

Spokane County, WA – Industrial Pretreatment Program

Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals Rule

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has published a final Rule: Management Standards for Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals. The Rule is codified at 40 CFR Parts 261, 262, 264, 265, 266, 268, 270, and 273, and the effective date is August 21, 2019. The complete Rule, as well as a summary can be accessed at:

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-22/pdf/2019-01298.pdf>

This Rule applies to healthcare facilities (for both humans and animals) and reverse distributors. Among other things, and of main concern for Spokane County's wastewater treatment facility, this Rule ***prohibits the disposal of hazardous waste pharmaceuticals into the sewer system*** (40 CFR Part 266.505). Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove pharmaceuticals that are present in wastewater discharges from healthcare facilities. The pharmaceutical ingredients will pass through the treatment plant and discharge into the Spokane River, having a negative effect on aquatic ecosystem and fish.