

## 2.3.1.4 Permitting Framework and Scope/ Permit Program Areas/ Municipal and Domestic Sources/Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO)

### **Applicability:**

This applies to all domestic sewage collection and treatment systems.

### **Content:**

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources calls any discharge from the collection system or routing of wastewater flow (which arrives at the treatment plant) around the treatment plant as a bypass. The USEPA calls any discharge from the collection system as an overflow and any routing of wastewater flow (which arrives at the treatment plant) around the treatment system as a bypass.

In this section, a bypass is any discharge from the collection system or rerouting of the wastewater around the treatment system. Most domestic wastewater collection and treatment systems are publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) such as those operated by cities and sewer districts. Some domestic wastewater systems are privately owned.

There are two types of bypasses 1) dry weather and 2) wet weather. For both the federal and state clean water laws, these bypasses are considered as point sources, which are illegal unless permitted. Standard Conditions Part I section B 5, requires that all bypasses, which violate permit limitations or conditions, must be reported to the department.

Dry weather SSOs occur during sunny or cloudy days in which no rain has occurred in a number of days. These overflows are usually caused by blockages in the lines, line breaks, or mechanical malfunctions. Under normal conditions, a dry weather discharge would exceed permit limits, thus they are illegal and must be reported. Dry weather bypasses must be reported by telephone within twenty-four (24) hours of discovery, with a written follow-up letter submitted within 5 days.

Wet weather SSOs are caused by infiltration and inflow (I and I) during and after precipitation events. If a system has a large I and I problem, then the POTW or other owner should develop and implement an I and I identification and elimination/reduction program. These overflows must meet permit limits and can not cause water quality violations. Wet weather SSOs must be reported on the discharge monitoring reports.

If a POTW or other owner has a large number of wet weather SSOs, then the permit should include a schedule of compliance to conduct an I and I study and the development and implementation of a plan to address the I and I problem. Complete elimination of I and I is often impractical due to cost or other factors. So approaches also involve I and I reduction, conveyance and treatment.

Bypasses of wet weather flows received at, but routed around, the treatment plant need to be addressed through a schedule of compliance.

If the POTW or other owner has frequent dry weather bypasses, then the problem must be identified and a program implemented to eliminate dry weather bypasses. One tool is to implement a Capacity, Management, Operation and Maintenance (CMOM) program. If the system owner does not promptly proceed with a dry weather bypass elimination program, a compliance schedule needs to be established through a permit modification or enforcement action.

## Legal References:

### *Permit Conditions*

[Standard Conditions Part I Section B 5](#)

### *Code of State Regulations:*

[10 CSR 20-2.010\(11\)](#) Definitions

[10 CSR 20-6.010\(8\)\(A\)2A](#) Construction and Operating Permits

[10 CSR 20-7.015\(9\)\(E\)](#) Effluent Regulation - General Conditions - Bypassing

### *Code of Federal Regulations*

[40 CFR 122.41\(l\)\(6\) and \(7\) and \(j\)\(2\)](#) EPA Administered Permit Programs: NPDES - Conditions applicable to all permits

## Other Links:

### **Key Words:**

Bypass, overflows, sanitary sewer overflow, sanitary sewer, CMOM

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