

Discussion on pH Limits



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NPDES Permit Limits

- Standard Industrial Range: For nearly all industrial and municipal wastewater treatment facilities, the legally required pH range is 6.0 to 9.0 S.U.
- Recent NPDES Permits – 6.5 – 8.3 S.U.

What do we see?

pH Average Regional Limitations

- ➡ pH Minimum – 5.53 S.U.
- ➡ pH Maximum – 10.05 S.U.

- ➡ Highest lower pH – 6.5 S.U.
- ➡ Lowest upper pH – 9.0 S.U.
- ➡ Lowest lower pH – 5.0 S.U.
- ➡ Highest upper pH – 12.0 S.U.

§ 403.5 National pretreatment standards: Prohibited discharges.

- (b) Specific prohibitions
- 2) Pollutants which will cause corrosive structural damage to the POTW, but in no case Discharges with pH lower than 5.0, unless the works is specifically designed to accommodate such Discharges;

Permits should include both:

➡ § 403.5 Prohibition

AND

➡ Local Limitation

Approved pH Limitations should be adopted into:

- Sewer Use Ordinance/Regulations
- Industrial User Permits
- Enforcement Response Plan

§ 403.18 Modification of POTW pretreatment programs.

- ➡ (b) Substantial modifications defined.
- ➡ (2) Modifications that relax local limits, except for the modifications to local limits for **pH**



QUESTIONS?