practicable required by Federal and State law. This chapter establishes methods for controlling the introduction of pollutants into the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) in order to comply with requirements on the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit process. The objectives of this chapter are:

- (1) Regulate the contribution of pollutants to the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) by storm water discharges by any user.

- (2) To prohibit illicit connection and discharges to the municipal separate storm sewer system.
- (3) Prevent non-storm water discharges, generated as a result of spills, inappropriate dumping or disposal, to the City's separate storm sewer system.
- (4) To establish legal authority to carry out all inspection, surveillance, monitoring and enforcement procedures necessary to ensure compliance with this chapter.

24-2-2. Applicability.

This chapter shall apply to all water generated on any developed and undeveloped lands entering the storm drain system unless explicitly exempted by this municipal code or otherwise by the City.

24-2-3. Compatibility with other Regulations.

This chapter is not intended to modify or repeal any other ordinance, rule, regulation or other provision of law. The requirements of this chapter are in addition to the requirements of any other ordinance, rule regulation, or other provision of law. Where this chapter is in conflict with any other provision of law, the provision which is more restrictive or imposes higher protective standards for human health or the environment shall control.

24-2-4. Responsibility for Administration.

The City Manager shall administer, implement, and enforce the provisions of this chapter. The City Manager may delegate enforcement powers to any employee of the City.

24-2-5. Severability.

The provisions of this chapter are hereby declared to be severable. If any provision, clause, sentence, or paragraph of this chapter or the application thereof to any person, establishment, or circumstances shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or application of this chapter.

24-2-6. Ultimate Responsibility.

The standards set forth herein and promulgated pursuant to this chapter are minimum standards; therefore this chapter is not to be interpreted as meaning that compliance by any person will ensure that there will be no contamination, pollution, nor unauthorized discharge of pollutants.

24-2-7. Prohibition of Illegal Discharges.

No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged into the municipal storm drain system or watercourses any materials other than storm water, including but not limited to pollutants or waters containing any pollutants that cause or contribute to a violation of applicable water quality standard.

The commencement, conduct or continuance of any illegal discharge to the storm drain system is prohibited except as follows:

(1) The following discharges are exempt from discharge prohibitions established by this chapter: water line flushing or other potable water sources, landscape irrigation or lawn watering, diverted stream flows, rising ground water, ground water infiltration to storm drains, uncontaminated pumped groundwater, foundation or footing drains (not including active groundwater dewatering systems), crawl space pumps, air conditioning condensation, springs, non-commercial washing of vehicles, natural riparian habitat or wetland flows, swimming pools (if dechlorinated - typically less than one part per million of chlorine), fire fighting activities, and any other water source not containing pollutants.

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

(3) Dye testing is an allowable discharge, but requires a verbal notification to the City Manager prior to the time of test.

(4) The prohibition shall not apply to any non-storm water discharge permitted under an NPDES permit, waiver, or waste discharge order issued to the discharger and administered under the authority of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, provided that the discharger is in full compliance with all requirements of the permit, waiver or order and other applicable laws and regulations, and provided that written approval has been granted for any discharge to the storm drain system.

24-2-8. Prohibition of Illicit Connections.

The construction, connection, use, maintenance or continued existence of any illegal connection to the City's separate storm sewer system is prohibited.

(1) This prohibition expressly includes, without limitation, illicit 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 sewage to the MS4, or allows

such a connection to continue.

24-2-9. Industrial or Construction Activity Discharges.

Any person subject to an industrial or construction activity NPDES storm water discharge permit shall comply with all provisions of such permit. Proof of compliance with said permit may be required in a form acceptable to the City of Scottsbluff prior to the allowing of discharges to the MS4.

24-2-10. Requirements to prevent, Control, and Reduce Storm Water Pollutants by the use of Best Management Practices.

The City will adopt requirements identifying Best Management Practices for any activity, operation, or facility which may cause or contribute to pollution or contamination of storm water, the storm drain system, or waters of the State of Nebraska or the United States of America. The owner or operator of a commercial or industrial establishment shall provide, at the expense of the owner or operator, reasonable protection from accidental discharge of prohibited materials or other wastes into the municipal storm drain system or water courses through the use of these structural and non-structural best management practices to prevent the further discharge of pollutants to the municipal separate storm sewer system. Compliance with all terms and conditions of a valid NPDES permit authorizing the discharge of storm water associated with industrial the provisions of this section. These best management practices shall be part of a storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) as necessary for compliance with requirements of the NPDES permit.

