

2.3.1.5 Permitting Framework and Scope/Permit Program Areas/ Municipal and Domestic Sources/Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO)

Applicability:

This section applies to all POTWs that have combined sewer systems and have overflows from these systems during wet weather. Overflows during dry weather conditions are not allowed.

Content:

Sewers that are designed to convey rainwater, domestic sewage, and industrial wastewater in the same pipe are known as combined sewers. During dry or low precipitation periods all wastewater is conveyed to the sewage treatment plant. During periods of heavy rainfall or snowmelt, however, the carrying capacity of the combined sewer and/or the treatment plant is often exceeded. The system is therefore usually designed to discharge the extra flow to a nearby water body through an overflow structure. These combined sewer overflows (CSOs) consist not only of storm water, but also untreated human and industrial waste, toxic wastes, and debris.

Nationwide, approximately 772 communities were identified as having combined sewer systems. In Missouri, the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD) and the cities of Cape Girardeau, Kansas City, Macon, Moberly, St. Joseph and Sedalia were identified as having one or more CSOs. The City of Cape Girardeau has since eliminated their CSOs. The City of Sedalia has undertaken a construction project that will eliminate its lone CSO. Kansas City, Moberly and MSD have ongoing or completed construction projects to mitigate CSOs. The five communities that still have CSOs are in various stages of developing a long-term control plan (LTCP) to address these overflows.

On April 19, 1994, EPA published their CSO Control Policy, which they consider to be the national framework for controlling CSOs. This policy provides guidance on how CSO communities can meet Clean Water Act goals in a flexible and cost-effective manner.

The Department has convened a shareholders workgroup to develop state rules and regulations that will address the issue of CSOs. These are expected to be finalized during calendar year 2006.

Legal References:

Other Links:

[CSO Control Policy](#)

[CSO Control Policy Web Page](#)

[CSO Principle Guidance Documents](#)

[U.S. EPA NPDES Permit Writers' Manual, Section 8.3.3 Combined Sewer Overflows, page 159](#)

Key Words:

Combined sewers, combined sewer overflow, CSOs, long-term control plan, LTCP

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