

<p>Allen Park Belleville Brownstown Twp. Dearborn Heights Ecorse Lincoln Park</p>	<p>Downriver Utility Wastewater Authority</p> <p><b>25605 Northline Road • Taylor, Michigan 48180</b></p>	<p>River Rouge Riverview Romulus Southgate Taylor Van Buren Twp. Wyandotte</p>
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# DUWA

## Wastewater Exemption Program for Non-Domestic Users

Revision No. 1, dated November 10, 2022

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## **Downriver Utility Wastewater Authority Wastewater Exemption Program for Non-Domestic Users**

**Community participation in the exemption program is voluntary. Those communities that do not choose to grant exemptions are not required to do so.**

**However, if exemptions are granted for commercial and industrial customers, these guide lines must be followed.**

### **What is an Exemption...**

Historically

The original Wayne County sewer use regulations of 1975 state that "Upon proper application and subject to the approval of the County Agency and the local municipality, an exemption from wastewater disposal charges will be allowed for metered water which does not enter the wastewater facilities." Put simply if a company didn't use the sanitary sewer system they would not be charged for use. If a non-domestic user could prove "beyond a reasonable doubt that none of the flow exempted may enter the wastewater disposal system" an exemption from normal sewer charges would apply.

Downriver Utility Wastewater Authority (DUWA) took over ownership and operation of the Downriver Wastewater Treatment Facility and distribution system in the fall of 2018. At that time any exemptions granted by Wayne County expired as non-domestic users no longer supplied necessary information or reapplied for exemptions with DUWA. The DUWA Board and its technical committee have worked on creating this policy for exemptions on a going forward basis.

### **Who Qualifies and Who Doesn't...**

Wastewater exemptions may be granted to non-domestic commercial or industrial users of the sewerage system who can demonstrate that purchased water used does not enter the system. The applicant must be fully compliant with DUWA rules, regulations, ordinances, permit conditions and authority payments, in order to apply for a DUWA exemption.

This may be because:

- (1) a manufacturer who purchases large amounts of water but use that water in its products. Some examples would be soda pop manufactures, cement or cement block manufactures and liquid detergent producers;
- (2) a user who maintain large air-conditioning cooling towers and lose significant quantities to

evaporation are also qualified. These users could include shopping malls, hospitals and cold storage facilities. Other users who lose water to evaporation include metal plating and other industrial processes that are run at high temperatures or those that consume water as part of their end-use product (beverage supplier).

However, wastewater exemptions are not granted for any water that may return to the sewer system. For example, (1) condensation or blowdown waters from cooling towers are measured and subtracted from exempted waters and (2) lawn watering or vegetation irrigation waters are not exempt. If a non-domestic user believes its unique process should be exempt, the Municipality and DUWA will meet and collaborate on such a request.

### **How is Application Made...**

A non-domestic user may obtain an application from the Industrial Pretreatment Program (IPP) Section of DUWA. Applications may also be obtained through the local community.

This application is filled out and presented to the Municipality. A Municipality may determine not to provide any exemption. The Municipality, if it chooses, will forward the approved application to the DUWA IPP office. If the application is not approved the Municipality will return the application to the applicant.

The user may have to install sewage discharge meters (temporary or permanent) to establish that at least 10% of its purchased water is not discharged to the DUWA system.

Because it is up to the Municipality to read all required meters, keep appropriate records and forward to DUWA all required information, initial approval lies with the exempting Municipality. Only after the Municipality has approved the application will DUWA consider the exemption.

Upon the receipt of the city approval and installation of required piping and meters, DUWA will inspect the facility to assess requirements have been met. The requirements are listed on the application form. DUWA IPP will answer any questions prior to installation of the (permanent or temporary) meters, however, approval will not be made until after the installation of the appropriate meters and approval by the Municipality. Installation of meters will be necessary to validate exempted flows. Where temporary meters are used to estimate exempted flows, a Professional Engineer's analysis is required to validate the proposed exemptions. A sealed report demonstrating the incoming water, water losses, and wastewater flows is required.

