

## 2023 Summary of Proposed Changes for VMC Title 14 – Water and Sewers

1<sup>st</sup> Reading is December 4, 2023; Public Hearing is December 18, 2023

This list contains the substantive changes proposed. See the ordinance for the complete wording of all changes.

Chapter Section	Topic	Proposed Change	Reason for Change
<b>Chapter 14.04 Water and Sewer Use – Regulations and Charges</b>			
14.04.090(A) – Changes for water meter and service line installation	Update rates	Update effective date and revise multiple rates in the table.	Update rates to reflect true costs
14.04.090(B) – Changes for water meter and service line installation	Update rates	Update effective date and revise multiple rates in the table.	Update rates to reflect true costs
14.04.100(A)(3)(c) new – Conditions of water and/or sewer service	New paragraph c, duplicate bill request	Insert <u>“c. Duplicate bills mailed to different address shall be assessed a duplicate billing charge, sufficient to recover all costs of processing and mailing; and”</u>	Recoup costs for duplicate bill requests
14.04.100(G)(3) – Conditions of water and/or sewer service	Text update	Revise “The customer or authorized agent shall be responsible for obtaining all building and right of way use permits required for work performed either on the premises or within public rights-of-way; provided, that the city may reimburse the customer for the cost of repair of that portion of the sewer lateral within dedicated public right-of-way, if damage to the sewer lateral was the result of deficiencies caused by acts or omissions of the city or third parties <u>hired by the city</u> not acting as agents of the customer, and specifically excluding damage to the sewer lateral resulting from deficiencies caused by acts of God, root intrusion from the customer’s trees or any other act or omission of the customer or customer’s agent(s) or contractor(s)...”	Sometimes we hire contactors to perform work on the City’s behalf

14.04.130 – Effect of leakage on bills	Text update	Add “...In cases where repairs are not visible, proof of repairs must be supplied. A given piece of property shall be entitled to the benefits of this section <u>one time in a 12-month period</u> unless it appears that continued waste of water is due to a continued negligent failure to repair...”	Encourage homeowners to fix leakage and reduce customers exploiting the system
14.04.190(K)(1)(c) – Billing procedure and conditions	Remove	Delete “ <del>c.—The household has received notice from the city that payment or payment arrangements must be made to prevent disconnection;</del> ” and renumber next bullet for consistency	Enable City to provide emergency assistance without having payment arrangements
14.04.190(K)(2) – Billing procedure and conditions	Text update	Revise “ <i>Emergency Credit – Maximum.</i> Upon verification of eligibility, the household may receive an emergency credit of a maximum of \$400.00 of the <del>delinquent</del> <u>outstanding bill(s)</u> for the service address; provided, that the household may only receive such credit once in a 24-calendar-month period...”	Enable City to apply credit to a current bill and allow flexibility
14.04.210(D) – Water service – User charges	Revise per WAC 480-110-405 – The test must be at no charge to the customer, except the water company may charge for any additional meter tests requested by the customer within a twelve-month period as provided in it tariff.	Revise “ <del>Schedule of</del> <u>The first meter test will be no charge to the customer, an additional meter tests requested by the customer within a twelve-month period will be charged per schedule of meter test charges for test of a meter at the request of a customer</u> where meter is found not defective:”	Compliance with WAC 480-110-405
14.04.280(D) – Procedure for extending mains	Correct code section reference	Revise “...VMC 14.04.235( <del>E</del> )...”	The VMC was referencing the wrong code section.
14.04.280(E) – Procedure for extending mains	Text update	Revise e.g., “... <del>linea</del> <u>linear</u> ...” and “... <del>his</del> <u>their</u> ...”	Correct grammar and spelling
14.04.280(N) – Procedure for extending mains	Text update	Add at the end “... <u>The development shall be responsible for constructing maintenance access roads to and</u> ”	Ensure developer provides a maintenance access through the easement

		through the easements in accordance with the department's standard details."	
<b>Chapter 14.08 Connection to Public Sewers</b>			
14.08.050 – Separate connections by tee- or wye-branch required	Text update	Revise "...Every main building shall be separately connected to <del>or with</del> the public sewer unless otherwise approved by the director. <u>Each unit within a main building that is of separate ownership shall be separately connected to the public sewer unless otherwise approved by the director...</u> "	Require separate sewer connections from each unit within a main building for billing purposes
<b>Chapter 14.10 Pretreatment Ordinance</b>			
14.10.040 - Definitions	Remove letter numbering	Remove letter numbering A through DDD (e.g. "A")	Simplify code and correct referencing
14.10.040(D)(4) - Definitions	Remove letter numbering and text update	Revise "The individuals described in <u>paragraph Section 14.10.040(D)(1-3)...</u> "	Simplify code and correct referencing
14.10.040 new-Definitions	New 'Disruption' definition	Insert " <u>Disruption. A discharge which causes (either by itself or in combination with other discharges) a deleterious impact on the structure, function, operation, or maintenance of the POTW, including an increase in maintenance or risk of harm to persons.</u> "	Defining 'disruption' for user understanding
14.10.040(U) - Definitions	Revise 'High Strength User' definition	Revise " <del>U.</del> <u>High Strength User. Any User who, in any given month, discharges non-domestic wastewater which is found to contain a monthly average of more than five hundred (500) pounds per day each of BOD and or five hundred (500) pounds per day of total suspended solids (TSS). Food service establishments that properly implement Best Management Practices (BMPs), and any User classified as an Electronics Customer in VMC 14.04.230, will not be considered a High Strength User.</u> "	Clarify definition for 'high strength users' and gives a clear definition of who are not considered a 'high strength user'
14.10.040(WW) - Definitions	Remove letter numbering and text update	Revise " <del>WW.</del> <u>Significant Industrial User or SIU. Except as provided in</u>	Simplify code and correct referencing

