

Seattle Permits

— part of a multi-departmental City of Seattle series on getting a permit

Side Sewer Permits for Temporary Dewatering on Construction Sites

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Dewatering operations are practices that manage the collection and discharge of surface and subsurface water that must be removed from a work location so that construction work can be accomplished. The Side Sewer Permit for Temporary Dewatering (SSPTD) addresses location for discharges, pollutants, discharge volumes, report methods, payment to public agencies for use of existing facilities, monitoring and inspections.

This Tip clarifies the requirements for obtaining construction site dewatering authorization (including permit and fees), submittal requirements for construction temporary dewatering and connections, requirements for construction dewatering monitoring and compliance; and the responsibilities of relevant parties.

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

When is a Temporary Dewatering Permit Required?

An SSPTD is required for any of the following:

- Deep excavations (greater than 12 feet)
- One (1) acre or more of land disturbing activity
- If surface and/or subsurface water is encountered during construction activity
- Work in an Environmentally Critical Area (ECA)
- Disposal of contaminated temporary surface and/or subsurface water during construction that was not originally expected to occur
- When advised by the Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) and/or the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (Seattle DCI) that an SSPTD needs to

be obtained from Seattle DCI because of known surface or subsurface concerns of the neighborhood or other parties

Normally Seattle DCI will identify the requirements for an SSPTD during the building permit review. In situations where surface and/or subsurface water contamination is present, SPU may be consulted for review and comments. Likewise, where there may be an influence from temporary dewatering adjacent to a public place (street right-of-way), the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) may also be consulted for review and comments.

Submittal Requirements/Special Inspections

The submittals for a SSPTD must include the following:

- **Material previously required by Seattle DCI/SDOT:**
 - Geotechnical Report
 - Analysis of the influence of temporary dewatering activities adjacent to the street right-of-way (ROW)
- **Material previously required by Seattle DCI but now requiring additional and/or modified information:**
 - Point of discharge and proposed rate of discharge for temporary dewatering flows
 - Temporary Dewatering Plan for temporary surface water and temporary subsurface water discharge, monitoring, testing and reporting requirements
- **New material required by SPU/Seattle DCI:**
 - Phase I and/or II Environmental Site Assessment (if available)
 - Water Quality Treatment System design and operation (if applicable)
 - Water quality (if applicable) and discharge volume sampling, monitoring plan; and reporting
 - Evidence that a Construction Stormwater Permit was obtained from Department of Ecology (DOE) for construction sites greater than one acre in size or as required



Temporary Dewatering Plan Requirements

For projects to be permitted, the applicant will be required to submit a Temporary Dewatering Plan (Plan) containing information about groundwater and soil conditions on the site, as defined in DR 13-2010, "Side Sewer Permit for Temporary Dewatering." The Plan can be used to identify the point of discharge for temporary groundwater and stormwater, and also identify, if appropriate, contaminant issues, water quality treatment and action levels that may be required.

The Plan must also contain provisions for suspending work through the "wet season" should the proposed temporary dewatering measures prove to be inadequate during construction.

Point of Discharge

Project sites that have access to a public storm drainage system (PSD) will be required to treat and discharge all on-site dewatering to the PSD unless water cannot be effectively treated and/or flow cannot be adequately controlled to protect the downstream drainage activities. The general point of discharge shall be made using the project site's existing side sewer (including existing service drain) piping.

If no side sewer is available at the proposed site, temporary discharge may be made to a public facility (e.g. maintenance hole, catch basin or curb discharge) provided that all street-use requirements and permits required from SDOT are obtained. If no PSD is available, the City may allow connection of the point of discharge to a public combined sewer or sanitary sewer after review of the Plan.

To discharge to a public combined or sanitary sewer system, applicants must obtain a Discharge Authorization Letter from King County Industrial Waste, Department of Natural Resources and Parks Industrial Waste Group. Normally King County Industrial Waste will accept contaminated stormwater into its sanitary sewer system under certain conditions and criteria with its Discharge Authorization Letter.

Water Quality Standards and Treatment (Including Groundwater Contamination)

It is the applicant's responsibility to meet the discharge requirements that will be specified in the SSPTD. This includes maintaining discharge rates and volumes below the specified amount, meeting sampling and monitoring requirements, and reporting water quality and volume results to the specified agencies. Water quality requirements are based on federal, state, county and city guidelines and regulations.

■ Discharge limits

Discharge limits are the maximum allowable concentrations of a pollutant that can be discharged off site from temporary dewatering operations. Discharge limits apply at the point of discharge from the project and are defined separately for discharges to storm drain/receiving water bodies and sanitary/combined sewer systems as defined in DR 13-2010. Project specific discharge limits will be defined in the SSPTD.

