

CHAPTER 319

Storm Water Illicit Discharge and Connection

319.01 PURPOSE/INTENT.

The purpose of this ordinance is to provide for the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the City of Berea, Ohio through the regulation of non-storm water discharges to the storm drainage system to the maximum extent practicable as required by federal and state law. This ordinance establishes methods for controlling the introduction of pollutants into the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) in order to comply with requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit process. The objectives of this chapter are:

- (1) To regulate the contribution of pollutants to the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) by storm water discharges by any user.
- (2) To prohibit Illicit Connections and Discharges to the municipal separate storm sewer system.
- (3) To establish legal authority to carry out all inspection, surveillance and monitoring procedures necessary to ensure compliance with this ordinance.

319.02 DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this chapter, the following shall mean:

The City Service Director includes the City Service Director and employees or designees of the director of Public Service of the City.

The City Engineer includes the City Engineer and employees, agents or designees of the City Engineer.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) Schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, general good housekeeping 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 waters, 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.

Clean Water Act. The federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.), and any subsequent amendments thereto.

Construction Activity. Activities subject to NPDES Construction Permits. 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, excavating, and demolition.

Hazardous Materials. 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. Any direct or indirect non-storm water discharge to the storm drain system, except as exempted in Section X of this ordinance.

Illicit Connections. An illicit connection is defined as either of the following:

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 any 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 the City Engineer or any drain or conveyance connected from a commercial or industrial land use to a storm drain system which has not been documented in plans, maps, or equivalent records and/or approved by an authorized enforcement agency.

Industrial Activity. 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. A permit issued by EPA (or by a State under authority delegated pursuant to 33 USC § 1342{b}) that authorizes the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States, whether the permit is applicable on an individual, group, or general area-wide basis.

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

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

Pollutant. Anything which causes or contributes to pollution. Pollutants may include, but are not limited to the following: 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, so that 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.

Premises. Any building, lot, parcel of land, or portion of land, whether improved or unimproved, including adjacent sidewalks and parking strips.

Storm Drainage System. Publicly-owned facilities by which storm water is collected and/or conveyed, including but not limited to any roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, gutters, curbs, inlets, piped storm drains, pumping facilities, retention and detention basins, natural and human-made or altered drainage channels, reservoirs, and other drainage structures.

Storm Water. Any surface flow, runoff, and drainage consisting entirely of water from any form of natural precipitation, and resulting from such precipitation.

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan. A document which describes the Best Management Practices and activities to be implemented by a person or business to

identify sources of pollution or contamination at a site, and the actions to eliminate or reduce pollutant discharges to Storm Water, Storm Water Conveyance Systems, and/or Receiving Waters to the Maximum Extent Practicable.

Wastewater. Any water or other liquid, other than uncontaminated storm water, discharged from a facility.

319.03 APPLICABILITY.

This chapter shall apply to all water entering the storm drainage system generated on any developed or undeveloped lands unless explicitly exempted by an authorized enforcement agency.

319.04 RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADMINISTRATION.

The City Service Director shall administer, implement and enforce the provisions of this chapter. Any powers granted or duties imposed upon the City Service Director may be delegated in writing by the Director of Public Service of the City of Berea to persons or entities acting in the beneficial interest of or in the employ of the City of Berea.

319.05 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.

319.06 MINIMUM STANDARDS.

The standards set forth herein and promulgated pursuant to this chapter are minimum standards; therefore, this chapter does not intend or imply that compliance by any person will ensure that there will be no contamination, pollution, or unauthorized discharge of pollutants.

319.07 DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS.

(a) Prohibition of Illegal Discharges.

No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged into the municipal storm drainage system or watercourses, any materials, including but not limited to pollutants or waters containing any pollutants, that cause or contribute to a violation of applicable water quality standards, other than storm water. The commencement, conduct or continuance of any illegal discharge to the storm drain system is prohibited, except as described as follows:

- (1) The following discharges are exempt from discharge prohibitions established by this ordinance: 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 ground water, 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 PPM chlorine), fire fighting activities, and any other water source not containing pollutants.