Once the DUWA inspection has shown that all requirements have been met the community and the customer shall be notified, in writing, of the effective date of the exemption. The effective date shall be the following July 1<sup>st</sup> of when the application was approved. The municipality will commence reporting exempted water volumes on its periodic Wastewater Disposal Reports to DUWA no sooner than the effective date. DUWA will invoice the non-domestic user for the initial application fee.

DUWA's IPP Section will conduct annual inspections to verify that all conditions continue to be met and an annual fee will be charged to the non-domestic user.

### **Application Fees and Inspections...**

DUWA will invoice the retail customer directly for the initial application and the renewal fees. The non-domestic user will be billed for annual renewal fees in July and will be due within thirty days of issuance.

All exemptions are for the rate year ending June 30<sup>th</sup> and automatically expire if a renewal application is not submitted. Initial and renewal applications must be submitted directly to DUWA by February of rate year prior to the start of the renewal period. DUWA's rate year is July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>. Renewals will be effective from July 1 to June 30. In example, an application submitted by February 28, 2023 would be considered for an effective date of July 1, 2023. Approvals of the renewal applications, inclusive of a physical inspection of the facility, will be completed by DUWA IPP Staff between the months of March and April, which are prior to the effective date of July 1.

Application fees will not be prorated for applications approved throughout the year. If an application is submitted after February, the application would not be considered until the following rate year. In example, an approvable application that is submitted on March 1, 2023 would not have an effective date until July 1, 2024. There is no flexibility in this schedule, as DUWA needs to recognize changes to base volumes as part of the rate making efforts.

Initial inspections, by DUWA IPP Staff, will be scheduled in a timely manner after approval by the Municipality.

Fees are set in accordance with DUWA Board policy.

Beginning in calendar year 2023, the initial DUWA fee is \$1,500 with an annual renewal fee of \$500/year. Renewal applications that request an increase in exempted flows shall be treated as an initial application, and charged accordingly. These fees are subject to change at the discretion of the DUWA board.

Any significant change in the exempt piping that causes a reevaluation of eligibility will be treated as an initial application.

Any exemption that has been revoked for lack of cooperation, information or payment of fees, or any other reason, will be treated as an initial application if reinstated.

