

The role environmental supervision authority in sewage treatment supervision

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Hannu Arovaara

Helsinki

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Environmental supervision authorities

- **State authority**

- supervises installations and activities listed in the IE directive and a part of national installations listed in the national environmental protection act through permit and notification procedures

- **Municipal authority**

- supervises a part of the installations listed in the national environmental protection act through permit, registration and notification procedures. The municipal authority supervises also other kind of installations and activities in which industrial wastewater, that need to be pretreated before conduction to the sewer, is generated.

Permit procedure

- Environmental protection act:
- “If industrial wastewater is conducted to a community wastewater treatment plant, **necessary regulations** on the preprocessing of the wastewater shall be issued in the environmental permit in order to prevent environmental pollution and in order to secure the operating capability of the sewage treatment plant.”
- The WWTP is given a possibility to give opinion concerning the quality and quantity of waste water before granting the permit.

Examples of the permit regulations

- The waste water conducted to the sewer must meet the requirement given in the contract between the installation and the WWTP. The permit holder is responsible for any damage or hazard caused by the conduction of waste water.
- Waste waters that do not meet the requirements given by the WWTP must be transported for treatment to a treatment plant, that has environment permit for treating that kind of waste water

Examples of the permit regulations

- Prohibition to conduct waste water to the sewer in such a way which causes damage to the sewage system, harm to the operating capability of the WWTP or the recycling of the sewage sludge.
- Prohibition to dilute the waste water in order to meet the quality requirements
- Possibility to collect waste water originating from firefighting
- Necessary regulations on the operative monitoring of the activity, and on the monitoring of emissions, the impact of the activity and the must be issued as part of the permit.

Supervision of other activities by the municipal authority

- In Helsinki there are a lot of activities which don't need environment permit and in which wastewater differing from "normal" wastewater is generated (e.g. car repair shops).
- Careless storage of liquid hazardous chemicals and waste may pose a risk of leakage to the sewer. With respect to chemical storage important actors are the fire department and the Finnish safety and chemicals agency.

Supervision of other activities by the municipal authority

- Soil construction sites where contaminated soil is being remediated may generate wastewater that contain harmful substances and may need pre-treatment before conduction to the sewer.

Cooperation between municipal authority and WWTP

- Change of information
- Joint inspections
- Regular meetings (2 times a year)

Kiitos!

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