- (2) Discharges specified in writing by the Service Director as being necessary to protect public health and safety.
- (3) Dye testing. However, a verbal notification is required to be given to the Service Director prior to the time of the 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.

(b) Prohibition of Illicit Connections.

- (1) The construction, use, maintenance or continued existence of illicit connections to the storm drainage system is prohibited.
- (2) 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.
- (3) A person is considered to be in violation of this ordinance if the person connects a line conveying sewage to the MS4, or allows such a connection to continue.

319.08 SUSPENSION OF MS4 ACCESS.

(a) Suspension Due to Illicit Discharges in Emergency Situations

The Service Director 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 Service Director may take such steps as deemed necessary to prevent or minimize damage to the MS4 or Waters of the United States, or to minimize danger to persons.

(b) Suspension Due to the Detection of Illicit Discharge

Any person discharging to the MS4 in violation of this ordinance may have their MS4 access terminated if such termination would abate or reduce an illicit discharge. The Service Director will notify such person of the proposed termination of its MS4 access. Such person may petition the authorized enforcement agency for a hearing for reconsideration. It shall be a violation of this section if a person reinstates MS4 access to premises terminated pursuant to this Section, without the prior approval of the authorized enforcement agency.

319.09 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 Engineer prior to the allowing of discharges to the MS4.

319.10 MONITORING OF DISCHARGES

(a) Applicability.

This section applies to all facilities that have storm water discharges associated with industrial activity, including construction activity.

(b) Access to Facilities.

- (1) The City Engineer shall be permitted to enter and inspect facilities under this section as often as may be necessary to determine compliance with this section. If a discharger has security measures in force which require proper identification and clearance before entry into its premises, the discharger shall make the necessary arrangements to allow access to representatives of the authorized enforcement agency.
- (2) Facility operators shall allow the City Engineer 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 the performance of any additional duties as defined by state and federal law.
- (3) The City Engineer shall have the right to set up on any permitted facility, such devices as are necessary in his opinion to conduct monitoring and/or sampling of the facility's storm water discharge.
- (4) The City Engineer has the right to 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) Any 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 Engineer and shall not be replaced. The costs of clearing such access shall be borne by the operator.
- (6) Unreasonable delay in allowing the City Engineer access to a permitted facility is a violation of a storm water discharge permit and of this ordinance. 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 ordinance.

- (7) If the City Engineer has been refused access to any part of the premises from which storm water is discharged, and he/she is able to demonstrate probable cause to believe that there may be a violation of this ordinance, or that there is a need to inspect and/or sample as part of a routine inspection and sampling program designed to verify compliance with this ordinance or any order issued hereunder, or to protect the overall public health, safety, and welfare of the community, then the authorized enforcement agency may seek issuance of a search warrant from any court of competent jurisdiction.

319.11 REQUIREMENT TO PREVENT, CONTROL, AND REDUCE STORM WATER POLLUTANTS BY THE USE OF BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.

The City Engineer will adopt requirements identifying Best Management Practices (BMPs) 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 U.S. The owner or operator of a commercial or industrial establishment shall provide, at their own expense, reasonable protection from accidental discharge of prohibited materials or other wastes into the municipal storm drain system or watercourses through the use of these structural and non-structural BMPs. Further, any person responsible for a property or premise, which is, or may be, the source of an illicit discharge, may be required to implement, at said person's expense, additional structural and non-structural BMPs 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 activity, to the extent practicable, shall be deemed compliance with the provisions of this section. These BMPs shall be part of a storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPP) for compliance with requirements of the NPDES permit.

319.12 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.

319.13 NOTIFICATION OF SPILLS.

Notwithstanding other requirements of law, as soon as any person responsible for a facility or operation, or responsible for emergency response for a facility or operation, has information of any known or suspected release of materials which are resulting or may result in illegal discharges or pollutants discharging into storm water, the storm drain system, or Waters of the U.S., said person shall take all necessary steps to ensure the discovery, containment and cleanup of such release. In the event of such a release of hazardous materials, said person shall immediately notify emergency response agencies of the occurrence via emergency dispatch services. In the event of a release of non-hazardous materials, said person shall notify the Service Director in person or by phone or facsimile no later than the next business day. Notifications in person or by phone shall be confirmed by written notice addressed and mailed to the Service Director within three business days of the phone notice. 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 actions taken to prevent its recurrence. Such records shall be retained for at least three years.

