

3.3.2 Empirical Wastewater Flow Data

Empirical wastewater flow data is collected from facilities similar to the one proposed in the subsurface sewage disposal permit application. Wastewater flow data is typically collected from facilities connected to a public water system or other water source that can provide water meter data for daily, weekly, or monthly water use by the facility. The daily wastewater flow may be estimated based upon the potable water used by the facility as determined by water meter data, but may also be based on direct measurements of wastewater flow. The data obtained often needs to be converted into GPD as most utilities and public water systems do not meter water by the gallon. The volume of water provided in a water usage history should be verified for the correct meter units.

Evaluated facilities should be located within Idaho if possible and may be from any region within the state. Unique facilities that may not be found elsewhere in the state may use similar facilities from other states. Facilities should be able to be compared to the proposed facility and capable of assigning a daily wastewater flow estimate on a per unit basis. Units may include employees, meals, visitors, or any other quantifiable unit applicable to the proposed facility. If the proposed facility will produce nondomestic wastewater (i.e., wastewater from sources other than hand sinks, toilets, showers/bathtubs, noncommercial kitchens, and washing machines), the wastewater data must also include characterization of the proposed commercial or industrial wastewater to be discharged to the subsurface sewage disposal system in addition to the daily wastewater flow data.

The time of year that water usage data is collected and evaluated should represent the proposed facility's peak usage time frame. If possible, DEQ recommends that water consumption data devoid of irrigation flows be provided. To accomplish this, locate facilities that do not have landscaping to irrigate or eliminate the irrigation season from the evaluation. Eliminating the irrigation season from the water data evaluation should only be used for facilities that do not have peak facility use occur over this time frame. Water usage data that does not include the irrigation season typically occurs from November through February.

Alternatively, an existing facility proposing to add additional wastewater flows may collect its own water usage data in lieu of data from three similar facilities. Usage data should be collected for a minimum of two (2) years before the Health District evaluates the data and determines if the facility may connect additional wastewater sources to the existing system.

Adequate documentation of daily wastewater flows may vary on a case-by-case basis. The following list of water usage data will be considered adequate for most circumstances:

- Water usage data from a minimum of three facilities of similar operation should be provided for review.

- Facilities should be connected to a public or private water system for which water use records are kept that can be readily converted to average GPD flows. Water usage data should be provided in writing by the water system operator. Daily usage data are preferable, but weekly or monthly data may also be considered.

- Statistics should be provided on each facility's operation that are pertinent to the wastewater flow estimation (e.g., number of employees, number of children attending a childcare, number of meals served per day for restaurants, and occupancy per day of

- a hotel or RV park). Statistical data for each facility should be provided in writing by the facility providing the data.
- Water usage data should occur over an adequate time frame to provide data that is applicable to the design flows for subsurface sewage disposal permit issuance.
- Wastewater characterization for nondomestic wastewater sources (including the subsurface sewage disposal permit application supplement for nondomestic wastewater found on DEQ's website).
- Other facility specific data the Director feels is reasonable and necessary for daily wastewater flow estimation evaluation.

The Director will evaluate the data provided to determine an acceptable daily wastewater flow. If the Director determines that any data provided is inadequate for assessment, the facility that the data applies to will not be included in the evaluation process. The provision of empirical wastewater flow data in lieu of using the wastewater flows provided in IDAPA 58.01.03.007.08 does not guarantee that the daily wastewater flow projection will be less than what is provided by IDAPA 58.01.03.007.08.