



Des Moines Metropolitan Wastewater Reclamation Authority
3000 Vandalia Road
Des Moines, IA 50317-1346



Dear Owners and Managers of Food Service Establishments,

The Des Moines Metro Wastewater Reclamation Authority (WRA) is committed to providing safe, cost-effective wastewater service to commercial and residential customers within our service area. We are equally dedicated to operating our wastewater system in an environmentally responsible manner. The City of Des Moines and surrounding Metropolitan cities have an ordinance to limit and control the introduction of fats, oil and grease (FOG) into the sanitary sewer system. This ordinance in its entirety can be located at www.dmmwra.org following the link on the right to FOG program and municipal code.

The FOG ordinance is the result of a mandate from the EPA which requires each municipality to install a program of oil and grease control to aid in the prevention of sanitary sewer blockages and overflows that adversely impact public health and the environment. The requirements for food service establishments (FSEs) are as follows:

- FSEs are required to install a grease interceptor with a minimum capacity of 1000 gallons if the facility is proposed or constructed after the effective date; or if the facility is renovated to include a FSE where such FSE did not previously exist; or if the FSE has been closed for 12 months or more; or if an existing FSE applies for a building permit(s) valued at \$50,000 or more within a 12 month period; or if an existing FSE adds or alters wastewater piping; or if an existing FSE does not adequately operate and maintain existing grease removal devices or use Best Management Practices (BMPs) to meet FOG discharge limits.
- Grease Removal Devices must be cleaned, complete with a maintenance log, at three (3) month intervals or when total FOG and solids reach 25% of the design liquid level. Owner or operator of the FSE must employ a waste hauler that is licensed and certified by the WRA.
- The introduction of enzymes, emulsifying chemicals, bacteria, hot water or other agents into a grease interceptor to dissolve or emulsify grease is prohibited, unless prior written approval is received from the WRA Director.

The WRA has developed a comprehensive grease control program which will affect your business. During the next few months, a WRA representative will visit each FSE within the WRA service area to collect data on facility operation, grease control practices and distribute educational material regarding the FOG program. We will contact you to schedule a convenient time for our visit.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please call Jason Merk, FOG Coordinator at 515-323-8123 or Paul Ebert, Regulatory Compliance Team Leader at 515-323-8133. You are a valued customer of the Des Moines Metro WRA and we appreciate your cooperation in making our cities safe for the public and our environment.

Sincerely,

Scott Hutchens, P.E.
WRA Director
WRA Waste Water Reclamation Facility

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