319.14 ENFORCEMENT.

(a) Notice of Violation.

Whenever the Service Director finds that a person has violated a prohibition or failed to meet a requirement of this chapter, the Service Director may order compliance by written notice of violation to the responsible person. Such notice may require without limitation:

- (1) The performance of monitoring, analyses, and reporting;
- (2) The elimination of illicit connections or discharges;
- (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; and
- (5) Payment of a fine to cover administrative and remediation costs; and
- (6) The implementation of source control or treatment BMPs.

(b) If abatement of a violation and/or restoration of affected property is required, the notice shall set forth a deadline within which such remediation or restoration must be completed. Said notice shall further advise that, should the violator fail to remediate or restore within the established deadline, the work may be performed by a designated governmental agency, or a contractor, and the expense thereof shall be charged to the violator.

319.15 APPEAL OF NOTICE OF VIOLATION.

Any person aggrieved by a determination of the City Engineer or Service Director may appeal such determination to the Municipal Planning Commission.

Such appeal must be made in writing to the Secretary of the Commission and filed with and received by the Secretary within fifteen (15) days from the mailing date of the Notice of Violation. Such written appeal must state the reasons for appeal. Within thirty (30) days of the filing of such appeal, the Municipal Planning Commission shall hear the appeal. Within twenty-one (21) days after the hearing, the Municipal Planning Commission shall affirm, modify or reverse the determination of the City Engineer or Service Director and shall notify the appellant in writing of its decision. Further appeal of the decision of the Municipal Planning Commission may be taken in accordance with applicable law.

319.16 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 7 days of the decision of the Municipal Planning Commission upholding all or part of the decision of the City Engineer or Service Director, then representatives of the City of Berea may enter upon the subject private property and are authorized to take any and all necessary measures to abate the violation and/or restore the property to bring it in compliance with law. It shall be unlawful for any person, owner, agent or person in possession of any premises to refuse to allow the government agency or designated contractor to enter upon the premises for the purposes set forth above.

319.17 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 with the City Service Director objecting to the amount of the assessment within 14 days of receipt of the notice of the costs of abatement. If the amount due is not paid within a timely manner, as determined by the decision of the municipal authority, or by the expiration of the time in which to file an appeal, the charges shall become a special assessment against the property and shall constitute a lien on the property for the amount of the assessment. In addition to the property owner, any other person violating any of the provisions of this chapter for which abatement action is required to be and is taken by the City shall be liable to the City by reason of such violation. The liability shall be paid in no more than 12 equal payments. Interest at the rate of 8 percent per annum shall be assessed on the balance beginning on the 31st day following completion of the abatement by the City.

319.18 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 this chapter, the authorized enforcement agency may petition for a preliminary or permanent injunction restraining the person from activities which would create further or continuing violations, or compelling the

person to perform abatement or remediation of the violation and any other appropriate legal or equitable relief.

319.19 COMPENSATORY ACTION.

In lieu of, or in addition to, enforcement proceedings, penalties, and remedies authorized by this Chapter, the authorized enforcement agency may impose upon a violator alternative compensatory or remedial actions, such as storm drain stenciling, attendance at compliance workshops, creek cleanup, or any other remedial action appropriate to achieve compliance with this Chapter.

319.20 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 this ordinance are considered a threat to public health, safety, and welfare, and are 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.

319.21 REMEDIES NOT EXCLUSIVE.

The remedies listed in this chapter are not exclusive of any other remedies available under any applicable federal, state or local laws. Any and all remedies shall be cumulative. The City of Berea may recover its reasonable attorney's fees, court costs and other expenses associated with enforcement of this chapter, including sampling and monitoring expenses.

319.99 PENALTIES.

Any person found guilty of violating any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. Each day that a violation continues to exist shall be deemed a separate offense.