		paragraph {3} <u>below</u> of Section 14.10.040(WW)...”	
14.10.040(WW)(3) - Definitions	Remove letter numbering and text update	Revise “Upon a finding that a User meeting the criteria of <u>paragraph 2 above</u> in Section 14.10.040(WWXX)(2)...”	Simplify code and correct referencing
14.10.050(A) – Prohibited discharge standards	Text update ‘General Prohibitions’	Revise “No User or Domestic User shall introduce or cause to be introduced into the POTW any pollutant or wastewater which causes Pass Through, <del>or</del> Interference <u>or Disruption.</u> ”	To prohibit ‘disruption’ discharges
14.10.080(G) – Local limits	Text update	Revise “A High Strength User is <u>defined in VMC 14.10.040</u> <del>any User who, in any given month, discharges wastewater found to contain a monthly average of more than five hundred (500) pounds per day each of Biochemical Oxygen Demand and five hundred (500) pounds per day of Total Suspended Solids. It shall be the responsibility of each User with the potential to meet the definition of a High Strength User to notify the Control Authority and apply for a permit.</del> High Strength Users <del>must apply for a permit and</del> shall be subject to charges as determined by the Director <del>and as amended and</del> under the authority of this Ordinance <del>up to any maximum loading limit established by permit.</del> ”	Requiring potential ‘high strength users’ to notify the Control Authority and apply for a permit
14.10.300(C)(3) – Baseline Monitoring Reports	Remove letter numbering	Revise “ <i>Compliance Certification.</i> A statement, reviewed by the User’s authorized representative as defined in Section 14.10.040(D)...”	Simplify code and correct referencing
14.10.300(C)(5) – Baseline Monitoring Reports	Remove letter numbering	Revise “...Ordinance and signed by an authorized representative as defined by Section 14.10.040(D)...”	Simplify code and correct referencing
14.10.430(A) – Certification Statements	Remove letter numbering	Revise “The following certification statement must be signed by an authorized representative as defined by	Simplify code and correct referencing

		Section 14.10.040(D) and included when submitting.”	
14.10.840(B) – User charges and fees	Text update	Revise “Users not meeting the definition of a High Strength User shall pay, for that month, a sanitary sewer use fee equal to that of a <del>e</del> Commercial, <del>or</del> <del>i</del> Industrial, <del>Government</del> , or <del>Electronics</del> customer as imposed by VMC 14.04 as amended.”	Added ‘government and electronics customer’ to align with VMC 14.04.230(A)(3)
14.10.850(B) – High strength user charges and fees	Text update	Revise “Rates for strength of <del>industrial</del> <del>non-domestic</del> wastewater from High Strength Users are established <del>as determined by the Director</del> for each pound of BOD and each pound of <del>TSS discharged to the POTW</del> <del>suspended solids as determined by the Director.</del> ”	Redefining rates of strength of ‘non-domestic’ wastewater from High Strength Users
14.10.850(C) – High strength user charges and fees	Text update	Revise “ <del>Industrial w</del> Wastewater samples taken for the purpose of determining charges are to be taken by authorized representatives of the Director or as otherwise determined by the Director. The samples taken shall be twenty-four (24) hour composite samples, obtained through flow-proportioned composite samples, where feasible. Charges shall <del>apply as specified in Section 14.10.850(B), as determined on the basis of at least one</del> <del>be based on</del> <del>analysis of</del> twenty-four (24) hour flow proportioned or timed samples. <del>analysis to be obtained twice per month and such analyses averaged for each month, provided, a new average for strength of industrial wastewater may be computed, regardless of previous averages, when changes in preliminary treatment or industrial process changes have been made which are expected to significantly change the average strength of the wastewater. Results from</del>	Redefining sampling protocol

		<u>a minimum of two samples shall be averaged for each month. Charges shall be based on the average of results for the month.</u>	
<b>Chapter 14.24 Erosion Control</b>			
14.24.060(A) – Specific compliance requirements	Text update	Revise “ <i>Inspection.</i> