Standard Language for Removing Local Limits from Sewer Use Ordinances

We understand that Control Authorities may want to consider removing the numeric local limits from its approved sewer use ordinance (SUO). This has been done by several other control authorities and has the advantage of allowing revisions to local limits, as necessary, without having to go through the formal process of an ordinance change (e.g., City Council approval). With specific language in the SUO, only formal Department approval of local limit revisions is required, along with proper notification to the affected industrial users. Less stringent local limit revisions will result in the submission of a substantial program modification to the Department and will result in formal public notification in accordance with Rule 62-625.540, Florida Administrative Code.

If the city wants to pursue the above option, we suggest incorporating the language below into the city’s existing SUO at the appropriate location.

No person shall discharge wastewater containing pollutants in excess of the local limits for those pollutants which have been established for [insert either the name of the county or the name of the city]’s WWFs using standard procedures, calculations and methods acceptable to FDEP to protect against pass through, interference, protection of WWF employees, and adverse affects on wastewater residuals disposal. No industrial user shall discharge process waste streams, unregulated waste streams, or dilute waste streams in excess of the concentrations set forth by the Director. Local limits shall be included as permit conditions and attached to each SIU wastewater permit issued.

The established local limits are subject to change and shall be modified as needed based on regulatory requirements and standards, WWF operation, performance and processes, the industrial user base, potable water quality and domestic wastewater characteristics. Modifications to the established local limits must be reviewed and approved by FDEP prior to implementation. Implementation shall be effective 30 days from notice of acceptance of the modified limits by FDEP. Permitted SIUs shall also be issued an addendum to their wastewater discharge permit containing the new local limits.

The established local limits apply at the point where the wastewater is discharged to the WWF. All concentrations for metallic substances are for total metal unless indicated otherwise. At his or her discretion, the director may impose mass limitations in addition to or in place of the concentration-based limitations.

A copy of the approved local limits is available upon request at the following location (insert address of where the local limits are available).