

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PERMIT

LOG NUMBERS: 2024-71450

PERMIT NO.: 2025-SC-71450

BUREAU ID: W0328990003

FINAL PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, APPLICATION
AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

DATE ISSUED: SEP 12 2025

PREPARED BY: Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

SUBJECT: METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO-Controlled Solids
Distribution Program

IEPA - Division of Records Management
Releasable

SEP 18 2025

Reviewer: EMI

PERMITTEE TO OPERATE

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater
Chicago
110 East Erie Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Permit is hereby granted to the above designated permittee(s) to operate water pollution control facilities described as follows:

Application of approximately 190,000 dry tons per year of anaerobically digested, dewatered and air-dried sewage sludge to sites for soil amendment from the MWRDGC Stickney, Calumet, and John Egan water reclamation plants. Sludge amended sites shall not grow crops for food chain use.

This permit is reissued based upon the statement by the District that non-exceptional quality (EQ) biosolids are not being applied at this time under this permit. Not less than 30 days prior to the resumption of the non-farmland application of non-exceptional quality (EQ) biosolids, the District will advise the Agency, in writing, of the resumption of such land application activities. The date of notification to the Agency will be considered the start date for compliance with the requirements of this permit ("Compliance Start Date").

This permit applies only to the utilization of non-exceptional quality (EQ) biosolids.

This operating permit expires on April 30, 2030.

This permit renews and replaces Permit Number 2019-SC-64906 which was previously issued for the herein permitted facilities.

This Permit is issued subject to the following Special Condition(s). If such Special Condition(s) require(s) additional or revised facilities, satisfactory engineering plan documents must be submitted to this Agency for review and approval for issuance of a Supplemental Permit.

SPECIAL CONDITION 1: The application of Exceptional Quality biosolids to land shall follow the requirements of 40 CFR Part 503.

SPECIAL CONDITION 2: For the duration of this permit, the permittee shall determine the quantity of sludge produced by the treatment facility in dry tons or gallons with a percent total solids analysis. The permittee shall maintain adequate records of the quantities of sludge produced and have said records available for Agency inspection. The permittee shall submit to the Agency a semi-annual summary report of the quantities of sludge generated and disposed (in units of dry tons) by different disposal methods including but not limited to application on farmland, application on reclamation land,

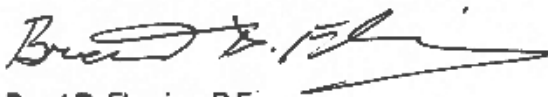
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THE STANDARD CONDITIONS OF ISSUANCE INDICATED ON THE REVERSE SIDE MUST BE COMPLIED WITH IN FULL. READ ALL CONDITIONS CAREFULLY.

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DIVISION OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

cc: EPA-Des Plaines FOS
Records - Municipal


Brant D. Fleming, P.E.
Manager, Municipal Unit, Permit Section

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landfilling, public distribution, dedicated land disposal, sod farms, storage lagoons or any other specified disposal method. Said reports shall be submitted to the Agency by January 31 and July 31 of each year reporting the preceding July through December and January through June sludge disposal operations respectively. The Sludge Management Report Form can be obtained at the following IEPA website,
<https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/Documents/epa.state.il.us/water/compliance/waste-water/forms/sludge-management.pdf>.

The permittee shall submit the semi-annual sludge management report electronically or in writing to the following addresses:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water
Compliance Assurance Section
Mail Code #19
2520 West Iles Avenue
Post Office Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

EPA.PrmSpecCondtns@Illinois.gov

SPECIAL CONDITION 3: For the duration of this permit, if there is distribution of non-EQ biosolids, the permittee shall sample all different sludges being applied to land or publicly distributed on a quarterly basis and chemically analyze said samples in accordance with the recommended procedures contained in the latest edition of Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater for the following parameters:

Nutrients (mg/kg)	Metals (mg/kg)	Other
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	Cadmium	pH
Ammonia Nitrogen	Copper	% TS
Phosphorus	Lead	% VS
Potassium	Manganese	Volatile Acids
	Nickel	
	Zinc	

Sampling shall consist of a grab sample and be reported as a maximum value.

The results of these analyses shall be submitted to this Agency on a quarterly basis on Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) electronic forms. The permittee shall update the sludge application rate utilizing all sludge analyses obtained after the previous sludge application period. Sampling results shall be submitted to the Agency by April 30, July 31, October 31 and January 31 of each year, reporting the preceding three months of sampling data.

