

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

03-588

AGENDA:

DECEMBER 8, 2003

SUBJECT:

INDUSTRIAL WASTE
ORDINANCE
AMENDMENTS
INCREASING THE
UPPER PH LIMIT FOR
SANITARY SEWER
DISCHARGE FROM
10.5 TO 12.0

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

WILLIAM STOWE
PUBLIC WORKS
DIRECTOR

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

SYNOPSIS —

Aramark, an industrial laundry located at 2500 Delaware Avenue in Des Moines, requested consideration of an increased upper pH limit for industrial dischargers. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has approved the change to the City's industrial pretreatment program. Staff recommends approval and waiver of all three readings because of the immediate benefits to industrial dischargers and to the Des Moines Metropolitan Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF).

FISCAL IMPACT —

The proposed ordinance changes will reduce penalties collected from industrial dischargers for violations of the upper pH limit by approximately \$2,000 per year. A higher pH within the sewer system may decrease the need for capital improvements associated with sewage that is septic. Potential benefits are estimated at \$30,000.

RECOMMENDATION —

Approval.

BACKGROUND —

The WRF treats wastewater discharged from 57 permitted industrial dischargers. IDNR requires the City adopt pollutant limits to prevent pass through of pollutants to the Des Moines River and to protect the safety and health of sewer system workers. Staff reviewed research from the Uniform Textile Trade Association and surveyed cities with pH limits higher than 10.5. Results showed no adverse treatment effects and some improved treatment in cities where septic wastewater caused odors. The proposed change in upper pH limits will benefit the following industrial dischargers: Anderson Erickson Dairy, Aramark, Archer Daniels Midland – Oil, G&K Textile Service, Kemin Industries, Park Avenue Laundry, and Roberts Dairy.

