



**SAN JACINTO RIVER
AUTHORITY**

INTERCEPTOR PROGRAM DOCUMENT

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I. General Provisions

A. Purpose and Policy

San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) owns and operates a wastewater collection and treatment system and provides wholesale wastewater, collection and treatment services to municipal utility districts (MUDs) located in The Woodlands, Texas; Montgomery County. SJRA provides such services to promote the health, safety, and convenience of persons and businesses located in The Woodlands and for safeguarding of water resources common to all.

This Grease Program (Program) sets forth uniform requirements, for non-domestic Generators of grease, oil, flammable substances, sand, lint, and other harmful wastes, in order to prevent discharge into the wastewater collection and treatment facilities owned by SJRA, the retail wastewater collection systems owned and operated by the MUDs (collectively, the System) and the waters of the United States.

This Program outlines the following requirements:

- a. Generators of grease, sand, lint, mud, or other harmful wastes will have an Interceptor that has been designed and installed per this Program and approved by SJRA.
- b. Interceptor design must be provided to SJRA for review and approval prior to installation.
- c. SJRA must inspect and approve installation prior to issuing a Certificate of Discharge and permit. Without a Certificate of Discharge and permit, issued by SJRA after successful implementation of this program, Montgomery County Health Department will not issue necessary permits for operation of the establishment.
- d. Interceptor cleaning must take place every 90 days unless an alternate cleaning frequency is authorized by SJRA, pursuant to the process outlined in Section I.B of this Program.
- e. Interceptors will be inspected by SJRA for compliance up to four times per year.
- f. SJRA reserves the right to assess penalties and/or to take enforcement action to ensure compliance with the Program.

B. Applicability

Unless otherwise stated herein, this Program shall apply to all non-domestic Generators of fats, oils, or greases as a result of food manufacturing, processing, preparation, or food service, that contribute to the System. These Generators include but are not limited to restaurants, food manufacturers, food processors, hospitals, hotels and motels, prisons, nursing homes, and any other facility preparing, serving, or otherwise making food available for consumption. This Program shall also apply to commercial laundries, laundromats, and dry cleaners who shall be equipped with a lint Interceptor to reduce the quantity of lint and silt entering the System. In addition, the Program shall also apply to all Generators of wastes containing flammable wastes, petroleum oil, sand, grit, and other pollutants that may be harmful to the System. Certain facilities may be exempt from this Program, if approved by SJRA. A Generator may request a variance from Program requirements. A request for variance may be made in writing to SJRA and must include a description of the request and all supporting information necessary for SJRA to make a determination. The variance request must contain all information that may be identified in the applicable Section of this Program from which the Generator seeks a variance (such as

Cleaning Schedule Extensions in Section V of this Program). SJRA may grant the variance to the requirement(s) identified in the Generator's variance request at its discretion.

C. Administration / Legal Authority

SJRA has entered into Interlocal Agreements (Agreements) with its MUDs, whereby such MUDs have delegated regulating authority necessary to SJRA, to act on their behalf and to carry out and enforce the terms and conditions of this Program on Generators of the separate systems owned or controlled by such MUDs. Each MUD has adopted this Program as a regulation and it is enforceable within the jurisdiction of each MUDs, as allowed by state law.

a. **Monitoring Requirements:**

At any time, SJRA may obtain or require from Generators, representative samples of a wastewater discharge or proposed discharge for analysis.

b. **General Reporting Requirements:**

SJRA requires that any non-domestic Generators provide, to SJRA, appropriate reports, including but not limited to transportation manifests and sampling reports, if applicable.

c. **Recordkeeping Requirements:**

Any Generator subject to record keeping requirements established in this Program shall retain records of all information resulting from activities required by this or other applicable Program or regulation for a period of not less than three (3) years.

D. Abbreviations

The following abbreviations, when used in this Program, shall have the designated meanings:

- BMP – Best Management Practice
- BOD – Biochemical Oxygen Demand
- CFR – Code of Federal Regulations
- EPA – Environmental Protection Agency
- FOG – Fats, Oils, and Greases
- F.U. – Fixture Unit
- mg/l – milligrams per liter
- MUD - Municipal Utility District
- SJRA – San Jacinto River Authority
- TAC – Texas Administrative Code
- TCEQ – Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- TPDES – Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
- TSS – Total Suspended Solids
- WJPA – Woodlands Joint Powers Agency

E. Definitions

- a. Best Management Practices (BMPs). Methods or techniques found to be the most

effective and practical means in achieving an objective (such as preventing or minimizing pollution) while making the optimum use of available resources. BMPs include treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices to control plant site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw materials storage.

