

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
1404 N. Hilton
Boise, ID 83706

May 23, 2025

Attn: Mary Anne Nelson PhD

RE: Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) Zero-Based Negotiated
Rulemaking - Wastewater 58-0116-2501

Ms. Nelson:

The City of Post Falls (City) has reviewed the Negotiated Rule Draft No. 2, Docket No. 58-0116-2501, 58.01.16 – Wastewater Rules, which was posted to the IDEQ website on May 7, 2025 and discussed on May 14, 2025. The City appreciates the opportunity to participate in the review process and provide feedback on the proposed rule. Below are our initial comments and recommendations for your consideration.

1. Sanitary Sewer Overflows

Current municipal IPDES permits contain standard language that obligates permit holders to report occurrences of noncompliance by telephone within 24 hours of becoming aware of such events. Specifically, the permits require the reporting of any overflow prior to the treatment works that falls under the permittee's ownership or operational control, or any overflow from a contributing collection system that is influenced by the permittee's infrastructure.

The permittee must report the following occurrences of noncompliance by telephone within 24 hours of the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances

Any overflow prior to the treatment works over which the permittee has ownership or operational control; or an overflow from a contributing collection system that affected or was affected by the permittee's operation or infrastructure. An overflow is any spill, release, or diversion of municipal sewage including:

- a. An overflow that results in a discharge to waters of the United States; or*
- b. An overflow of wastewater, including a wastewater backup into a building (other than a backup caused solely by a blockage or other malfunction in a building service line), or discharged to the soil's surface that does not reach waters of the United States. The*

permittee must report these ...

To improve clarity in responsibilities and reporting requirements for sanitary sewer overflows, the City requests the inclusion of definitions for "contributing collection system" and "overflow" within IDAPA 58.01.16, Wastewater Rules

2. Sludge Disposal Plan

Section 650, Part 03 of IDAPA 58.01.16 outlines the requirements for a Sludge Disposal Plan, including the identification of proposed haul routes for sludge transportation and disposal.

However, facilities that contract third-party businesses for sludge transportation do not have operational control over the routes chosen by these contractors. Given that these facilities lack oversight of the selected transportation routes, requiring them to provide this information serves little practical purpose.

The City requests removal of the requirement to identify proposed haul routes for sludge transportation and disposal. Eliminating this unnecessary provision aligns with the objectives of the Zero-Based Negotiated Rulemaking process.

The comments outlined above represent the City's initial concerns and recommendations regarding the proposed revisions. We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the discussion on IDEQ's Wastewater Rule Chapter and look forward to continued collaboration.

Sincerely,



Craig M. Borrenpohl, P.E. MPA
Utilities Manager - City of Post Falls