The Permittee is required to submit electronic DMRs (NetDMRs) instead of mailing paper DMRs to the IEPA unless a waiver has been granted by the Agency. More information, including registration information for the NetDMR program, can be obtained on the IEPA website, <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/water-quality/surface-water/netdmr/pages/quick-answer-guide.aspx>.

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Permittees that have been granted a waiver shall mail Discharge Monitoring Reports with an original signature to the IEPA at the following address:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water
Compliance Assurance Section
Mail Code #19
2520 West Iles Avenue
Post Office Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

SPECIAL CONDITION 4: From the Compliance Start Date the permittee shall submit quarterly reports to the Agency which shall contain the following information, as a minimum:

- a. Solids analysis from different sources.
- b. Information on sludge users that includes the following:
 - i. User name and address
 - ii. Type of solids and source
 - iii. Quantity received (dry tons)
 - iv. Date received
 - v. Use of solids at site
 - vi. Size of application area (acres)
 - vii. Application rate (dry tons/acre)
- c. A sludge flow schematic diagram depicting the sludge processing operations. The permittee shall revise the sludge flow schematic diagrams as necessary to reflect modifications to actual operations.
- d. Specific site monitoring as required. The reports shall be submitted to the Field Operations Section in Des Plaines and to the Permit Section of the Division of Water Pollution Control.

SPECIAL CONDITION 5: The permittee shall contact the Field Operations Section in Des Plaines and the Permit Section of the Division of Water Pollution Control 2 (two) weeks prior to transporting digested sludge to a site if:

- a. The site is 20 acres or greater;
- b. When 50 or more 20 cubic yard truckloads are proposed to be used at a particular site; or
- c. The proposed application rate exceeds 50 dry tons per acre;

This advance notice will allow the Agency time for site inspection for the determination of site suitability, when necessary. Should the Agency not provide a site inspector or contact the permittee within this time, the permittee may transport digested sludge to the proposed site.

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Digested sludge may be applied at rates up to 200 dry tons per acre, without notification, provided the entire area receiving digested sludge drains to a combined sewer system which is tributary to the MWRDGC system.

SPECIAL CONDITION 6: Digested sludge delivered to a site shall be incorporated within 24 hours of delivery unless otherwise approved by the Agency and seeded or stabilized within 90 days of delivery unless temporary runoff control measures such as containment dikes, straw bales; temporary seeding etc. is undertaken at the application site.

SPECIAL CONDITION 7:

A. Digested sludge shall be applied to sites within the following guidelines:

1. Digested sludge shall not be applied to sites during precipitation.
2. Digested sludge shall not be applied to sites which are saturated or with ponded water.
3. Digested sludge shall not be applied to ice or snow covered sites.
4. Frozen land, which is not ice or snow covered and has a slope of 5% or less, may be used for land application of digested sludge provided a 200 foot grassy area exists between the sludge applied land and any surface water or potable water supply well.

B. It is not recommended that digested sludge be applied to sites:

1. When precipitation is imminent.
2. Which have received greater than ¼ inch rainfall within the 24-hour period preceding the intended application time of the digested sludge.

C. Digested sludge shall not be applied to land which lies within 200 feet from a community water supply well, potable water supply well, surface waters or intermittent stream that drains to a water body outside of the sludge application site.

SPECIAL CONDITION 8: Digested sludge shall only be applied to land if the sludge/soil pH is 6.5 or greater, unless lime or other suitable materials are applied to the site to raise the sludge/soil pH to a minimum of 6.5. The permittee shall perform background soil pH testing for all sites proposed to receive digested sludge at rates greater than 50 dry tons/acre.

SPECIAL CONDITION 9: User information sheets shall be provided by the permittee to all digested sludge users and shall be signed by the digested sludge users. Where sludge is used as fertilizer topdressing on established vegetation, the signed user sheets are required only for the first use of sludge during each five-year cycle of the permit. A revised and re-signed user information sheet shall be submitted to the Agency for such sites, at such time as there is a change in management, ownership or usage of said site. Records regarding digested sludge users shall be retained by the permittee.

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Special Condition 10:

Land application of non-exceptional biosolids covered by this permit is limited to those Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW's) who have incorporated a PFAS reduction initiative which includes, at a minimum, the following sampling and reduction efforts for the wastewater and biosolids associated with the facilities NPDES permit.

The NPDES holder does not have to have the PFAS reduction requirements outlined in this permit incorporated into their NPDES permit before the land application of sludge is allowed. Land application may begin if the conditions of this permit are being met under the compliance timelines specified in this condition. Once the requirements of this condition have been added to the corresponding NPDES permits, this condition will cease to apply and will no longer be enforceable under this permit. It is anticipated that the PFAS reduction requirements found in this permit will be added to NPDES permits during the permit renewal process.