24-2-11. Watercourse Protection.

Every person owning property through which a watercourse passes, or such person's lessee, shall keep and maintain that part of the watercourse within the property free of trash, debris, excessive vegetation, and other obstacles that would pollute, contaminate, or significantly retard the flow of water through the watercourse. In addition, the owner or lessee shall maintain existing privately owned structures within or adjacent to a watercourse, so that such structures will not become a hazard to the use function, or physical integrity of the watercourse.

24-2-12. Suspension of MS4 Access.

A. Suspension due to Illicit Discharges in Emergency Situations

The city may, without prior notice, suspend MS4 discharge access to a person when such suspension is necessary to stop an actual or threatened discharge which presents or may present imminent and substantial danger to the environment, or to the health or welfare of persons, or to the MS4 or waters of the United States. If the violator fails to comply with a suspension order issued in an

emergency, the authorized enforcement agency may take such steps as deemed necessary to prevent or minimize damage to the MS4 or waters of the State of Nebraska or the United States of America or to minimize danger to persons or property.

B. Suspension due to the Detection of Illicit Discharge.

Any person discharging to the MS4 in violation of this chapter may have his or her MS4 access terminated if such termination would abate or reduce an illicit discharge. The city will notify a violator of the proposed termination of its MS4 access. The violator may petition the City Manager for a reconsideration and hearing.

A person commits an offense if that person reinstates MS4 access to premises terminated pursuant to this Section, without the prior approval of the City Manager.

24-2-13. Access and Inspection of Properties and Facilities.

The City Manager or designee may enter and inspect properties and facilities at reasonable time as often as may be necessary to determine compliance with this chapter.

(1) Employees of the City may enter and inspect facilities subject to regulation under this chapter as often as may be necessary to determine compliance with this chapter.

(2) Facility operators shall allow authorized employees of the City ready access to all parts of the premises for the purposes of inspection, sampling examination and copying of records that must be kept under the conditions of an NPDES permit to discharge storm water, and performance of any additional duties as defined by state and federal law.

(3) The City may set up on any permitted facility such devices as are necessary in the opinion of the City Manager to conduct monitoring and/or sampling of the facility's storm water discharge.

(4) The City may require the discharger to install monitoring equipment as necessary. The facility's sampling and monitoring equipment shall be maintained at all times in a safe and proper operating condition by the discharger at its own expense. All devices used to measure storm water flow and quality shall be calibrated to ensure their accuracy.

(5) The temporary or permanent obstruction to safe and easy access to the facility to be inspected and/or sampled shall be promptly removed by the 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 operator.

(6) Unreasonable delays in allowing the City access to a permitted facility is a violation of a storm water discharge permit and of this chapter. A person who is the operator of a facility with a NPDES permit to discharge storm water associated with industrial activity commits an offense if the person denies the authorized enforcement agency reasonable access to the permitted facility for the purpose of conducting any activity authorized or required by this chapter.

(7) If the representatives of the City have been refused access to any part of the premises from which storm water is discharged the City may seek issuance of a search warrant from any court of competent jurisdiction.

24-2-14. Notification of Accidental Discharges and Spills

Notwithstanding other requirements of the law, as soon as any person responsible for a facility, activity or operation, or responsible for emergency response for a facility, activity or operation has information of any known or suspected release of pollutants or non-storm water discharges from that facility or operation which are resulting or may result in illicit discharges or pollutants discharging into storm water, the City of Scottsbluff (MS4) separate storm sewer system, waters of the State of Nebraska, or the waters of the United States of America, said person shall take all necessary steps to ensure the discovery, containment, and cleanup of such release so as to minimize the effects of the discharge.

Said person shall notify the City Manager or designee of the City Manager of the nature, quantity and time of occurrence of the discharge within 24 hours. Notifications which are not in writing shall be confirmed by written notice addressed and mailed to the City Manager or designee within three business days of the phone call or by personal notification. If the discharge of prohibited materials emanates from a commercial or industrial establishment, the owner or operator of such establishment shall also retain an on-site written record of the discharge and the action taken to prevent its recurrence. Such records shall be retained for at least three years. Said person shall also take immediate steps to ensure no recurrence of the discharge or spill.

