



WASTEWATER UPDATES

Wastewater Management Program
Division of Water Resource Management
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Focus on Change | March 4, 2025



AGENDA

- Wastewater Management Program.
- Legislation and revised rules.
- Current rulemaking.
- Current events.
- Reminders and helpful tips.





WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Wastewater Updates



WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

- Oversees domestic and industrial wastewater regulations and policies.
 - Permitting and Field Services section.
 - Industrial wastewater and industrial pretreatment.
 - Reuse.
 - Toxicity.
 - Technical Guidance and Review section.
 - Biosolids.
 - Collection systems.
 - Local program delegation.
 - Legislative tracking.
 - Permit reviews and PermitBuilder.
 - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) power plant permitting.



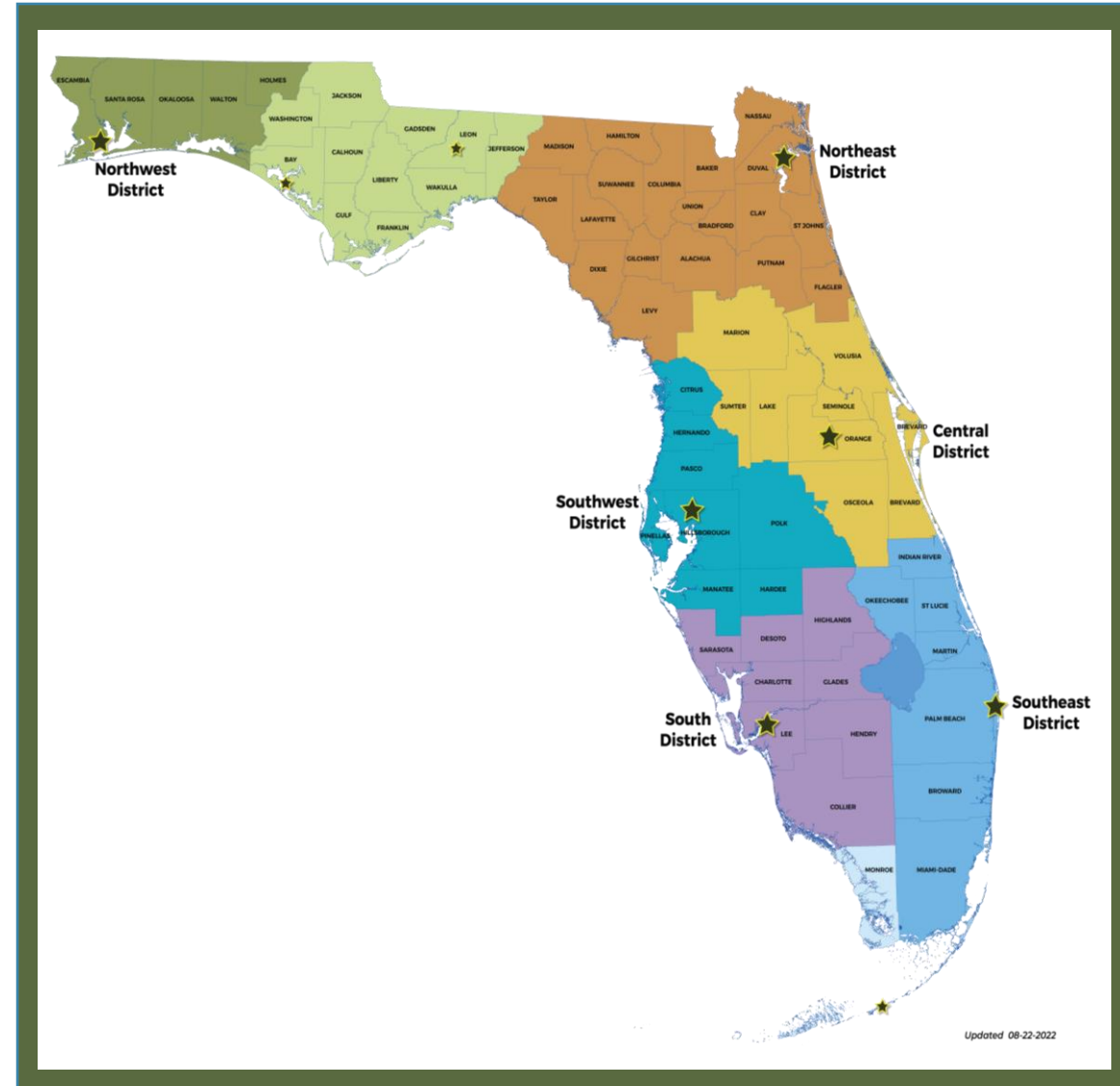
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DISTRICT OFFICES

- Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulatory district topics.
- Specific permit and compliance questions.
- Link to district office webpages:
<https://floridadep.gov/comm/comm/content/districts>.





