Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Bureau of Water
Wastewater & Stormwater Permitting & Compliance Section
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Pet Waste Management from Synthetic Turf Areas Technical Guidance Document

This Technical Guidance Document (TGD) is designed to help Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) permittees determine if the design of a synthetic turf pet area complies with the requirements of their MS4 permit.

Background

Occasionally synthetic turf pet areas are designed to allow wastewater to flow untreated from the facility. These uncontrolled discharges have the potential to leave the property or create a pollution threat to neighboring property or the environment. Under an MS4 permit, this would be considered an illicit discharge.

Applicability

K.S.A. 65-165(a) provides KDHE with the general authority to permit sewage discharges that are in the interest of public health, do not detract from beneficial uses of the waters of the state, and meet applicable water quality and effluent standards.

Best Management Practice Guidance

KDHE provides the following Best Management Practices (BMPs) for synthetic turf pet areas design and maintenance.

- Synthetic turf pet areas shall not be designed with an underdrain system that drains to an effluent pipe discharging to the storm sewer or streams. If an underdrain system is intended to be used, waste should be allowed to percolate through turf, aggregate, and naturally into the soil.
- Alternatively, the underdrain system can be tied into an onsite wastewater treatment system or connected to a sanitary sewer system. Prior to connection to the sanitary sewer, the facility shall gain approval from the owner of the sanitary sewer system.
- Clean synthetic turf areas frequently and dispose of droppings and waste in the trash.
- If water must be used for cleaning, do not discharge water to the storm sewer or streams. Storm sewer inlets must be covered or blocked. Wash water should be allowed to drain naturally into the soil or be collected and discharged to the sanitary sewer or private sewage system.
- Pet areas should be designed with adequate buffer zones to prevent runoff to the storm sewer or streams.

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