



Portland Water District
FROM SEBAGO LAKE TO CASCO BAY

Industrial Pretreatment Newsletter Issue 2: Identifying Businesses for IPT

Which types of businesses need to be permitted in Industrial Pretreatment Programs and how are they identified?



IPT programs exist to protect wastewater treatment plants and sewer systems from potentially harmful industrial wastewater. But which types of businesses need to be permitted? And how do we find them?

According to the Industrial Pretreatment section of the federal Clean Water Act (40 CFR 403), a business must be regulated if it (1) discharges a lot of water to the sewer;

(2) conducts specific activities or (3) caused or has potential to cause issues with the sewer system or wastewater treatment plant. Read on for more details.



Photo caption: grease build up in a pump station is one example of a sewer system problem.

Industrial Pretreatment Program Permitting Criteria

Water Usage

Any business discharging 25,000 gallons or more of process wastewater per day must be regulated. Alternately, if the process waste stream from the facility makes up 5% or more of the average total flow to the treatment plant (even if that 5% is less than 25,000 gallons) the business must be regulated as well.

Business Activity Categories

The Clean Water Act identifies categories of business activity that, by the very nature of their processes, could impact a sewer system. Businesses that engage in these activities (known as "categorical industries") must be regulated. Examples include: dairies, meat and poultry processing, and metal finishers.

Potential Impact on the Sewer System

Even if a business discharges a small amount of water and does not conduct any of the categorical activities specified in the Clean Water Act, it may still need to be regulated if it has the potential to cause a problem for sewer collection systems and wastewater treatment plants. As the administrator of IPT Programs the District is required to make this determination.

Identifying Businesses that Require a Permit

PWD uses a variety of methods to determine if local businesses meet one or more of the above criteria.

We monitor building permits, business licenses and local development projects for activities that could impact the sewer. We also use a tool called an Industrial Waste Survey (IWS) to find businesses that may need to be regulated. Check out the box to the right for more information on an IWS.

What is an Industrial Waste Survey?

A review of records to identify businesses that might need to be regulated. We use water records to find users that may be discharging a large amount of water to the sewer.

We review business listings to identify businesses that might be categorical industries. Finally, we use publically available chemical listings to identify companies that may have large amounts of hazardous materials stored onsite. Using these records we compile a list of businesses that warrant a follow up call or email. Ultimately, if a business meets one of the criteria listed above, we will issue them a pretreatment permit.

The next issue of this newsletter will provide details about the contents of industrial pretreatment permits and the permitting process.

Need to catch up on previous issues or want to provide feedback? Visit [PWD's IPT website](#) or send us an [email](#).

