

## Prohibition of Pouring Chemicals in GSFC Drains

Did you know that the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) has granted a Discharge Authorization Permit to GSFC? The permit lists conditions that GSFC agreed to follow. If GSFC violates any of those conditions, WSSC can revoke the permit. If that happened, all industrial discharges into the sewer system would immediately cease.

**It is GSFC policy not to pour any chemicals into the drain** (GPR 1700.2 – Chemical Hygiene Program & GSFC Toxic Organic Management Plan, Section 5.2).

Some of the prohibited discharges are:

- Any liquids or vapors having a temperature greater than 150°F.
- Any liquids, solids or gases that are, or may be, either alone or by interaction with other substances, sufficient to cause a fire or explosion hazard. Do not discharge any substance which results in a reading of greater than five percent (5%) of the Lower Explosive Limit for that substance.
- Any malodorous or toxic gases, vapors, fumes or other substances that either singly or by interaction with other wastes, are capable of creating a public nuisance, a hazard to human health or the environment, or the prevention of entry into sewers for maintenance and repairs.
- Any liquids, solids or gases not amenable to treatment or reduction, or that causes the wastewater treatment plant to violate its permit.
- Any water or wastewater containing substances in excess of the permit limitations.

- Any water added for the purpose of diluting wastes that would otherwise exceed applicable concentration limitations for any wastewater constituent.
- Any wastes containing petroleum oil, non biodegradable cutting oil, or products of mineral oil origin in amounts that will cause interference or pass-through.
- Any glycol compound or anti-freeze.

#### Hazardous Waste Implications:

The 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 261.22 (a) states that a waste is hazardous if it has a pH of less than or equal to 2 or greater than or equal to 12.5. Even if the pH can easily be “treated” to raise or lower the pH into a non-regulated range, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as well as the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) prohibit this practice by waste generators such as GSFC. Treatment of hazardous waste is illegal unless a permit has been granted by the state in advance of the treatment activity.

For additional information, contact Lixa Rodriguez-Ramon (Code 250) at x6-4613.