■ Treatment

If necessary, dewatering water must be treated prior to discharge. Treatment process and operating protocols must be described in the dewatering plan. The appropriate local authority (SPU for discharges to storm/surface water and King County Industrial Waste for discharges to sanitary/combined sewer) shall review and approve treatment plans.

Some treatment systems (e.g. polymer treatment) require DOE review and approval. The applicant is responsible for obtaining all necessary approvals/permits for these systems. Documentation of DOE approval must be provided to Seattle DCI prior to operating the treatment process.

■ Compliance Monitoring

Monitoring frequency will be stipulated in the SSPTD. All sampling shall be conducted in accordance with standard EPA and DOE protocols.

Volume and Discharge Rates

Volume restrictions will be determined by the City based on point of discharge (sewer or storm), capacity restrictions, project size, and receiving water body, if applicable as defined in DR 13-2010. Details regarding such a discharge system must be described in the Plan, as well as emergency measures to account for any system failure or unforeseen circumstances.

CITY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Seattle Public Utilities

SPU Surface Water Quality staff provide review and inspection for receiving water quality sampling and testing reports, and reviewing results for an issued SSPTD. If violations are detected, SPU will contact the applicant/contractor, certified TESC representative, special inspector, and Seattle DCI to work with them to resolve any problems.

Normally, involvement by SPU will be limited to special cases and complex issues arising during permitting

or construction. This would include reviewing and researching utility systems in project areas, investigating complaints with SPU Surface Water Quality staff and/or Seattle DCI staff, coordinating with King County Industrial Waste staff, and responding to conflicts and complaints as received by SPU. SPU will define and oversee an exception process for dewatering permits.

SPU will assist in the review process under the following conditions:

- If the site is authorized to discharge to a PSD and/or contamination is present in the temporary surface and/or subsurface dewatering flows
- If the site is being authorized to discharge to a creek system
- If there is confusing or contradictory mapping information regarding existing piping or piping discharges
- If applicant requires discharge rates greater than those outlined in DR 13-2010 and a resolution cannot be made by Seattle DCI staff during review

After issuance of an SSPTD, SPU will assist in the inspection process under the following conditions:

- If there are water quality treatment issues
- If there is a conflict with the existing piping and the SPU/Seattle DCI Graphical Information System (GIS) sewer and storm drain main locations
- If there are treatment issues occurring during construction
- If higher discharges are required because of site conditions
- If there is no Construction Stormwater Permit required by DOE but flocculent treatment is proposed

Seattle DCI

Seattle DCI staff perform Pre-Application Site Visits, identify key issues related to dewatering, review submittals during permitting relating to the SSPTD, collect fees, issue the SSPTD, conduct site inspections during construction, and coordinate actions related to complaints or violations of the conditions set in the SSPTD. If Seattle DCI detects violations, they will contact SPU staff and work with them to resolve any problems.

Seattle Department of Transportation

SDOT staff verify connections with street ROW requirements, issue street-use permits for dewatering discharges that are permitted across the ROW and review proposed dewatering procedures to ensure that there is no detriment to the public place from said dewatering operations.

FEES AND CHARGES

The fees associated with an SSPTD are established in the SMC 21.16. Review time by Seattle DCI and SPU for an SSPTD will be charged at the current hourly fee as established by the applicable Seattle DCI Fee Subtitle, which can be found on Seattle DCI's "Fees" page at www.seattle.gov/dpd/codesrules/codes/fees/.

Inspection Fees

General inspection of dewatering elements of a project will be performed by the Seattle DCI Site Development Inspector in conjunction with other ground disturbance/side sewer/TESC inspection. One hour is allocated to an SSPTD. These inspections may be coordinated with SPU Surface Water Quality staff and SPU Engineering staff if complications or uncertainties arise during the construction dewatering phase.

Regardless of inspections, the permittee is responsible for complying with all conditions of the SSPTD, e.g., point of discharge, water quality, and discharge volumes.

After issuance of the permit, SPU/Seattle DCI inspection and/or additional review time required that exceeds the allotted time for an SSPTD will be billed on an hourly rate per the Seattle DCI hourly rate schedule mentioned above.

Discharge to Public Sewer System

If discharges are made to the public sewer system, King County Industrial Waste must be contacted for authorization to discharge, for which a fee may be required at King County's discretion.

Also at King County's direction, the applicant must establish an account with SPU for discharge billing, which is based on volume to cover costs for conveyance and treatment. However, King County has the option to waive billing for small construction sites.

In rare cases when a site is connected directly to a King County sewer main and not an SPU line, billing will be conducted by King County alone.

