

THE ENVIRONMENTAL REGISTER

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A news bulletin from

THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

OUR MISSION:

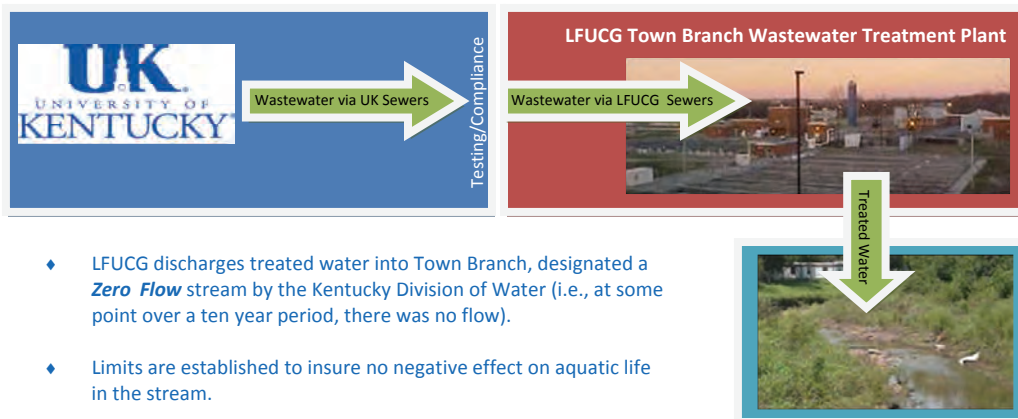
To provide outstanding service to the RESEARCH, ACADEMIC, OPERATIONAL and HEALTHCARE areas of the University in defining and achieving their goals for environmental compliance and resource conservation.



Environmental Quality Management Center

Critical Wastewater Discharge Facts

The University's main campus in Lexington discharges wastewater into the city-own sanitary sewer system where it is eventually directed to one of their wastewater treatment plants. The discharge of wastewater to the city's sanitary sewers is regulated through an *Industrial User Permit* issued by the Lexington-Fayette County Urban County Government (LFUCG). This permit establishes concentration limits for specific parameters and details testing and reporting requirements. The Environmental Management Department is responsible for coordinating the collection and analysis of samples and works in conjunction with the Physical Plant Department in reporting the final results to the city. However, the city also routinely collects and analyzes their own samples on a random basis. It is important to appreciate that the Permit limits for many of the parameters are extremely low and that the disposal of certain chemicals (both inorganic and organic in nature) into the sewer system via sinks and drains will risk a violation of the Permit (i.e., refer to the "Did You Know?" facts in the side panel).



- ◆ LFUCG discharges treated water into Town Branch, designated a **Zero Flow** stream by the Kentucky Division of Water (i.e., at some point over a ten year period, there was no flow).
- ◆ Limits are established to insure no negative effect on aquatic life in the stream.

Director's Highlight's

The University's Environmental Management Department has established a ListServ for occasional communications from our department that we feel will be of interest to our University customers. An example of such communication is "The Environmental Register" you are now reading. Our initial ListServ list includes those persons who have completed our Hazardous Waste or DOT Training, and other contacts we have worked with in the past. If you know of others who may like to be part of our distribution list please contact Peggy Quisenberry at pquisenb@uky.edu.

Robert D. Kjelland, Director
Environmental Management Dept.

Did You Know?

- **NO** hazardous materials or hazardous waste may ever be disposed of down the drain.
- The University uses approximately 230,000 gallons of water per day across all campus and Med Center facilities.
- 1 drop of mercury in 140,000 gallons of water will exceed our discharge limit for mercury (this is approximately equal to 2 drops of mercury in Commonwealth Stadium filled 10 feet deep with water).
- The Environmental Management Department will exchange mercury thermometers for those containing no mercury, free of charge! Go to <http://ehs.uky.edu/hmm/thermo.html> for details.

Mercury Management

Mercury is a commonly used chemical found in thermometers, manometers, vacuum pumps, and medical equipment. Mercury metal is the only metal that is a liquid at room temperature. If spilled, it may fragment into small beads and flow some distance. Due to the toxic nature of mercury, the difficulty in cleaning up spills, and the extremely low limit for the Wastewater *Industrial User Permit*, all University employees have been encouraged to eliminate mercury from their labs and clinics if at all possible. If mercury must be used, then diligent management practices are necessary. Some of these include:

- ◆ Store all mercury and mercury containing devices in a secure manner to protect from leaks and spills.
- ◆ Obtain a mercury clean up kit for any area where mercury is used and know how to use the kit.
- ◆ **NEVER** dispose of mercury or mercury clean up material down the drain, it must be managed as hazardous waste through the Environmental Management Department.
- ◆ In the event of a mercury spill protect all drains, evacuate the area, and contact the Environmental Management Department at 323-6280 or 911 (non-business hours) for clean up assistance. Chandler Hospital units are to contact Clinical Engineering at 323-5133.



Coming in Future Issues

- Meet your Environmental Management Department
- Waste Minimization
- Management of Ethidium Bromide
- Management of batteries and fluorescent bulbs
- Shipment of hazardous materials
- Response in the event of a hazardous materials emergency
- Asbestos or potentially asbestos containing material management