- 1) For the Duration of this permit, if there is distribution of non-EQ biosolids, the permittee shall have the following POTW Sampling Requirements:

- a) PFAS Sample Frequency and Type of Sample for the POTW.

<u>Sampling Point</u>	<u>Sample Frequency</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>	<u>Report****</u>
Effluent	Quarterly*	Grab***	ng/L
Influent	Quarterly*	Grab***	ng/L
Biosolids	Semiannually**	Grab	ng/g

* Quarterly sampling – Testing done during the first quarter (January – March) must be reported in May, testing done in the second quarter (April – June) must be reported in August, testing done in the third quarter (July – September) must be reported in November, and testing done in the fourth quarter (October – December) must be reported in February.

** Semiannually sampling – Testing done during the first half of each year (January through June) must be reported in August and sampling taken during the second half of each year (July through December) must be reported in February.

*** If the permittee prefers to collect composite samples instead grab samples, the permittee will be required to seek approval through the permit modification process.

**** The Minimum Level (ML) of quantification established for PFAS by the laboratory, when using the approved analytical method, shall be submitted with the test results each reporting period to the address identified under Part 4 – Reporting Requirements of this Special Condition.

- b) Influent and effluent test results must be reported in nanograms per liter (ng/L) as a daily maximum concentration. Biosolids test results must be reported in nanograms per gram (ng/g) as a daily maximum concentration.

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- c) USEPA Method 1633A - Analysis of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Aqueous, Solid, Biosolids, and Tissue Samples by LC-MS/MS (finalized December 2024) is to be used when testing for PFAS. When PFAS analytical methods are promulgated through rulemaking and incorporated into 40 CFR Part 136, the permittee shall follow the approved methods.
- d) When testing for PFAS the laboratory shall determine their limit of quantitation (LOQ) for each analyte in accordance with the test method identified in 1) c) of this Special Condition. The LOQ is synonymous with Minimum Level (ML) and Reporting Limit. The laboratory LOQs (Minimum Levels) must not exceed the upper limit of the aqueous and biosolids ranges listed in the table in 1) f).
- e) If sample results for PFAS are consistently below the minimum level (ML) of quantification for two consecutive years using USEPA Method 1633A or methods approved under 40 CFR 136, once finalized, the permittee may request a reevaluation of the testing requirements. Documentation supporting the request for a reduction in monitoring for PFAS must be made by the permittee as a permit modification request.
- f) Specific PFAS constituents that must be tested for, and reported on, are listed in the following table:

Target Analyte Name	Abbreviation	CASRN Number	STORET	Minimum Level (ML)	
				Aqueous (ng/L)	Biosolids (ng/g)
Perfluoroalkyl carboxylic acids					
Perfluorobutanoic acid	PFBA	375-22-4	51522	4 - 16	6.4 - 16
Perfluoropentanoic acid	PFPeA	2706-90-3	51623	2 - 8	3.2 - 8
Perfluorohexanoic acid	PFHxA	307-24-4	51624	1 - 4	1.6 - 4
Perfluoroheptanoic acid	PFHpA	375-85-9	51625	1 - 4	1.6 - 4
Perfluorooctanoic acid	PFOA	335-67-1	51521	1 - 4	1.6 - 4
Perfluorononanoic acid	PFNA	375-95-1	51626	1 - 4	1.6 - 13
Perfluorodecanoic acid	PFDA	335-76-2	51627	1 - 4	1.6 - 4
Perfluoroundecanoic acid	PFUnA	2058-94-8	51628	1 - 4	1.6 - 5
Perfluorododecanoic acid	PFDoA	307-55-1	51629	1 - 4	1.6 - 4

