



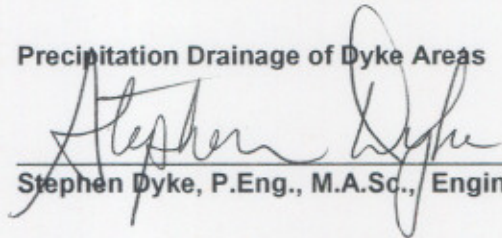
GOVERNMENT OF
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Department of Environment & Conservation

Guidance Document

Title: Precipitation Drainage of Dyke Areas


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General

Industrial chemical storage tanks are required to have containment dykes and, most often, these are located outdoors and capture precipitation. The build up of liquid precipitation in the spring, summer, and fall is relatively easy to manage in terms of sampling and discharge, however, in the winter sampling and discharge is often difficult due to freeze/thaw conditions and the wait period between sampling and analysis. The freezing of precipitation in a dyke presents safety and environmental concerns - ice formation may result in people slipping and/or the integrity of the tanks, dyking, and piping may be compromised and may result in a spill. For these reasons, where companies can demonstrate good environmental stewardship, the Department may allow precipitation to be drained to the environment without sampling and analysis results.

Position

An operator may discharge dyked precipitation directly to the environment without sampling results if:

- 1) they can demonstrate good environmental stewardship with a history of favourable sampling results (i.e. 3 separate sampling events) and/or they have an ISO 14000 environmental system (or equivalent);
- 2) there is no visual or olfactory evidence of contamination of the dyked area and/or dyked precipitation;
- 3) there is no reason to suspect a malfunction of the tanks and/or associated piping;
- 4) there is no reason to suspect that the precipitation within the dyke exceeds acceptable contaminant levels our regulations and/or policies;
- 5) verification sampling to be completed on an annual basis; and
- 6) Department is notified 24 hours in advance. However, in certain circumstances it may not be necessary or practical for the Department to inspect prior to discharge.