

POLICY STATEMENT  
FOR TEMPORARY PERMITS  
FOR GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION  
PROJECTS IN THE GRAND TRAVERSE AREA

## INTRODUCTION

Municipal wastewater treatment plants are designed to remove conventional pollutants such as Biochemical Oxygen Demand, Suspended Solids, Ammonia and Phosphorus. The kinds of pollutants often present in contaminated groundwater may not be effectively treated at a municipal wastewater treatment plant.

Treated groundwater is an unnecessary hydraulic burden on the treatment facility. The Traverse City Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant has little reserve hydraulic capacity. Owners of contaminated sites should seek a permit from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to discharge directly to surface water or return it to groundwater.

Because of the soil characteristics in the area, we recognize that it is in the community's general interest to simplify the remediation of groundwater contamination sites. We will consider accepting temporary groundwater discharges during draw-down tests or while an NPDES permit to discharge directly is being sought. The following are conditions for consideration:

## CAPACITY AVAILABILITY

There must exist sufficient hydraulic capacity to treat the groundwater without jeopardizing the ability of the facility to meet the terms of its NPDES permit.

## PERMIT

Discharge of groundwater to the collection system and treatment plant is allowed only by permit. Applications for permits can be obtained at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, 606 Franklin Street in Traverse City.

## TERM

The term of each permit shall not exceed six (6) months. If required by the Control Authority, permit holders shall make good faith efforts to obtain a surface or groundwater discharge permit by the Water Resources Commission. Failure to do so will result in permit revocation.

## CONTAMINANT LEVELS

The groundwater must have nondetectable concentrations of pollutants or levels that the Control Authority determines are not harmful to the wastewater treatment plant or the receiving stream.

## MONITORING

Persons applying for permission to discharge groundwater to the collection system or treatment plant shall provide all analyses required by a temporary discharge permit issued by the Control Authority. The Control Authority may require additional analyses at any time. The applicant or permit holder will pay for all such analyses.

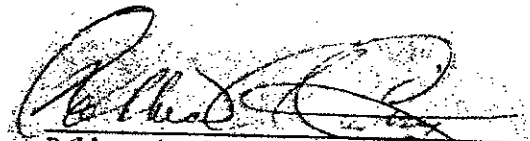
## CONTINGENT ON APPROVAL

If the applicant proposes to discharge into the collection system, permit issuance will be contingent upon the approval of the appropriate officials of the jurisdiction in which the discharge is proposed to occur.

## FEES

Persons discharging groundwater shall pay one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for the first ten thousand (10,000) gallons or any fraction thereof and one cent (\$0.01) for each additional gallon over ten thousand. The fee is designed to recover the costs of reviewing requests, writing temporary permits, monitoring the discharge and treatment of the water. It is not regressive as is the regular sewer charge because it is also intended to encourage the pursuit of other disposal options for reasons mentioned in the introduction.

I hereby certify that the above Policy was adopted by the City Commission at its Regular meeting of July 6, 1992, held in the Commission Chambers, Governmental Center, 400 Boardman Avenue, Traverse City, Michigan, said policy to be effective immediately.



Debbra A. Curtiss, City Clerk