LEGISLATION AND REVISED RULES

Wastewater Updates



2024 HOUSE BILL (HB) 1557

CHAPTER 2024-180, LAWS OF FLORIDA (L.O.F.)

- Advanced waste treatment (AWT).
 - Any wastewater treatment facility providing reclaimed water in certain Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) or Reasonable Assurance Plans (RAPs) may have to meet the AWT standards for total nitrogen and total phosphorus or the more stringent treatment standards.
- Reuse feasibility studies.
 - Required for all domestic wastewater treatment facility applicants.
 - Requires different types of reuse to be evaluated.
 - Feasible reuse must be implemented after conducting the study.
- Each water management district shall develop rules by Dec. 31, 2025, to promote the use of reclaimed water and will, in certain circumstances, allow for longer consumptive use permits and permit extensions.



2023 HB 1379

CHAPTER 2023-169, L.O.F.

- Addressed pollutant load reduction for Florida waterways.
 - Requires sewage disposal facilities discharging into specific waterbodies of the state to provide AWT or the more stringent treatment standards.
 - Expands the prohibition of certain activities to the entire Outstanding Florida Springs BMAP areas (no longer limited to just the priority focus areas).
 - Indian River Lagoon Protection Program.
 - Water Quality Improvement Grant Program.
 - Expands the eligibility for grants for wastewater, stormwater and agricultural projects.

For more information on grant programs, contact DEP's Division of Water Restoration Assistance, <https://FloridaDEP.gov/WRA>.



2021 SENATE BILL (SB) 64

CHAPTER 2021-168, L.O.F.

- Eliminated nonbeneficial surface water discharges.
 - Created section 403.064(16), Florida Statutes.
 - Required domestic wastewater facilities to submit to DEP by Nov. 1, 2021, a plan to eliminate nonbeneficial surface water discharge by Jan. 1, 2032.
 - DEP received and approved 162 plans.
 - Required permittees to **submit annual plan updates to DEP by November 1 each year.**
 - Email address for submittal: NPDESDischargePlan2021@FloridaDEP.gov.
- 2024 annual legislative report.
 - Approximately 569 million gallons per day (GPD) of surface water discharges will be eliminated by Jan. 1, 2032.
 - Approximately 176 million GPD have already been eliminated.
 - Approximately 375 million GPD of surface water discharges will continue under the allowable alternatives.



REVISED RULES

POTABLE REUSE

- Updated Chapter 62-610, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), and created Chapter 62-565, F.A.C.
 - Moved potable reuse requirements in Chapter 62-610, F.A.C., to Chapter 62-565, F.A.C.
 - Received unanimously approval by the Environmental Regulation Commission on Dec. 13, 2024.
 - New permits for advanced treatment water facilities (ATWFs) will be issued by the Drinking Water Program in Tallahassee.

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS (HABs)

- Revised Rule 62-621.300, F.A.C., became effective Dec. 9, 2024.
- Adopted two generic NPDES permits authorizing certain activities to control HABs.
 - For more information, please visit <https://FloridaDEP.gov/water/industrial-wastewater>.



CURRENT RULEMAKING

Wastewater Updates



COLLECTION SYSTEMS

- Revisions to Chapter 62-604, F.A.C., are underway.
 - Clarifying the provisions for minimizing inflow, infiltration and leakages (exfiltration).
 - Clarifying the provisions for preventing Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs).
 - Adding a provision requiring power outage contingency plans to address upgrading older pump stations to meet the rule's current emergency pumping capability requirements.
 - Adding a clarifying provision for surface water monitoring when SSOs impact surface waters.
- DEP anticipates publishing a Notice of Proposed Rule later this year.



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) METHOD UPDATE RULE



- Chapter 62-620, F.A.C., will be amended to incorporate the amended 40 Code of Federal Regulation (C.F.R.), Part 136, which establishes guidelines for monitoring and testing methods for wastewater permits.
- Updates to 40 C.F.R., Part 136, will include:
 - Clarifications to existing methods.
 - Clarifications to sampling and preservation procedures methods.



FORM UPDATES

- Updating forms adopted in Chapter 62-620, F.A.C.
 - Revisions will include all information fields from EPA's NPDES forms, including the federal eReporting Rule.
 - Rule language will be made consistent with previous statutory and rule revisions.
 - Form 2A will be revised.
- Updating forms adopted in Chapter 62-621, F.A.C.
 - Revisions will include all information fields from EPA's NPDES forms, including the federal eReporting Rule.
 - Rule adoption will be fast-tracked due to federal regulation.