- b. Effluent. The waste stream leaving the Interceptor after treatment.
- c. Fats, Oils, and Greases. The organic polar compounds derived from animal and/or plant sources that contain multiple carbon chain triglyceride molecules. These substances are detectable and measurable using analytical test procedures established in 40 CFR 136, as may be amended from time to time. All may be referred to herein as "grease" or "greases."
- d. Generator. Any commercial entity whose process produces a waste that may cause interference with the wastewater conveyance or treatment system(s) and is to be contained in a trap, Interceptor, or separator. The owner of a trap, Interceptor, or separator that accepts waste from a commercial entity(ies).
- e. Interceptor. A receptacle designed and constructed to intercept, separate and prevent passage (pretreat) of grease, oil, fats, sand, grit, lint, or other objectionable solids into the system to which it is connected. An Interceptor may be integrated with a separator for vehicle wash bays or repair areas. Trap, Separator, Holding tank and Interceptor may be used interchangeably.
- f. MUD 386 – The Montgomery County portion of MUD 386 that currently provides retail water distribution and wastewater collection services to a portion of The Woodlands in Montgomery County. For this document, MUD 386 will be considered included with WJPA.
- g. Sampling Port. A Sanitary Tee or other approved device installed in the building sewer specifically designed to facilitate sampling of the wastewater discharge.
- h. System – The collective total of all sanitary sewer lines and associated assets owned by SJRA or its MUDs that collect and convey raw wastewater to SJRA's wastewater treatment plants.
- i. Transporter. A person or business, who is registered with, and authorized by, the TCEQ to transport sewage sludge, water treatment sludge, domestic septage, chemical toilet waste, or Interceptor, Interceptor, or Separator waste, in accordance with 30 Texas Administrative Code §312.142.
- j. Woodlands Joint Powers Agency. The central management agency for ten Municipal Utility Districts (MUDs) that currently provides retail water distribution, wastewater collection, storm drainage, and tax collection services to The Woodlands in Montgomery County.

II. Generator Responsibilities:

- a. No customer may intentionally or unintentionally allow the direct or indirect discharge of any of the following prohibited substances into the System,
 - i. Plastics, paper, flammable substances, or non-biodegradable materials;
 - ii. Fats, wax, oils, or greases, whether emulsified or not, containing substances which may solidify or become viscous at temperatures between 32°F and 140°F (0°C and

- 65°C) or in amounts that will interference of the system;
 - iii. Petroleum oil, non-biodegradable cutting oil, any products of mineral oil origin, any Fats, Oils, or Greases of animal or vegetable origin into the System that may cause interference with the System or treatment works, or may cause pollutants to pass through the treatment works into the environment in amounts that may cause interference or pass through:
 - iv. Liquid or vapor having a temperature higher than 140°F (65°C), or a pH lower than 6.0 or higher than 9.0.
 - b. These requirements are applicable to all commercial Generators, including those that are undergoing:
 - i. New construction
 - ii. Interior remodeling to accommodate expansion or operational modifications
 - iii. Changes of ownership/occupancy
 - iv. Facilities which may be experiencing difficulty in achieving compliance with maintenance and/or wastewater discharge limitations
 - c. The Generator must have their Interceptor serviced (pumped, cleaned, and inspected) TCEQ permitted waste hauler, at a minimum frequency of every 90 days or more often as necessary, to ensure proper function, as provided at Section I(A)(d) of this Program. Further, SJRA will inspect Interceptors for compliance one to four times per year, as provided in Section I(A)(e) of this Program.
 - d. Enzymes, solvents, and emulsifiers are **not** permitted as they will only change the form of grease, allowing it to be carried out of the trap with the wastewater and deposited in the collection system.
 - e. If the Generator is abandoning an Interceptor for any period of time, Generator shall vacuum and disconnect/cap off from all connections (inlet, outlet and vents). As well it is Generators responsibility to comply with the following requirements as set in 30 Texas administrative Code Part1 Chapter 285 Subchapter D RULE §285.36
 - f. Prior to abandoning an Interceptor, the Generator shall contact SJRA in writing to give notice of the Generator's intent to abandon an Interceptor and identify the Generator's replacement plans. SJRA may provide the Generator with specific Interceptor abandonment procedures.

