

Municipality of Anchorage Industrial and Commercial Discharge Management

Brewery and Distillery Process Waste

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The Municipality of Anchorage is operating under a national Pollution Discharge Elimination System (APDES) Permit #AKS052558. Section 3.1.3.3 of the 2015 APDES Permit requires that the permittees identify and assess an activity within their jurisdiction where stormwater discharges are not adequately being addressed. To satisfy this requirement the Municipality reviewed current industrial development activity and evaluated reports of discharges in the permitted area. An outstanding area of concern was the spent grain/brewing material storage and disposal for all breweries, cideries, and distilleries operating in Anchorage.

As the Municipal agency responsible for reporting and following up on illicit discharges to the MOA Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), Watershed Management Services (WMS) has received a few complaints regarding Anchorage breweries allowing solids and liquids from spent grains used in the brewing process to run off into the Municipal storm drain system. Many Anchorage breweries like to store their spent grain outside of the brewery buildings in order to allow local farmers to pick them up for animal feed or compost. While WMS is supportive of this, outdoor storage of grains, especially near storm drain inlets, has the potential to allow materials to run off into the storm drain system. Anchorage Municipal Code 21.07.040G classifies all non-stormwater flows entering the MS4 as “illicit discharges” and prohibits them from being discharged to the MS4 or any receiving waters.

In response to the reports, and because several new microbreweries have started operations in Anchorage over the past few years, WMS has developed a new performance standard for all breweries, cideries, and distilleries operating in Anchorage:

By-products from brewing or distilling operations must be disposed of and/or stored in such a way as to minimize storm water interactions with the by-products, and not allow any grains, liquid, leachate, or any other liquid or solids to enter a storm drain or other drainageway or conveyance owned by, or connected to, a system owned by the MOA or DOT&PF, or discharge to a stream, lake, inlet, or other regulated receiving water.

In order to evaluate whether the facilities currently operating in Anchorage are meeting this performance standard, WMS, in 2019, implemented a new inspection project wherein WMS conducts site inspections at Anchorage breweries, cideries, and distilleries, assesses their procedures regarding spent grain/brewing material storage and disposal, and makes recommendations to limit stormwater interactions and eliminate runoff to the storm drain system and streams.

This activity was prefaced by a letter to all breweries, cideries, and distilleries currently operating within the Municipality of Anchorage explaining the problem of spent grain liquids

and solids running into the storm drain system, and notifying them of our intention to conduct inspections to assess their spent grain storage and disposal procedures. Since then, WMS has been visiting and inspecting each of these facilities. Inspections include the brewery manager or head-brewer to assist with a review of operations, particularly at spent grain disposal and outdoor storage areas for indication of materials entering the storm drain system. WMS takes notes on the process and creates a site sketch showing the location of any outdoor storage areas, storm drain inlets, drainage paths, and general topography and flow direction. During the inspection, WMS requires the elimination of any observed discharges and makes recommendations for improving operations such as replacing leaky totes or getting lids for totes that are not stored under cover of a roof or awning. Brewery managers are then asked to follow up with WMS via an email explaining their spent grain storage and disposal procedures.

WMS plans to continue evaluating the operations and practices of these facilities to ensure they are meeting the new performance standard. This includes reviewing the inspection notes and recommendations to develop best management practices. This will provide the basis for another letter to all breweries laying out best management practices. WMS will reinspect facilities until we believe they are in line with the new performance standard and current MOA stormwater codes. Once all facilities are brought into compliance with the code and the new performance standard, we believe that our existing illicit discharge reporting system will be adequate to identify any new problems that may arise in the future.

In summary, the Municipal code, supported by the new performance standard, regulating prohibited illicit discharges for this industrial/commercial operation is adequate. The connected businesses have been interested in providing watershed protection and willingly compliant with WMS requests. We have provided a list of the facilities addressed in this program.

Breweries, Cideries, and Distilleries currently operating within the Municipality of Anchorage

1. Glacier Brewhouse
737 W 5th Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907)274-2739
Drew Weber
2. Broken Tooth Brewing Co. (Moose's
Tooth, etc.)
2021 Spar Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907)278-4999
Brokentoothbrewing.net
Tyler Jones
3. Midnight Sun Brewing Co.
8111 Dimond Hook Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99507
(907)344-6653
Midnightsunbrewing.com
Lee Ellis
4. Anchorage Brewing Company
148 W 91st St.
Anchorage, AK 99515
(907)677-2739
Anchoragebrewing.company
Gabe Fletcher

5. King Street Brewing Company
9050 King St.
Anchorage, AK 99515
(907)336-5464
Kingstreetbrewing.com
Shane Kingry
6. Resolution Brewing Company
3024 Mountain View Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907)330-4523
Resolutionbeer.com
7. Cynosure Brewing
144 E Potter Dr. #E
Anchorage, AK 99518
(907)563-2966
Clarke Pelz
8. 49th State Brewing
717 W 3rd Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907)277-7727
49statebrewing.com
Dave Short (Devin or Jarek)
9. Odd Man Rush Brewing
10930 Mausel St.
Eagle River, AK 99577
(907)696-2337
Oddmanrushbrewing.com
Brian Swanson
10. Double Shovel Cider Company
502 W 58th Ave. C
Anchorage, AK 99518
(907)562-1100
Doubleshovelsider.com
Jerry Lau
11. Turnagain Brewing Company
7920 King St.
Anchorage, AK 99518
(907)646-2337
Turnagainbrewing.com
Ted Rosenzweig
12. Girdwood Brewing Company
2700 Alyeska Hwy.
Girdwood, AK 99587
(907)783-2739
Girdwoodbrewing.com
Brett
13. On Site Brewing Company
Attn: Tom Chambers
PO Box 240642
Anchorage, AK 99525
Tom Chambers & Amber Jackson
14. Anchorage Distillery
6310 A St.
Anchorage, AK 99518
(907)561-2100
Anchoragedistillery.com
Bob Klein