Other Fees

King County Industrial Waste may have an inspection role when discharges to the sewer system are allowed. Fees for this service will be directed to the applicant/contractor by King County Industrial Waste's Discharge Authorization Letter. SDOT may also have a fee for temporary dewatering operations being conducted in the public place.

KEY SIDE SEWER CONTACTS

Application Information

Contact the Seattle DCI Drainage & Sewer Review Desk at (206) 684-5362 or visit www.seattle.gov/dpd/permits/permittypes/sidesewer/.

Scheduling Inspections

Call the Seattle DCI Inspection Request Line at (206) 684-8900 or read Tip 503, *Side Sewer Permits in Seattle*.

Technical Information

Send an email to sidesewerinfo@seattle.gov or contact the most pertinent listing below:

- Seattle DCI Drainage & Sewer Review Desk, (206) 684-5362
- Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) Core Tap, (206) 615-0511
- Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) Street Restoration - Street Use Counter, (206) 684-5283

Access to Information

Links to electronic versions of Seattle DCI **Tips**, **codes** and **forms** are available on the "Tools & Resources" page of our website at www.seattle.gov/sdci. Paper copies of these documents are available from our Public Resource Center, located on the 20th floor of Seattle Municipal Tower at 700 Fifth Ave. in downtown Seattle, (206) 684-8467.

Seattle DCI Triggers Side Sewer Permit for Temporary Discharge-Flowrate Thresholds¹

Discharge Pipe	Discharge Water Source			
	Surface Water	Uncontaminated Groundwater	Process Water	Contaminated Surface and/or Ground Water
PS ³ (wet season) ²	230 gpm ⁶ for 'batch' discharge	8-in pipe: 65 gpm >8-in pipe: 200 gpm ⁸		Surface Water: 230 gpm ⁶ for 'batch' discharge Groundwater: 25,000 gpd
PS ³ (dry season) ²	230 gpm ⁶ for 'batch' discharge	8-in pipe: 65 gpm >8-in pipe: 200 gpm ⁸		Surface Water: 230 gpm ⁶ for 'batch' discharge Groundwater: 75,000 gpd
PSS ³ (wet season)	not allowed	not allowed	25,000 gpd	not allowed ⁴
PSS ³ (dry season)	not allowed	not allowed	75,000 gpd	not allowed ⁴
PSD discharging to PS ³ (wet season)	230 gpm ⁶ for 'batch' discharge	8-in pipe: 65 gpm >8-in pipe: 200 gpm ⁸	not allowed illicit discharge	not allowed ⁵
PSD discharging to PS ³ (dry season)	230 gpm ⁶ for 'batch' discharge	8-in pipe: 65 gpm >8-in pipe: 200 gpm ⁸	not allowed illicit discharge	not allowed ⁵
PSD to Receiving Water (wet season)	No Limitation ⁷	230 gpm ⁶	not allowed illicit discharge	not allowed illicit discharge
PSD to Receiving Water (dry season)	No Limitation ⁷	230 gpm ⁶	not allowed illicit discharge	not allowed illicit discharge
PSD discharging to listed or non-listed creek basin (wet season)	230 gpm ⁶ for 'batch' discharge	230 gpm ⁶	not allowed illicit discharge	not allowed illicit discharge
PSD discharging to listed or non-listed creek basin (dry season)	230 gpm ⁶ for 'batch' discharge	230 gpm ⁶	not allowed illicit discharge	not allowed illicit discharge
Ditch & Culvert, or Capacity Constrained Basin (wet season)	230 gpm ⁶ for 'batch' discharge	230 gpm ⁶	not allowed illicit discharge	not allowed illicit discharge
Ditch & Culvert, or Capacity Constrained Basin (dry season)	230 gpm ⁶ for 'batch' discharge	230 gpm ⁶	not allowed illicit discharge	not allowed illicit discharge

¹ Exceptions requested from these parameters are triggers for SPU consultation.

² Wet Season is November 1 through April 31; Dry Season is May 1 through October 31

³ Discharges to the public sanitary and combined systems must receive a King County Industrial Waste Discharge Permit as a condition of the SSPTD.

⁴ Proposed drainage water discharge to PSS must receive SPU & KC special permission. A max 25,000/75,000 gpd rate for all discharges may be considered.

⁵ Discharge may be allowed if there isn't a PS available, and if the PSD directly discharges into a combined system (opposed to a diversion structure or daylighting in a pond prior to confluence)

⁶ PSD discharge limitation of 230 gpm is based on 10% theoretical capacity of a standard 12" pipe at a 2% slope.

⁷ General condition is that the discharge shall not cause or contribute to a flooding condition. If weather condition is rainy during discharge, the max discharge rate shall be 230 gpm.

⁸ If sewer main is 8-in, the maximum discharge rate shall be 65 gpm; 12-in main 200 gpm; larger main 230 gpm