III. Operation and Maintenance

- a. Interceptors shall be operated in a safe and secure manner at all times.
- b. The minimum size of Interceptors shall be determined according to the SJRA Guidance Document entitled, "Guidance Document for Sizing and Installation of Interceptors", industry-approved calculations, but shall, in no case, have a total liquid capacity of less than one hundred (100) gallons.
- c. Areas surrounding Interceptors shall be maintained to facilitate immediate access to the unit for cleaning and for inspection by the SJRA or authorized agent at all times.
- d. Interceptors shall be maintained in continuously efficient operation by the Generator at the Generator's expense and shall produce an effluent in compliance with this Program.
- e. A Generator shall not remove any downpipes or otherwise alter an Interceptor in any

way which may allow oil and grease, grit, lint or other objectionable materials, to pass through the device into the sanitary sewer.

- f. Where SJRA or the MUD must clean associated public sewers caused by negligence (inappropriate operation or maintenance, inadequate design or installation, or inappropriate alteration of an Interceptor), SJRA and/or MUD may inspect and require the establishment, found to be negligent, to bring the discharge into compliance through repair or replacement of their Interceptor.
- g. A Generator shall not increase the use or temperature of water or in any other way attempt to dilute the waste stream in lieu of adequate treatment.
- h. Areas surrounding an Interceptor shall be kept clean and free of grease and odors and other materials at all times.
- i. Liquids or semi-solids shall not be splashed, spilled, allowed to overflow, or otherwise placed on the area surrounding an Interceptor.
 - i. In the event liquids or semi-solids are spilled, splashed, overflowed, or otherwise placed on the surrounding area, the Generator or owner shall ensure the materials are cleaned from the area and properly disposed.
- j. Interceptors installed in series shall be fully evacuated of all contents during cleaning as set in 30 Texas Administrative Code Part I, Chapter 312, Subchapter G, Rule §312.143. Each Interceptor pumped shall be fully evacuated unless the interceptor volume is greater than the interceptor capacity on the vacuum truck in which case the transporter shall arrange for additional transportation capacity so that the trap is fully evacuated within a 24-hour period.
 - i. No liquid waste shall be returned to the Interceptor after or during cleaning, either from the same or other Interceptor.
 - ii. During Interceptor cleaning, all residue shall be removed from floor, piping and walls. The Interceptor floor, wall and piping shall be inspected to ensure the integrity of the Interceptor is maintained.
 - iii. Outlet line of the Interceptors shall be hydro jetted to remove any settled FOG (fats, oil and grease) from the service line to prevent blockages.
- k. All wastes shall be disposed in a suitable manner in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws.
- l. Generators with an Interceptor shall establish a system of training designed to provide employees with appropriate instruction on the proper use of such facilities and the regulations continued within this Program along with other relevant information related to Interceptors.

IV. Inspection and Cleaning Schedules

- a. The SJRA shall be allowed ready access, without delay, to all parts of the premises of a Generator for the purpose of inspection, sampling, records examination and copying, and monitoring during normal business hours. Where SJRA must perform sampling for investigative purposes, and finds a Generator negligent in complying with this Program, the costs of such sampling may be billed to the Generator.
- b. Inspection, cleaning, and other necessary maintenance of Interceptors shall be conducted as often as needed to ensure the discharge is in compliance with the

provisions of this Program, but not less than once per ninety (90) days, as also provided in Sections I(A)(d) and II(C) of this Program.

- i. The Interceptor shall be cleaned as often as necessary to ensure compliance with this Program. At its discretion, SJRA may require a Generator to clean its Interceptor more frequently than once per ninety (90) days to ensure compliance with this Program.
 - ii. In no case shall the accumulated oil or grease be allowed to occupy more than twenty-five percent (25%) total design Interceptor capacity.
- c. Records:
- i. Transportation and disposal of waste from interceptors shall be documented by means of a liquid waste manifest.
 - ii. A copy of all manifest signed by the transporter shall be maintained at the site for a period of three (3) years. Such manifest records must be available to the SJRA at all times.
 - iii. A copy of the completed manifests signed by the disposal company shall be mailed to the SJRA Environmental Department within 15 days of receipt.
 - iv. Failure of a Generator to provide SJRA with a manifest from the transporter for each transport/disposal may result in a fine of not less than \$100.00 nor more than \$200.00 per violation, as such, fines may be amended by SJRA from time to time.
- d. The physical condition of the Interceptor shall be inspected by the Generator each time the Interceptor is cleaned. Repairs, if needed, shall be made immediately upon discovery and written notification provided to SJRA. The Generator shall document the repair in writing for SJRA review at the Generator's next inspection by SJRA.
- i. Prior notification of repairs or modifications shall be made to SJRA.
 - ii. Inspection shall be conducted by the SJRA after repair.
- e. Interceptors shall produce an effluent in compliance with this Program. Schedules inadequate to produce such effluent shall be upgraded to as often as necessary by SJRA.
- f. A Generator shall have any trap cleaned when ordered to do so by SJRA.

