Environmental Protection Agency

§ 403.17 Bypass.

(a) Definitions. (1) Bypass means the intentional diversion of wastestreams from any portion of an Industrial User’s treatment facility.

(2) Severe property damage means substantial physical damage to property, damage to the treatment facilities which causes them to become inoperable, or substantial and permanent loss of natural resources which can reasonably be expected to occur in the absence of a bypass. Severe property damage does not mean economic loss caused by delays in production.

(b) Bypass not violating applicable Pretreatment Standards or Requirements. An Industrial User may allow any bypass to occur which does not cause Pretreatment Standards or Requirements to be violated, but only if it also is for essential maintenance to assure efficient operation. These bypasses are not subject to the provision of paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section.

(c) Notice. (1) If an Industrial User knows in advance of the need for a bypass, it shall submit prior notice to the Control Authority, if possible at least ten days before the date of the bypass.

(2) An Industrial User shall submit oral notice of an unanticipated bypass that exceeds applicable Pretreatment Standards to the Control Authority within 24 hours from the time the Industrial User becomes aware of the bypass. A written submission shall also be provided within 5 days of the time the Industrial User becomes aware of the bypass. The written submission would contain:

- A description of the indirect discharge and cause of noncompliance;
- The period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times or, if not corrected, the anticipated time the noncompliance is expected to continue;
- Steps being taken or planned to reduce, eliminate and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance.

(d) Burden of proof. In any enforcement proceeding the Industrial User seeking to establish the occurrence of an Upset shall have the burden of proof.

(e) Reviewability of agency consideration of claims of upset. In the usual exercise of prosecutorial discretion, Agency enforcement personnel should review any claims that non-compliance was caused by an Upset. No determinations made in the course of the review constitute final Agency action subject to judicial review. Industrial Users will have the opportunity for a judicial determination on any claim of Upset only in an enforcement action brought for noncompliance with categorical Pretreatment Standards.

(f) User responsibility in case of upset. The Industrial User shall control production or all Discharges to the extent necessary to maintain compliance with categorical Pretreatment Standards upon reduction, loss, or failure of its treatment facility until the facility is restored or an alternative method of treatment is provided. This requirement applies in the situation where, among other things, the primary source of power of the treatment facility is reduced, lost or fails.

§ 403.18 Modification of POTW pretreatment programs.

(a) General. Either the Approval Authority or a POTW with an approved POTW Pretreatment Program may initiate program modification at any time to reflect changing conditions at the POTW. Program modification is necessary whenever there is a significant change in the operation of a POTW Pretreatment Program that differs from the information in the POTW’s submission, as approved under § 403.11.

(b) Substantial modifications defined. Substantial modifications include:

(1) Modifications that relax POTW legal authorities (as described in §403.8(f)(1)), except for modifications that directly reflect a revision to this part 403 or to 40 CFR chapter I, subchapter N, and are reported pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section;

(2) Modifications that relax local limits, except for the modifications to local limits for pH and reallocations of the Maximum Allowable Industrial Loading of a pollutant that do not increase the total industrial loadings for the pollutant, which are reported pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section. Maximum Allowable Industrial Loading means the total mass of a pollutant that all Industrial Users of a POTW (or a subgroup of Industrial Users identified by the POTW) may discharge pursuant to limits developed under §403.5(c);

(3) Changes to the POTW’s control mechanism, as described in §403.8(f)(1)(iii);

(4) A decrease in the frequency of self-monitoring or reporting required of industrial users;

(5) A decrease in the frequency of industrial user inspections or sampling by the POTW;

(6) Changes to the POTW’s confidentiality procedures; and

(7) Other modifications designated as substantial modifications by the Approval Authority on the basis that the modification could have a significant impact on the operation of the POTW’s Pretreatment Program; could result in an increase in pollutant loadings at the POTW; or could result in less stringent requirements being imposed on Industrial Users of the POTW.

(c) Approval procedures for substantial modifications. (1) The POTW shall submit to the Approval Authority a statement of the basis for the desired program modification, a modified program description (see §403.9(b)), or such other documents the Approval Authority determines to be necessary under the circumstances.

(2) The Approval Authority shall approve or disapprove the modification based on the requirements of §403.8(c) and using the procedures in §403.11(b).