



**Request for City Council Committee Action  
From the Department of Regulatory Services**

**Date:** October 12, 2005

**To:** Honorable Dan Niziolek, Chair, Public Safety & Reg. Services Committee  
Honorable Barbara Johnson, Chair, Ways & Means/Budget Committee

**Subject:** **Authorization to Enter Into Agreement with Mississippi Watershed Management District for Illicit Discharge Monitoring**

**Recommendation:**  
Authorization to execute Agreement with Mississippi Watershed Management Organization to develop baseline data for the determination of illicit discharge and their elimination.

**Previous Directives:** None

**Prepared/Submitted by:** Gayle Prest, Manager, Environmental Services, 673-2931

**Approved by:** Rocco Forte, Director, Regulatory Services/Emergency Response

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**Presenters in Committee:** Thomas Frame, Environmental Services  
Steve Kennedy, Environmental Services

<p><b>Financial Impact</b> (Check those that apply)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget. (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Action requires use of contingency or reserves</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other financial impact (Explain):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator</p>
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<p><b>Community Impact</b> (use any categories that apply)</p> <p>Neighborhood Notification</p> <p>City Goals</p> <p>Comprehensive Plan</p> <p>Zoning Code</p> <p>Other</p>
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**Background/Supporting Information Attached:**  
The proposed Agreement between the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) and the City of Minneapolis Environmental Services would develop a more cohesive

water monitoring program that will identify a series of baseline chemical, physical and biological parameters discharging from a watershed-wide storm drainage system (primarily through outfall monitoring) and also detect illicit discharges entering into water bodies in the City.

*Background:*

Typically, storm water flows to area catch basins which are typically located on City streets. From the catch basins, the storm water flows through underground pipes and discharges through outfalls to the lakes, streams or the Mississippi River in Minneapolis. There are approximately 200 storm drain outfalls on the Mississippi River within the City limits alone.

Illicit discharges include both intentional dumping of wastes and accidental spills of chemicals/liquids in the City's storm drain system. Intentional discharges would include dumping of oil/paint or other regulated wastes into catch basins. Motor vehicle collisions and electrical transformer overloads are examples of accidental releases that enter area storm drains. The result is untreated waste and hazardous materials that contribute to high levels of pollutants, including heavy metals, toxics and solvents. Environmental Services is responsible for illicit discharge detection and elimination by City Ordinance. Activities include development of baseline information, identification of problem areas, investigation and determination of sources, documentation and requiring corrective action.

*Benefits:*

This partnership would set up a monitoring program for up to 10 years whereby some existing City monitoring equipment could be used within reason by the MWMO in exchange for the MWMO annually funding up to \$10,000 of City related costs for illicit discharges investigations.

By both parties working together, cost savings and efficiencies will be realized. This will assist the City in determining the type and sources of illicit discharges and establish legal, technical and educational means to eliminate them. Ultimately this program will assist in improving water quality for City lakes, streams and river and help mitigate possible human health effects from these activities.

C: Doug Snyder, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization  
Steve Heng, City Attorney's Office  
Jane Onorati, Public Works