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Perfluorotridecanoic acid	PFTrDA	72629-94-8	51630	1 - 4	1.6 - 4
Perfluorotetradecanoic acid	PFTeDA	376-06-7	51631	1 - 4	1.6 - 4
Perfluoroalkyl sulfonic acids					
Acid Form					
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid	PFBS	375-73-5	52602	1 - 4	1.6 - 4
Perfluoropentanesulfonic acid	PFPeS	2706-91-4	52610	1 - 4	1.6 - 4
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid	PFHxS	355-46-4	52605	1 - 4	1.6 - 4
Perfluoroheptanesulfonic acid	PFHpS	375-92-8	52604	1 - 4	1.6 - 4
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid	PFOS	1763-23-1	52606	1 - 4	1.6 - 4
Perfluorononanesulfonic acid	PFNS	68259-12-1	52611	1 - 4	1.6 - 4
Perfluorodecanesulfonic acid	PFDS	335-77-3	52603	1 - 4	1.6 - 4
Perfluorododecanesulfonic acid	PFDoS	79780-39-5	52632	1 - 4	1.6 - 4
Fluorotelomer sulfonic acids					
1H,1H, 2H, 2H-Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid	4:2FTS	757124-72-4	52607	4 - 15	6.4 - 15
1H,1H, 2H, 2H-Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid	6:2FTS	27619-97-2	52608	4 - 15	6.4 - 15
1H,1H, 2H, 2H-Perfluorodecane sulfonic acid	8:2FTS	39108-34-4	52609	4 - 15	6.4 - 15
Perfluorooctane sulfonamides					
Perfluorooctanesulfonamide	PFOSA	754-91-6	51525	1 - 4	1.6 - 4
N-methyl perfluorooctanesulfonamide	NMeFOSA	31506-32-8	52641	1 - 4	1.6 - 4
N-ethyl perfluorooctanesulfonamide	NEtFOSA	4151-50-2	52642	1 - 4	1.6 - 4
Perfluorooctane sulfonamidoacetic acids					
N-methyl perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid	NMeFOSAA	2355-31-9	51644	1 - 4	1.6 - 4

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N-ethyl perfluorooctanesulfonamidoacetic acid	NEtFOSAA	2991-50-6	51643	1-4	1.6 - 4
Perfluorooctane sulfonamide ethanol					
N-methyl perfluorooctanesulfonamidoethanol	NMeFOSE	24448-09-7	51642	10 - 40	16 - 40
N-ethyl perfluorooctanesulfonamidoethanol	NEtFOSE	1691-99-2	51641	10 - 40	16 - 40
Per- and Polyfluoroether carboxylic acids					
Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid	HFPO-DA	13252-13-6	52612	2 - 8	6.4 - 16
4,8-Dioxa-3H-perfluorononanoic acid	ADONA	919005-14-4	52636	2 - 8	6.4 - 15
Perfluoro-3-methoxypropanoic acid	PFMPA	377-73-1	PF002	4 - 16	3.2 - 8
Perfluoro-4-methoxybutanoic acid	PFMBA	863090-89-5	PF006	4 - 15	3.2 - 8
Nonafluoro-3,6-dioxaheptanoic acid	NFDHA	151772-58-6	52626	2 - 7	3.2 - 8
Ether sulfonic acids					
9-Chlorohexadecafluoro-3-oxanonane-1-sulfonic acid	9Cl-PF3ONS	756426-58-1	PF003	4 - 15	6.4 - 15
11-Chloroeicosafluoro-3-oxaundecane-1-sulfonic acid	11Cl-PF3OUdS	763051-92-9	PF004	4 - 15	6.4 - 15
Perfluoro(2-ethoxyethane)sulfonic acid	PFEESA	113507-82-7	52629	2 - 8	3.2 - 7
Fluorotelomer carboxylic acids					
3-Perfluoropropyl propanoic acid	3:3FTCA	356-02-5	PF001	5 - 20	8 - 50
2H,2H,3H,3H-Perfluorooctanoic acid	5:3FTCA	914637-49-3	PF007	25 - 100	40 - 100
3-Perfluoroheptyl propanoic acid	7:3FTCA	812-70-4	PF005	25 - 100	40 - 100

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2) POTW Industrial Inventory Requirements:

- a) The NPDES permit holder shall develop an inventory of those facilities which may have the potential to contribute or discharge PFAS into the sanitary sewer system. At a minimum, facilities which fall under one or more of the following SIC (NAICS) codes must be considered when developing this inventory list:

1020 (212230), 1041 (212221), 1094 (212291), 1311 (211120), 2221 (313210), 2262 (313310), 2273 (314110), 2295 (313320), 2297 (313230), 2299 (313110), 2385 (314999), 2392 (314999), 2394 (314910), 2621 (322121), 2656 (322219), 2671 (322220), 2672 (322220), 2673 (322220), 2752 (323111), 2796 (323120), 2813 (325120), 2819 (211130, 325130, 325180), 2821 (325211), 2822 (325212), 2824 (325220), 2841 (325611), 2842 (325612), 2843 (325613), 2844 (325611), 2851 (325510), 2869 (325110, 325193, 325199), 2899 (325199, 325510, 325998), 2911 (324110), 2992 (324191), 3011 (326211), 3081 (326113), 3082 (326121), 3083 (326130), 3089 (326121), 3111 (316110), 3231 (323215, 327310), 3471 (332813), 3479 (332812), 3497 (332999), 3577 (334418), 3589 (333318), 3629 (335999), 3643 (335931), 3651 (334310), 3663 (334220), 3672 (334412), 3674 (334413), 3679 (334419), 3841 (333249), 3861 (333316), 4581 (488119), 4953 (562211, 562212, 562213, 562219), 5169 (424690), 5719 (442291), 7217 (581740), 7641 (811420), 9711 (928110).

