

Dallas Water Utilities
Pretreatment and Laboratory Services Division

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES for SILVER

FACT SHEET

Best Management Practices (BMP) is a pollution prevention program for facility specific plans implemented by an industry sector for the purpose of controlling and reducing certain pollutants including those discharged to the sanitary sewer system. BMP is a program supported by United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

The BMP for silver would apply to the generators of silver-rich solutions, which are printers, publishers, photo processing labs and x-ray (dental, chiropractor, medical, etc.) facilities. The BMP program establishes a set of operating procedures designed to reduce both the amount of silver and the overall volume of silver-rich solution discharged to the sanitary sewer system while utilizing economically viable and currently available silver recovery technologies.

The BMP program for Silver was developed by The National Silver Council and the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Authorities (AMSA). Nationally, many cities have implemented the BMP program for silver dischargers. BMP would still allow DWU to meet environmental objectives and regulations. The businesses participating with the program will be in compliance with the Dallas City Code.

The purpose of the BMP program is to allow the business sector the opportunity to regulate their own discharges to the sanitary sewer system. The BMP is a good example of how business and government can work together to improve the environment. With the producers of silver-rich dischargers being of large quantities, Dallas Water Utilities would only use our resources to monitor the participants of the BMP program in lieu of conducting numerous inspections and sampling.

The plan with BMP for silver is to implement this program based on a guide called “The Code of Management Practice” or CMP in the Pretreatment program.

The BMP program implementation began on January 31, 2003 and participating facilities must return letter of participation or certification of no discharge. A sticker of BMP participation shall be placed in the facility window. Those facilities not participating in the BMP program for silver will be subject to being regulated by Dallas Water Utilities, Pretreatment Program. Those facilities not participating would include issuance of an Industrial User Discharge Permit, self-monitoring, Dallas Water Utilities compliance monitoring and enforcement of other rules and regulations.