

KANSAS SMALL-TOWN AND RURAL MEAT PROCESSING FACILITIES

Meat processors/locker plants located in small towns and rural areas present unique challenges to the local infrastructure, specifically with wastewater. The waste process water and washdown water contain manure, blood and other organics which often result in high strength wastewater as well as increasing the possibility of wastewater conveyance system blockages. Although all meat processing facilities must address these special operational requirements, some new or expanding facilities and the governmental jurisdictions they expand into are not aware of these requirements early enough in the planning and expansion process. This guidance explains those environmental permitting requirements, considerations and contacts.

Before you break ground on a new facility or expand an existing facility...



Getting potable water to the facility

If the facility will not utilize a municipal public water supply or rural water supply as the source of drinking water and the facility will serve 25 people or more per day, 60 or more days per year, it will be considered a public water supply subject to state/federal drinking water requirements. Contact the KDHE Public Water Supply Section at **785-296-5514**. Federal and/or State meat processing inspection regulations may also require water that meets public water supply quality standards.

Water wells shall be constructed by Kansas-licensed water well contractors. There are special construction requirements for water wells serving public water supplies. For more information, contact the KDHE Geology & Well Technology Section at **785-296-5560**.



Stormwater (precipitation) falling on the facility

NPDES Industrial Stormwater Permit is required for the operation of the facility and must be obtained prior to the start of operation. In lieu of this permit, the operator can obtain a 'No Exposure Waiver,' found in the NPDES Industrial Stormwater Permit, if waiver requirements are met. Call **785-296-4347** for more information or the Kansas Small Business Environmental Assistance Program, or SBEAP, at **800-578-8898**.

NPDES Construction Stormwater Permit is required only if one or more acres are disturbed during construction. The permit is required prior to the start of soil disturbing activities (construction). For more information, contact **785-296-5549**.



Wastewater permitting requirements

Any on-site water pollution control system will require a permit from KDHE Bureau of Water Industrial Programs Unit (BOW IPU) prior to commencing construction. Contact BOW IPU to discuss conceptual project design prior to submitting an industrial wastewater permit application. If wastewater will be directed to a municipal wastewater collection and treatment system for treatment and disposal, approval for use of the municipal system, along with any permits, needs to be secured from the municipality. Call **785-296-5553** for more information, or call SBEAP at **800-578-8898**.

If the facility will employ an on-site wastewater treatment system for domestic wastewater rather than utilize an existing municipal sanitary sewer system, the facility has a few options: domestic wastewater may be handled via a septic tank with lateral field or on-site lagoon system – contact the County Sanitarian; or domestic wastewater may be able to be included in an industrial wastewater lagoon permitted as part of an industrial wastewater permit as noted above. Facilities that are in or adjacent to town are subject to KDHE Regionalization Policy (as included in KDHE Minimum Design Standards for Water Pollution Control Facilities).

New EPA regulations are being developed for this industry. For proposed specific information, see EPA's Meat and Poultry Products Effluent Guideline Limitations (40 CFR Part 432) at www.epa.gov/eg/meat-and-poultry-products-effluent-guidelines.

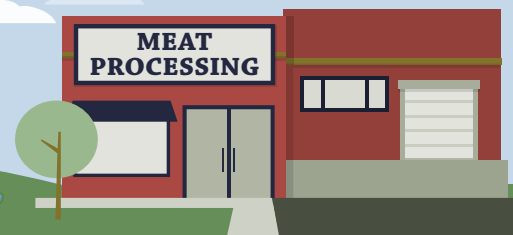


Other “planning phase” considerations – regulated air pollution equipment (i.e. boilers, engines, incinerators)

A permit may be required if proposing to install equipment such as a fuel combustion device (e.g., boiler, engine, incinerator). You must submit the Notification of Construction or Modification application form, appropriate Process/Equipment forms and receive a permit before commencing construction or installation of the equipment. For more information, review the KDHE Bureau of Air website or call **785-296-1570**, or call SBEAP at **800-578-8898**.

KANSAS SMALL-TOWN AND RURAL MEAT PROCESSING FACILITIES

Once your meat processing facility is operating...



Maintaining good wastewater compliance

If process water is hauled or sent to a local wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), then the meat processing facility should maintain contact with the local community operating the WWTP and inform them of any changes to the quantity or quality of the process water being disposed.

Facilities that discharge treated wastewater under an NPDES permit should be aware that the permit represents a binding legal contract and understand that permit and the standard and supplemental conditions, as well as discharge limits and reporting, are all requirements that must be followed.

Additionally, the stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPP) should be reviewed by all facility workers that deal with wastewater issues and updated on a continual basis as facilities conditions change.



Other “operating phase” environmental considerations – dealing with solid waste (manure, skin, bones, offal, paunch)

A meat processing facility is required to dispose of waste. There are several options for disposal through a solid waste processing facility, incineration (KDHE Bureau of Air) or biological decomposition (composting). If a composting facility is less than one-half acre, registering the operation with KDHE Bureau of Waste Management is all that is required. If it is more than one-half acre then a permit is required.

An application for approval must be obtained to apply organic waste to land. Please note that offsite burial of waste without a permit is illegal and not an acceptable form of waste management. Composting, whether registered or permitted, must address the stormwater runoff from industrial activity.

For additional information and training on composting processing wastes, contact KDHE Bureau of Waste Management at **785-296-1600**.



Environmental best management practices (BMPs)

Meat processing facilities produce a large amount of organic wastes that are putrescible (smell) and attract vectors like flies and mice (disease). Taking care of these wastes in a timely and proper manner will help control some of the sight and smell issues associated with meat processing operations.

Historically, meat processing facilities were often located on the Main Street of the small towns in Kansas they served. However, these locations are often high in foot and vehicle traffic, and are often located within close proximity to residential areas. The intersection of meat processing facility operations and their effect on the local population is most frequently where complaints with neighbors begin.

When choosing a site for a new facility, or when making plans to update an existing facility, the more distance there is between residential and commercial areas and the meat processing facility, the less likely that it will be the facility's operation will cause complaints from neighbors.