



MONTEREY BAY
Unified Air Pollution Control District
serving Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties

PERMIT GUIDELINES FOR WASTEWATER AND SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES

The following guidelines are to be used for evaluating and permitting wastewater treatment facilities:

1. Who must apply?

Permit applications are required of operators of any wastewater treatment plant serving more than one dwelling unit or any industrial facility or any combination thereof. The definition of operator includes governmental agencies or districts, including joint powers agencies or organizations. The application of this rule includes small packaged plants if those plants service, by agreement, more than one dwelling unit. The latter makes up a district with a specified service area.

Single dwelling units with septic systems do not qualify as an organization, district, etc., and are exempt from the application of the rule. Septic systems that serve multiple dwellings lie in a gray area. Because septic systems for multiple dwelling use are typically not large systems and such use is on the decline, and because there is, typically, no emission point which can create a public nuisance, the District is not requiring permits and applying Rule 216. Air Quality Plan consistency for such systems will be addressed during the CEQA review of the proposed project in the manner used before the adoption of Rule 216.

2. What District rules are applicable?

Existing facilities as of October 29, 1986 are subject to all rules, but particularly the following:

- Rule 200, Permits Required
- Rule 203, Application
- Rule 206, Standards for Granting Applications
- Rule 214, Breakdown Condition
- Rule 402, Nuisances

New or modified facilities after October 29, 1986 are subject to all rules, but particularly the following:

- Rule 200 Permits Required
- Rule 203 Application
- Rule 206 Standards for Granting Applications
- Rule 207 Review of New or Modified Sources
- Rule 214 Breakdown Condition
- Rule 216 Permit Requirements for Wastewater and Sewage Treatment Facilities
- Rule 402 Nuisances
- Rule 423 New Source Performance Standards Subpart O, Sewage Treatment Plants
- Rule 1000 Permit Guidelines and Requirements for Sources Emitting Toxic Air Contaminants

3. Requirements

Existing sources must submit applications that provide information according to the District's Guidelines for General Permit Requirements. This policy is attached. For this source category the following additional information is required:

Description of the average dry weather flow (ADWF) for the facility for the previous season.

Defined boundaries for the facility service area and map illustrating boundary.

Defined total human population within the service area.

Number of residences presently served and corresponding (if known or calculable) number of persons served in the service area.

A ten year projection for the facility that includes service area boundary changes, population projections, and ADWF projections in five year increments or population at capacity in five year increments and year capacity is expected to be reached if the capacity is projected to be attained after the ten year projection period.

For new or modified sources, the same information as for existing sources is required; however, the detail necessary will probably be greater than for existing sources to satisfy the evaluation for consistency with the population forecasts set forth in Rule 216. The additional requirements for new or modified wastewater treatment facilities are as follows:

Population projections within the service area that are consistent with the locally adopted air quality plan. Data should be provided in five year increments indicating plant capacity and the year capacity is expected to be reached.

Completion of the CEQA process before the District determination of application completeness.

4. Application Evaluation Steps

As for other permits, the District has 30 days from the receipt of the application to deem it complete or incomplete. Once deemed complete, a decision must be made within 180 days to approve or deny the permit. However, projects that are subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) must obtain final action by the lead agency before a determination of completeness can be made on the application. It is the District's policy to continue to work on the permit application concurrently during the CEQA process, so that upon final action by the lead agency, the time necessary for final District action is minimized.

Another requirement besides the standard permit evaluation process is for determination of consistency of the service area population projections with the locally adopted air quality plan. A separate letter from AMBAG is required specifically to address the Rule 216 requirements. A permit cannot be issued without a finding of consistency. The District will request the consistency determination directly from AMBAG. The cost of this determination will be passed on directly to the applicant. Presently, the minimum fee for AMBAG's consistency evaluations is estimated at \$100.00, (which does not reflect the District's permit costs).

5. Consistency Defined

An acceptable consistency finding is defined as not exceeding the population forecasts set forth in Rule 216.

6. EQA/NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) Requirements

Although consistency determinations are made for all projects requiring an EIR (Environmental Impact Report) or an EIS (Environmental Impact Statement), these determinations should not be assumed to meet the more detailed and specific consistency determination requirements of Rule 216.

7. Public Notification and Comment Period

The District must make available for public inspection the information submitted by the applicant and the preliminary decision to grant or deny the permit, and provide for a 30 day public comment period that is published in at least one newspaper.

8. Fees

The following fees are applicable for this source category at this time. The current fees amounts are shown on APCD Form 400.

Filing Fee (Rule 300 Part 1 Section 3.1)

Permit Fee (Rule 301, Schedule 1)

(Any additional fees for contracted consistency determinations will be added onto the hourly fee rates.)

Emission Fee (Rule 301, Schedule 4)

Toxic Air Contaminants Fee (Rule 301 Schedule 5)

Annual Renewal Fees, according to Rule 300 Part 4, are charged one year after the issuance of the permit and annually thereafter.