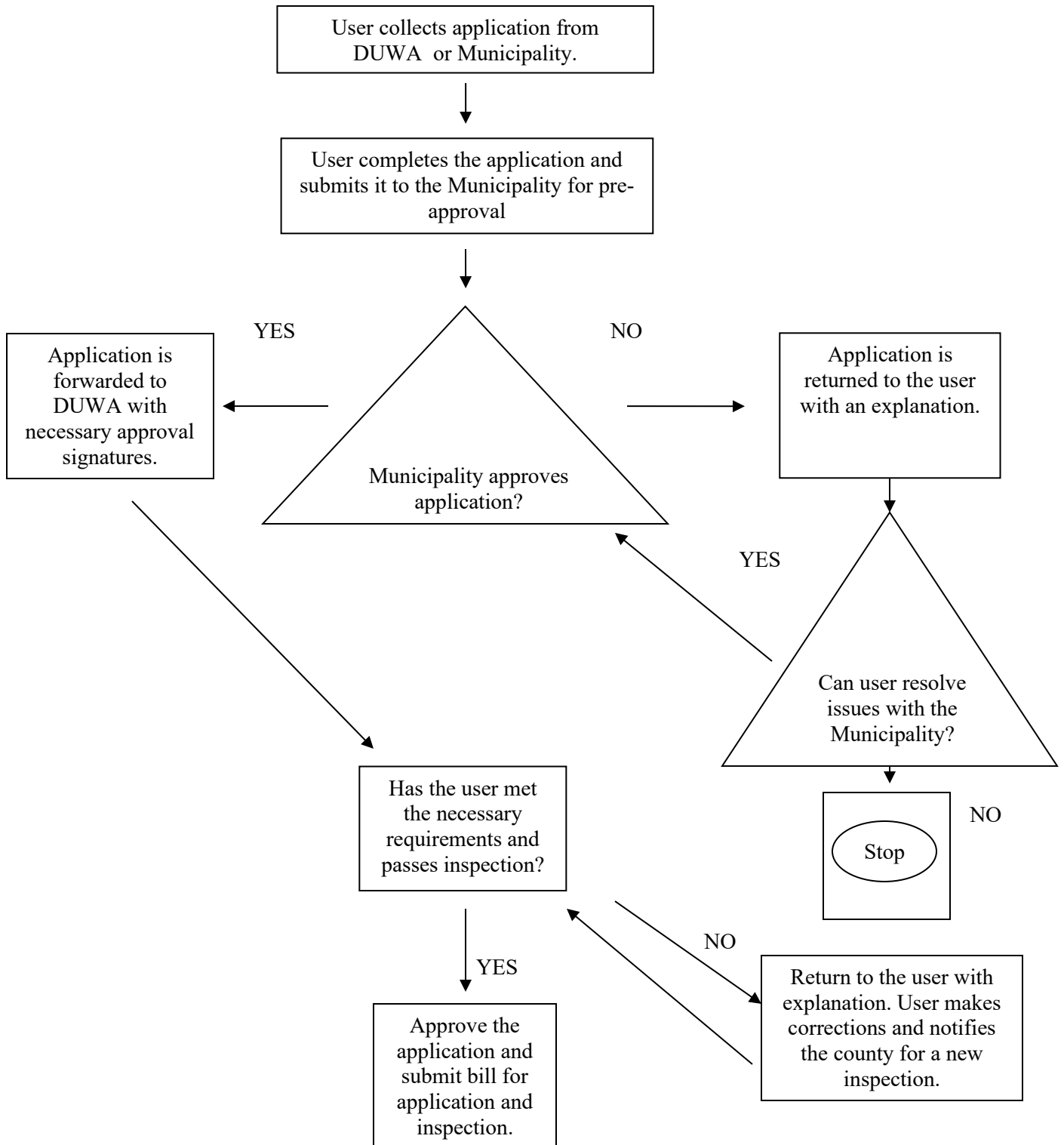
Initially adopted by the DUWA Board on July 8, 2021.