CURRENT EVENTS

Wastewater Updates



LOCAL DELEGATED PROGRAMS

- Overviews were conducted of the five local programs between 2023 and 2024.
 - All local programs were found to be doing an excellent job implementing the wastewater program requirements.
- Current local programs include:
 - Miami-Dade County.
 - Palm Beach County.
 - Broward County (only delegated for collection system permitting).
 - Sarasota County.
 - Hillsborough County (delegated industrial and domestic wastewater).
- Duval County is pursuing delegation for collection system permitting.



COLLECTION SYSTEMS

- Power outage contingency plans and collection system action plans are now required with applications for permit renewals.
 - To reduce SSOs, power outage contingency plans are required to mitigate the impacts of power outage on the facility's collection system and pump stations (section 62-600.705(1), F.A.C.).
 - <https://floridadep.gov/water/domestic-wastewater/content/collectiontransmission-system-power-outage-contingency-plans>
 - Includes links to Florida Rural Water Association (FRWA) checklist and plan template.
 - To mitigate SSOs and leaks, collection system action plans are required to assess, repair and replace components of the collection system (section 62-600.705(2), F.A.C.).
 - <https://floridadep.gov/water/domestic-wastewater/content/collection-system-action-plans>
 - Includes links to FRWA plan and annual report templates.



BIOSOLIDS

- The 2021 revisions to Chapter 62-640, F.A.C., have had a significant effect on biosolids application sites, primarily from new phosphorus-based nutrient requirements.
 - Nutrient management plans (NMPs) now must include a phosphorus-based rate, in addition to a nitrogen-based rate; phosphorus-based rates are typically much lower than the previously allowed nitrogen-based application rates.
 - The ability of the soil to hold phosphorus is considered when determining phosphorus-based rates (i.e., soil phosphorus storage “capacity index”).
 - Out of almost 120 sites permitted in 2018, only half are still permitted or active.
 - The largest land application site in Florida, Deseret Ranch, is no longer applying biosolids.
 - DEP is still working with the permittees of several large application sites to bring their NMPs into compliance.
- Biosolids application quantities are dropping as it gets harder to land apply.



SEPTAGE DISPOSAL CHALLENGES

- Following the 2021 revisions to Chapter 62-640, F.A.C., only about 18 of the 45 septage sites permitted between 2016 and 2018 remain active.
- BS Ranch and Farm in Polk County stopped receiving septage in September 2024; this facility had been receiving septage from haulers based in Polk and surrounding counties.
- Septage haulers in some other areas of the state have limited disposal options.
- Septage haulers are having to transport septage farther distances.
- Interest is increasing in:
 - Septage disposal at wastewater treatment plants.
 - Septage disposal at dewatering facilities, many of which discharge the liquid to sewers.
- Many septage haulers pump grease traps; there is a new grease rule close to adoption that will impact these haulers.



EPA eREPORTING

- The current federal eReporting Rule deadline is Dec. 21, 2025.
- NPDES regulated entities are impacted.
- The main goals of the eReporting Rule:
 - Increase efficiency through paperless processing.
 - Minimize human error through less manual data entry.
- Working on implementing these changes and updating items as needed.



REMINDERS AND HELPFUL TIPS

Wastewater Updates



ANNUAL REUSE REPORT REMINDERS

- Annual Reuse Reports are required by Rule 62-610.870, F.A.C., and **must be submitted through the DEP Business Portal on or by Jan. 1 each year.**
- The permittee will receive an email with an Oculus link to the supporting documentation when their report is approved by DEP.
- Ensure that submissions are made using the most up-to-date DEP Form 62-610.300(3)(a)2.
- Submit reports electronically through the DEP Business Portal and to the appropriate water management district.
- Do not send physical copies to DEP by U.S. mail.
- **Thank you for timely submissions this past year!**



DOMESTIC WASTEWATER FORMS

- [Domestic Wastewater Forms:](#)
 - Instructions include an email link to each district and delegated local program office.
 - Instructions also cover Professional Engineer signing and sealing of documents.
 - Fill out the form online, sign and save it, and submit it electronically to the appropriate permitting office.



HELPFUL WEBPAGES

- **OCULUS:** <https://DEPEDMS.DEP.State.FL.US/Oculus/servlet/search>.
- **DEP Business Portal:** <https://www.FLDEPPortal.com/DepPortal/go/home>.
- **Helpful tips for completing discharge monitoring reports (DMRs):** <https://FloridaDEP.gov/water/water-compliance-assurance/documents/helpful-tips-completing-dmrs>.
- **EzDMR:** <https://FloridaDEP.gov/water/water-compliance-assurance/content/ezdmr>.
- **Storm Preparedness Guide:** <https://FloridaDEP.gov/water/water/documents/storm-preparation-guidance-and-checklist-wastewater-facilities>.
- **Spill Reporting:** <https://FloridaDEP.gov/water/water-compliance-assurance/content/emergency-response>.
- **Public Notice of Pollution:** <https://FloridaDEP.gov/pollutionnotice>.



THANK YOU

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