

1 Water Quality

2 Effective: Moved to Policy Library from UPM 12.12(13), UPM 12.12(14), UPM 12.12(15), UPM
3 12.12(16)

4 Reviewed: March 2021

5 Contact: [Environmental Health and Safety \(EH&S\)](#)

6 Introduction

7 The protection of water quality is the responsibility of all Iowa State University personnel.
8 Environmental Health and Safety ensures water quality protection by administering the following
9 plans, permits, and programs:

- 10 • ISU Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan
- 11 • Aboveground Storage Tank (AST) and Underground Storage Tank (UST) programs
- 12 • ISU Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit and National Pollutant
13 Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit #2
- 14 • National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Non-domestic Wastewater
15 Program and accompanying Industrial Pretreatment Agreements

16 The SPCC Plan regulates the storage of petroleum, vegetable, and animal based oils, fluids and
17 solids or semi-solids that if released could contaminate water. Requirements of the plan include
18 conducting campus inventories of regulated materials, providing containment where there is the
19 possibility of release, and periodic inspections of regulated material containers.

20 The AST and UST programs regulate the storage of materials that if released could contaminate soil
21 and surface or sub-surface waters. Requirements of the programs include registration and periodic
22 inspection or integrity testing of tanks.

23 The MS4 Permit and the NPDES General Permit #2 regulate the discharge of pollutants through the
24 storm sewer system. Requirements of the MS4 Permit and Permit #2 include permitting of sites
25 where soil is disturbed, periodic inspection of permitted sites and the general campus, and
26 implementation of best management practices to prevent the migration of soil and other pollutants to
27 the stormwater system, which empty into rivers and streams.

28 The NPDES Non-domestic Wastewater Program regulates the discharge of pollutants to the sanitary
29 sewer system. Requirements include the development of Pretreatment Agreements for portions of
30 campus that discharge sanitary sewer wastes to the City of Ames system, and prohibitions from
31 discharging chemical wastes or large volumes of non-sanitary wastes.

32 Applicable Terms

33 **Sanitary wastes:** Domestic sewage from human biological functions.
34

35 **Pollutant in stormwater:** Anything other than precipitation that discharges to the stormwater
36 system, including, but not limited to: soil, chemicals, concrete wash down, soaps, oil, road salt,
37 vegetation, potable water, etc.
38

39 **Pollutant in non-domestic wastewater:** Anything other than normal sanitary wastes, including, but
40 not limited to: chemicals, animal wastes, excessive temperatures, food waste, oils, greases, and
41 storm or ground water infiltration.
42

43 **Stormwater:** Precipitation in any form.

44 **Policy Statement**

45 **General Duty**

46 University personnel are required to adhere to federal, state and local water quality regulations set
47 forth in the ISU SPCC Plan, AST and UST programs, MS4 Permit and NPDES General Permit #2,
48 NPDES Non-domestic Wastewater Program and accompanying Industrial Pretreatment
49 Agreements, and all other water quality programs and policies.

50 **Discharge of Pollutants**

51 Unless authorized, university personnel are prohibited from discharging-or allowing or causing to be
52 discharged-pollutants to the land, surfaces, waters, and sanitary or stormwater systems of Iowa
53 State University.

54 **Duty to Report**

55 University personnel are required to report any discharge, spill, or release of pollutants immediately
56 to Environmental Health and Safety or ISU Police.

57 **Resources**

58 **Links**

- 59 • [EH&S Stormwater Program](#)
- 60 • [Iowa Department of Natural Resources Water Quality](#)
- 61 • [Environmental Protection Agency NPDES](#)
- 62 • [ISU Police](#)

63