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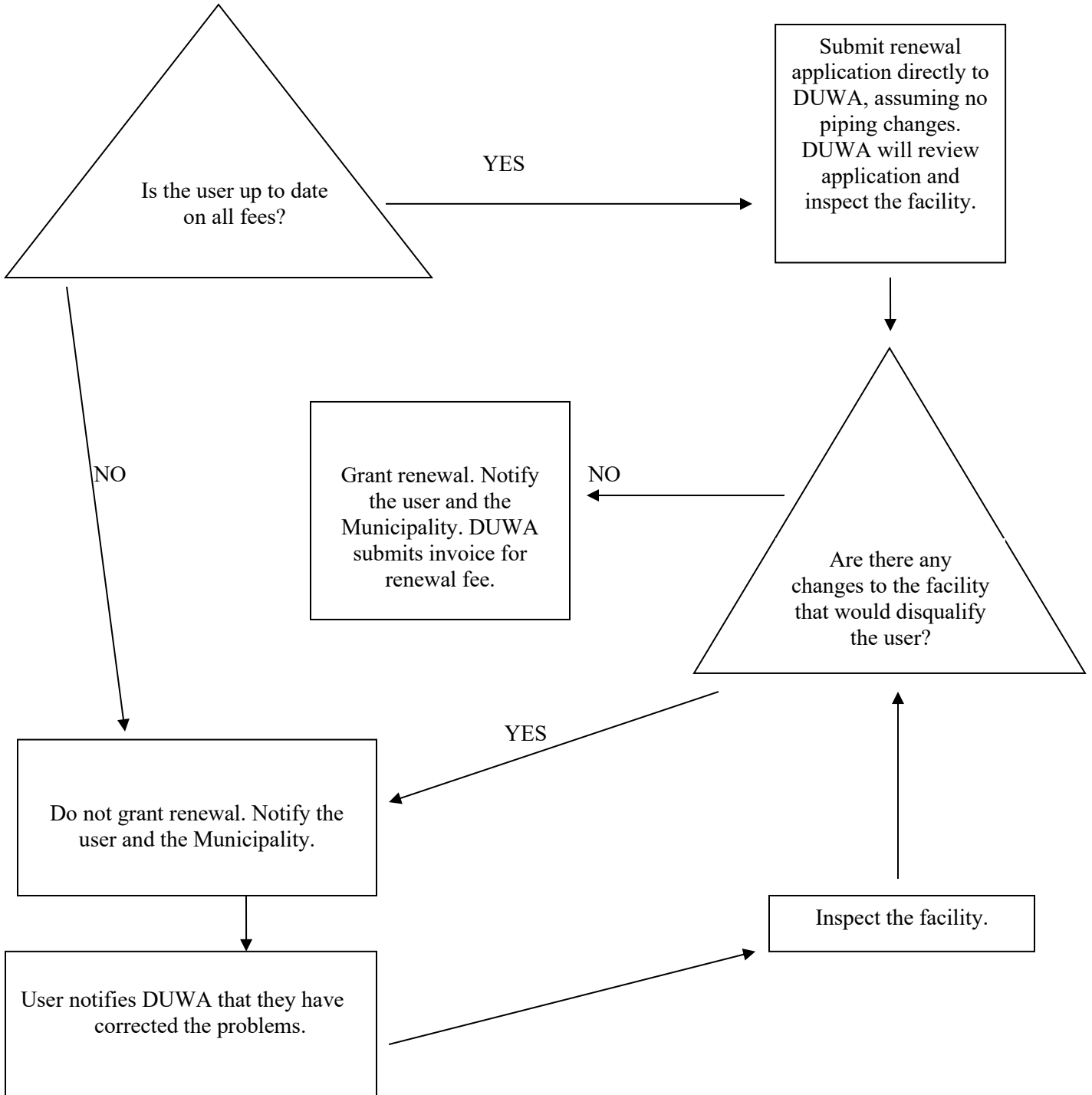
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Rev1. 11/10/22

FLOW CHART  
WASTEWATER EXEMPTION



FLOW CHART  
WASTEWATER EXEMPTION RENEWALS



No. \_\_\_\_\_

Application for  
Wastewater Exemption Program for Non-Domestic Users  
Administered by DUWA's Industrial Pretreatment Program

- 1. Company: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Authorized Representative or Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Location: \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Reason why subject connection should be exempted:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- 7. Current total water consumption \_\_\_\_\_ gal/year
- 8. Estimated exempted water consumption \_\_\_\_\_ gal/year
- 9. Signature of Authorized Representative \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- 10. Type of metering for exempted flows:  
 Water Meter (requires Engineer's report)       Wastewater Meter

Manufacturer \_\_\_\_\_  
 Style of meter \_\_\_\_\_

- 11. Location of meter \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. Meter number (s) \_\_\_\_\_

13. Approval of Exemption by the Local Municipality:  
 \_\_\_\_\_ hereby approves this request for a wastewater disposal exemption and, **if granted by DUWA**, it is agreed that the exemption will be passed on to the applicant.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Signature & Title of Authorizing Representative) (date)

- 14. Disposition by the Downriver Utility Wastewater Authority:  
 Exemption is denied for reason (s) set for the on the reverse side here of  
 Exemption is granted subject to conditions set forth on the reverse side hereof.

Site inspected by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Pursuant to the current policy, wastewater exemptions will take effect no earlier than the following July 1<sup>st</sup> once approved.**