



Item: Ordinance 3050 amending Title 13 of the Official Code of the City of Great Falls.

From: Public Works Department

Initiated By: United States Environmental Protection Agency

Presented By: Jim Rearden, Public Works Director

Action Requested: Adopt Ordinance 3050

Suggested Motion:

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move the City Commission (adopt/deny) Ordinance 3050.”

2. Mayor calls for a second, discussion, inquiries from the public, and calls for the vote.

Staff Recommendation: Adopt updated sewer ordinance

Background:

- The sewer ordinance has not been updated since 1985.
- In the ensuing 25 years, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has made numerous updates and changes to the Code of Federal Regulations which affects the City sewer ordinance.
- An audit of the Industrial Pretreatment Program in 2008 by the Environmental Protection Agency requires the City to update its sewer ordinance to align and comply with updates and changes to the Code of Federal Regulations.
- As recommended by the EPA, the pretreatment section of the ordinance has been consolidated into one chapter.
- A section on trucked and hauled waste has been added to gain better control of septage hauler discharges.
- On recommendation of the City’s contractor, Clean Water Act Consulting Services LLC and with concurrence of the EPA, the City has removed the upper limit of 9.0 for pH. Removal of the upper pH limit provides some economic relief to industries whose effluent has a pH higher than 9.0. This will have a positive effect on the operation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

- The numerical limit for oil and grease in wastewater has been eliminated. Enforcement of a numerical limit has been problematic and some industries cannot meet the numerical limit without potentially making significant capital improvements. The numerical limit is somewhat arbitrary and cannot be correlated to blockages in the sewer system. In place of a numerical limit the ordinance allows for the use of Best Management Practices to control oil and grease in the sewer system.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved ordinance 3050. The EPA published a Public Notice in the Great Falls Tribune on May 21, 2010 requesting public comment. No comments were received during the 30 day comment period. The EPA gave the City final approval on July 1, 2010.

Concurrences:

- Clean Water Act Consulting Services LLC. Pine, Colorado. Project Consultant.
- Developed in conjunction with Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 Staff.
- Reviewed and approved by the City Legal Staff and the City Clerk.

Fiscal Impact:

Revenue may increase due to higher controls on waste haulers, while waste haulers will have some increased expenses to comply with the new Ordinance. Industries which are required to adjust their pH to keep it below 9.0 will no longer have to do so and will see a decrease in operating expenses.

Alternatives:

The City Commission could vote to deny Ordinance 3050.

Attachments/Exhibits:

Updated Sewer Ordinance