
MEMORANDUM



TO:
FROM:
SUBJECT: **Wastewater Plant issue – Letter approval**
DATE: March 4, 2021

Background:

There have been a few times in the past that the WWTP had issues with a mystery substance that someone had dumped into the system. These substances have created a lot of problems with the plants delicate balance of bacteria, causing a lot of issues and a significant cost.

The most recent situation was found Monday, February 22nd. The water was cloudy and we noticed an extensive amount of foaming. While we do not know for sure when it entered the system, we believe it may have been sometime Sunday or Sunday night.

A post was made on Facebook and shared on a few pages to remind people that they should not dump chemicals.

Monday March 1st, it was discovered that the plant was hit with a second dumping sometime over the weekend.

Staff is requesting approval to send the following letter to our Business's.

City of Princeton Businesses

The Princeton Wastewater Plant has been experiencing some issues with numerous types of chemicals being disposed of through the Waste water system. These incidents have been occurring over the last few months. Our Wastewater Plant contains billions of bacteria that break down the solid materials in the system. The chemicals that are being disposed of into the system is killing the bacteria, which causes our bacteria levels to become dangerously low.

As you know these events are extremely harmful and costly to our systems as well as the possibility of harming the river we protect. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency which oversees our license with Wastewater Plant is aware of the events and could initiate an investigation to identify the place of origin.

Our hope is that this illegal dumping is unintentional and we are asking that nothing besides water, human waste and biodegradable toilet paper be put in the system. Whether it is unintentional or deliberate, it is greatly affecting the City's budget and efforts to keep our community safe.

If you have other materials that you are unsure of or need to dispose please contact our wastewater plant at 763-389-3574 so we can work with you to dispose of them properly.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter and again please help keep our Wastewater Plant running efficiently and keeping our natural resources safe.