SERVICE AVAILABILITY CHARGE

Minneapolis Development Review
Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES)
Revised April 2013

Service Availability Charge (SAC)

The Service Availability Charge is a onetime fee imposed by Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) for new connections or increased volume discharged to the metropolitan wastewater system. The SAC fee is similar to fees used by many wastewater utilities and municipalities and is generically known as an "impact" or "connection" fee. One SAC unit equals 274 gallons of maximum potential daily wastewater flow volume. Effective January 1, 2013, the SAC unit fee rose to $2,435. The Metropolitan Council web address is: http://www.metrocouncil.org/Wastewater-Water/Funding-Finance/Rates-Charges/Sewer-Availability-Charge.aspx

Description of the SAC System:

- **Residential Properties** are assessed a SAC unit based upon the maximum potential daily wastewater flow, which in turn is based upon the usage of individual properties. A single family dwelling equals one SAC unit. Each unit in a duplex, townhouses or condominium is considered a single family dwelling.
- **Commercial Properties** are assessed SAC units based on maximum potential daily wastewater flow.
- **Food Establishments** are assessed SAC units when expanding, upgrading, or applying for a new food/liquor license.
- **Industrial Properties** are assessed SAC units based on maximum normal daily wastewater flow volume. Wastewater flow from process areas and maximum potential daily wastewater flow volume for commercial areas are the two categories that are separately calculated to determine the SAC.

SAC Determinations

MCES is a wholesaler of wastewater services for the Metropolitan Disposal System (MDS). MCES collects a SAC from, and grants SAC credit to local governments. In turn, the local governments are responsible for SAC collection. Generally, municipalities issue the permits (building or plumbing) or business licenses indicating that development or redevelopment is occurring and that the demand for sewage service is likely to change. The change in demand triggers a SAC determination. MCES makes all determinations for industrial and commercial properties based on published MCES criteria and guidance. MCES assists local governments in SAC determinations. MCES conducts SAC determinations upon request, and will make the final decision regarding the number of SAC units to assess.

Additional 20 percent SAC on Condominium Conversions

An apartment building with a common area that provides a shared water use for laundry initially received a 20% discount as it equates to lower water usage. When the property becomes condominiums, the owners have full control to install laundries etc., and it will be treated the same as any single family dwelling unit. The apartment would have previously paid 80% of the charge, so 20% is due.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL ENVIROMENTAL SERVICES
SAC DETERMINATIONS

WEBSITE: http://www.metrocouncil.org/Wastewater-Water/Funding-Finance/Rates-Charges/Sewer-Availability-Charge.aspx

Contact Information

SAC Determinations:

Karon Cappaert (651) 602-1118 karon.cappaert@metc.state.mn.us

Submittal Information and Determination Status:

Kristi Goble (651) 602-1421 kristi.goble@metc.state.mn.us

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is SAC?
SAC is a one-time fee imposed by Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) to Local Government Units for their portion of reserve capacity costs of the Metropolitan Wastewater System. The program has been in place since 1973 for new demand or increased volume use in the system. SAC is not a connection fee. It is for sewer capacity availability in the metro wastewater system. Local government units often charge a local SAC or add-on for capacity in the local sewer system.

What is a SAC determination?
A computation of SAC unit(s) assigned to a given property. This represents the maximum capacity likely to be used by the development.

Who needs to get a SAC determination?
Any commercial, institutional, or industrial property connecting to the Metropolitan Wastewater System for the first time or modifying the use of an existing property. All residential properties shall be assigned 1 SAC per dwelling unit and therefore do not need to apply to MCES for a determination. The local government unit is able to do the determination.

