

Concise Explanatory Statement

880-RICR-00-00-4

The Quonset Development Corporation (QDC) owns and operates the wastewater treatment system at the Quonset Business Park in accordance with 40 CFR 403, “General Pretreatment Regulations for Existing and New Sources of Pollution.” The Quonset Business Park Development Package, 880-RICR-00-00-4, acts as the required Sewer Use Ordinance (SUO) for the Quonset Business Park wastewater treatment facility (QBP WWTF). In 2023, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) issued a Letter of Inspection Findings to QDC with multiple comments requesting updates to the SUO to comply with 40 CFR 403. The proposed amendments to 880-RICR-00-00 are in response to RIDEM’s comments.

The proposed amendments clarify the definition of an “industrial user” under the SUO, and adds the definition of Significant Non-compliance as required by RIDEM. All other revisions affect Section 4.16, “Sewer Treatment System User Regulations.”

The proposed amendments are intended to standardize terminology and to clarify who must apply for wastewater permits and the process by which permits are reviewed and approved. RIDEM also requested that QDC add language to assert certain authorities that are provided by 40 CFR 403.

No comments were received during the public comment period, and therefore no changes were made to the proposed amendment.

QDC operates the QBP WWTF utilizing its own revenues, derived from fees paid by users of the system. Therefore, there will be no fiscal impact to the State of Rhode Island. The benefit to Rhode Island is the continued successful and effective operation of the QBP WWTF, including the continued treatment of wastewater prior to discharge into Narragansett Bay. Therefore, the benefit justifies the cost of the proposed rule. The proposed rule is necessary to ensure that QDC has the authority necessary to regulate any changes to wastewater streams or alterations to the wastewater conveyance system so that the environment of Narragansett Bay is properly protected.