- b) Examples of other activities that may not have specific SIC or NAICS codes, but have the potential to contribute or discharge PFAS into the sewer system, and therefore must also be included when developing the inventory list are:
- i) Waste Management: RCRA Subtitle C Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities (RCRA Part B permit holders; not defined by NAICS code).
 - ii) Firefighting training facilities.
 - iii) Airports (Part 139).
 - iv) Any other activities that the permittee determines are known or expected sources of PFAS.
- c) The following information must be included for each facility that is in the inventory:
- i) The name and address of the facility,
 - ii) List of SIC code(s) or other reasons, which require the facility to be placed on the inventory list,
 - iii) Identification of wastewater discharges from the industrial facility which may have the potential to contribute or discharge PFAS into the sanitary sewer system,
 - iv) Actual or estimated monthly average flow rate in gallons per day (gpd) of wastewater being discharged to the sanitary sewer system by the facility for the previous year.

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- d) The NPDES permit holder must submit an initial inventory report within 12 months of the compliance start date of this permit. Subsequent annual updated reports of the inventory list will be due 12 months from the previous report due date for the term of the permit.

Information on the initial and subsequent updated inventory reports must include:

- i) The name, address, and NPDES permit number of the Permittee,
- ii) The name and address of each facility on the inventory list,
- iii) List of SIC code(s), or other reasons, for each facility which resulted in the facility to be placed on the inventory list,
- iv) Identification of wastewater discharges at each facility which may have the potential to contribute or discharge PFAS into the sanitary sewer system,
- v) Actual or estimated monthly average flow rate in gallons per day (gpd) of wastewater being discharged to the sewer system during the previous year for each facility on the inventory list.

Annual updated reports should identify only those sites currently discharging wastewater to the sanitary sewer.

3) POTW PFAS Reduction Initiative:

- a) Within 24 months from the compliance start date of this permit the NPDES permit holder shall develop and implement a PFAS reduction initiative. The reduction initiative must include PFAS reduction plans for facilities identified in the Inventory under paragraph 2) of this Special Condition.
- b) The PFAS reduction plans referred to above must include, for facilities identified in the inventory, the following Best Management Practices (BMPs):
 - i) Evaluation of the potential for the industrial facility to use products containing PFAS or have knowledge or suspect wastewater being discharged to the sewer system to contain PFAS.
 - ii) Evaluation of Pollution prevention/source reduction opportunities which may include:
 - (1) Product elimination or substitution when a reasonable alternative to using PFAS is available in the industrial process,
 - (2) Accidental discharge minimization by optimizing operations and good housekeeping practices,
 - (3) Equipment decontamination or replacement (such as in metal finishing facilities) where PFAS products have historically been used to prevent discharge of legacy PFAS following the implementation of product substitution.
 - iii) Identification of the measures being taken to reduce PFAS loading from the industrial facility, and any available information, including industrial wastewater testing for PFAS, on the loading reduction achieved.

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- c) PFAS reduction plans must be reevaluated and updated on an annual basis. The updated plans must identify any changes made since the previous plan was submitted.
- d) The NPDES permit holder is required to submit a PFAS reduction report annually to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency at the addresses identified under 4) of this condition with the first report due 36 months from the compliance start date of this permit. Subsequent annual reports shall be due 12 months following the previous report's due date.

PFAS reduction reports must include the following information:

- i) The name, address, and NPDES permit number of the Permittee,
- ii) The name and address for each facility on the most current inventory list,
- iii) The current PFAS loading reduction plans for each facility on the PFAS inventory list. Updated plans should include all changes made since the previous plan was submitted.

4) Reporting Requirements:

- a) The NPDES Permit holder is required to submit the sampling results in paragraph 1) and reports identified under paragraphs 2) and 3) of this Special Condition electronically or in writing to one of the following addresses:
- b) EPA.PrmtSpecCondtns@Illinois.gov
- c) Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water
Compliance Assurance Section
Mail Code #19
2520 West Iles Avenue
Post Office Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