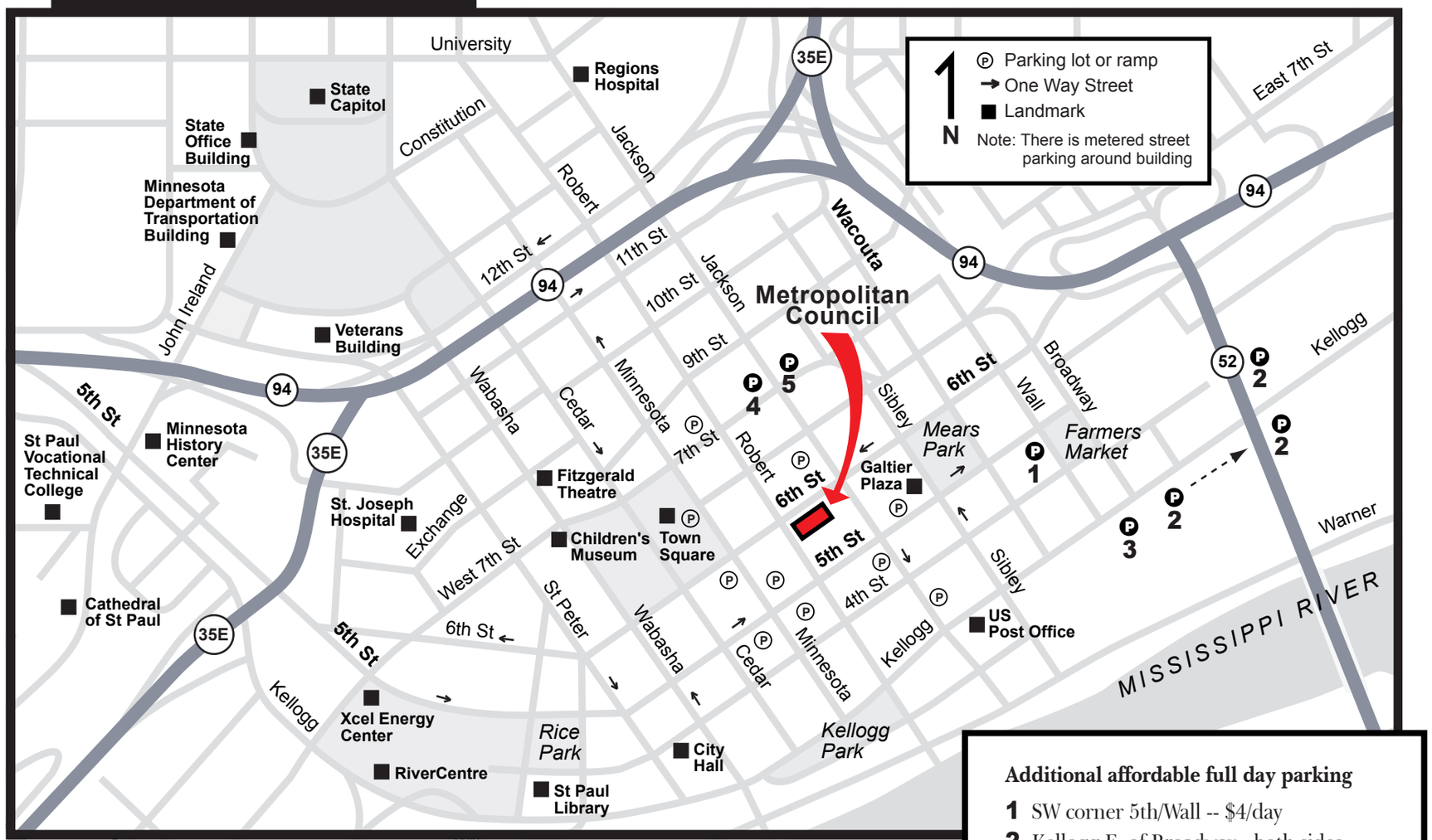
What is the procedure and process for SAC determinations?
Anyone requesting a determination by MCES needs to fill out (and submit) a SAC Determination Transmittal as well as the items listed on the Transmittal form. All determination submittals should be sent to the email address: **SACprogram@metc.state.mn.us.** Once MCES receives all documents, a determination letter is sent to the local government unit official stating the amount of SAC due or credited. A copy of that letter is sent to the applicant as well.

How long does it take to get a SAC determination?
Determinations take about a week once all required documents are submitted to MCES for review.

~Effective APRIL-2007~

Metropolitan Council

New Location: 390 N. Robert Street • St. Paul, MN 55101-1805
Phone: 651-602-1000 • Fax: 651-602-1550 • TTY: 651-291-0904



Directions:

From the **west**: take I-94 east to 5th St. exit, to Robert
From the **north**: take I-35E to Wacouta exit, right on 6th St. to Robert
From the **east**: take I-94 west to 6th St. exit (left exit), to Robert
From the **south**: take I-35E north to Kellogg exit, left on W. 7th St., right on Robert

Additional affordable full day parking

1 SW corner 5th/Wall -- $4/day
2 Kellogg E. of Broadway - both sides $1.25 - $2.50/day
3 SW corner Kellogg/Broadway -- $2.75/day
4 NW corner 7th/Jackson -- $6/day
5 NE corner 7th/Jackson -- $4/day