V. Cleaning Schedule Extensions

- a. As provided above at Section I(B) of this Program, a Generator may apply to SJRA for a variance of the required cleaning frequency set forth in this Program. A Generator who wishes to apply for a cleaning schedule variance shall apply in writing to the SJRA Environmental Department.
- b. The SJRA may grant a variance on a required cleaning frequency on a case-by-case basis where the Generator has demonstrated the specific Interceptor will produce an effluent in consistent compliance with this Program if such an extension is granted.
 - i. Where a Generator has been required to return to an original cleaning frequency, the Generator shall be required to submit a new request for a variance if desired.
 - ii. Where an extension has been granted and SJRA must clean associated public sewer lines and the stoppage is traceable to or known or suspected to be caused by the facility, the Generator shall immediately clean and

inspect the Interceptor and shall return to the original cleaning schedule. The Generator will be required to submit a new request for a variance if desired.

- c. The notification of intent to apply for a variance shall include:
 - i. Facility information:
 - ii. The name and address of the facility;
 - iii. Name and telephone number of the facility contact; Normal business hours; and
 - iv. The type of business.
 - v. Treatment unit information:
 - 1. The type of treatment unit and the capacity, in gallons; A brief description of the treatment unit;
 - 2. If known, the time(s) of day the greatest hydraulic and organic loadings to the treatment unit normally occur;
 - 3. The date of the most recent cleaning and inspection of the unit; A statement of the physical condition of the unit; and
- b. Other information as may be requested by SJRA.

VI. Enforcement Provisions

- a. Enforcement of this Program shall be in accordance with the legal agreements as set forth between SJRA and the MUDs. Failure to comply with this Program may be grounds for civil penalties and/or discontinuance of water service. Nothing in this section shall limit the authority of SJRA or MUDs to take any action, including emergency actions or any other enforcement action. SJRA is required to first issue a notice of violation before pursuing such enforcement actions if deemed necessary.
- b. Administrative enforcement remedies:
 - i. SJRA Enforcement Process:
 - 1. Whenever the SJRA finds that any Generator has violated any provision of this Program, or any order issued hereunder, the SJRA may serve upon the Generator a notice of violation. Within three (3) days of the date of the notice of violation, the Generator shall regain compliance to this Program.
 - 2. If the Generator has not regained compliance after three (3) days of the date of the notice of violation, SJRA may provide the Generator with a formal notice of violation letter, with an appropriate schedule requiring the Generator to regain compliance within that schedule.
 - 3. If the Generator has not complied following the schedule as provided in the formal notice of violation letter, SJRA may issue an order to the Generator directing it to: (i) cease and desist all applicable violations, (ii) immediately comply with all requirements of this Program, and (iii) take such appropriate remedial or preventative action as may be needed to properly address a continuing or threatened violation, including halting operations and/or terminating the discharge into the System.

4. If the Generator continues to violate provisions of this Program after SJRA has pursued the above steps, SJRA may sever water service to the Generator. Service will only recommence, at the Generator's expense, after the Generator has satisfactorily demonstrated ability to comply with the provisions of this Program, or any order issued hereunder.

- ii. Failure to comply with a request to pump an interceptor within a given period of time constitutes a violation of the provisions contained herein and may result in a civil action by SJRA and/or a fine of not less than \$200 nor more than \$500 per day of violation. The amount of such fines may be revised by SJRA from time to time.
 - iii. Monetary penalties: If SJRA determines that a Generator is responsible for a blockage of a line in SJRA's collection system, it may issue a citation with a minimum fine of \$1,000.00 for the first violation and \$1,500.00 for a second violation that occurs within the same 12-month period. Each subsequent violation within a 12-month period shall result in a fine of not more than \$2,000.00 for each violation, and SJRA may take other enforcement action as permitted by law. Each day that any violation continues shall constitute a separate offense. The amount of such fines may be revised by SJRA from time to time.
- c. Other Remedies: The remedies provided for in this section are not exclusive. SJRA, or its authorized representative, may at any time, take all or any combination of these actions against a non-compliant Generator or any other remedy allowed by this Program or state statute. SJRA may also pursue other remedies to enforce this Program, including but not limited to, judicial enforcement and other monetary fines/penalties beyond those outlined above in Section VI(B)(b) (as allowed by applicable law).