In the event of such a release of hazardous materials, emergency response agencies and/or other appropriate agencies shall be immediately notified.

Failure to provide notification of a release as provided above is a violation of this chapter.

24-2-15. Notice of Violation.

A. Whenever the City finds that a person has violated a prohibition or failed to meet a requirement of this chapter, the City Manager may order compliance by written notice of violation to the responsible person. Such notice shall be sent via regular U.S. mail or via hand delivery to the owner of the property and to any licensee listed under a City business license for the property. The notice shall include:

- (1) The name and address of the parties listed above;
- (2) The address when available or a description of the building, structure or land upon which the violation is occurring, or has occurred;
- (3) A statement specifying the nature of the violation;
- (4) A description of the remedial action;
- (5) A statement of the penalty or penalties that shall or may be assessed against the person or persons to whom the notice of violation is directed; and,
- (6) A statement that the determination of violation may be appealed to the City Manager by filing a written notice of appeal within thirty (30) days of service of notice of violation.

B. In the event of a violation, the City may require:

- (1) The performance of monitoring, analyses, and reporting;
- (2) The elimination of illicit discharges and illegal connections;
- (3) That violating discharges, practices, or operations shall cease and desist;
- (4) The abatement or remediation of storm water pollution or contamination hazards and the restoration of any affected property;
- (5) Payment of costs to cover administrative and abatement costs; and,
- (6) The implementation of pollution prevention practices.

(7) Such other action as may be reasonably necessary to accomplish the purposes of this chapter.

24-2-16. Appeal of Notice of Violation.

Any person receiving a Notice of Violation may appeal the determination of the City of Scottsbluff. The notice of appeal shall be in writing and shall be delivered to the City Clerk within thirty (30) days from the date of the Notice of Violation. Hearing on the appeal before the City Manager shall take place within 15 days from the date of receipt of the notice of appeal. The pendency of an appeal shall not relieve the responsible person from complying with the requirements of the Notice of Violation, unless the City Manager otherwise consents in writing.

24-2-17. Enforcement Measures after Appeal.

If the violation has not been corrected pursuant to the requirements set forth in the Notice of Violation, or, in the event of an appeal, within 15 days of the decision of the City Manager or designee, then representatives of the City may enter upon the subject private property and are authorized to take any measures necessary to abate the violation and/or restore the property. It shall be unlawful for any person, owner, agent or person in possession of any premises to refuse to allow the City of Scottsbluff or designated City contractor to enter upon the premises for the purposes set forth above.

24-2-18. Cost of Abatement of the Violation.

Within thirty (30) days after abatement of the violation, the owner of the property will be notified of the cost of abatement, including administrative costs. The property owner may file a written protest objecting to the assessment or to the amount of the assessment within thirty (30) days of such notice. If the amount due is not paid within thirty (30) days after receipt of the notice, or if an appeal is taken, within (30) days after a decision on said appeal, the charges shall become a special assessment. Any person violating any of the provisions of this article shall become liable to the City of Scottsbluff by reason of such violation.

The City may recover all attorneys' fees, court costs and other expenses associated with enforcement of this chapter, including sampling and monitoring expenses.

24-2-19. Injunctive Relief.

It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any provision or fail to comply with any of the requirements of this chapter. If a person has violated or continues to violate the provisions of the chapter, the City may petition for a preliminary or permanent injunction restraining the person from activities which would create

further violations or compelling the person to perform abatement or remediation of the violation.

24-2-20. Alternative Actions Upon Violation.

In lieu of enforcement proceedings, penalties and remedies authorized by this chapter, the City may impose upon a violator alternative compensatory action, such as storm drain stenciling, attendance of compliance workshops, waterway cleanup, or other community service work.

24-2-21. Violations Deemed A Public Nuisance.

In addition to the enforcement processes and penalties provided, any condition caused or permitted to exist in violation of any of the provisions of the chapter is a threat to public health, safety, and welfare, and is declared and deemed a nuisance, and may be summarily abated or restored at the violator's expense, and/or a civil action to abate, enjoin or otherwise compel the cessation of such nuisance may be taken.

24-2-22. Criminal Prosecution.

Any person that has violated or continues to violate this chapter shall be liable to criminal prosecution to the fullest extent of the law, and shall be subject to a criminal penalty of \$100.00 dollars per violation per day.

24-2-23. 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 within the discretion of the City to seek cumulative remedies.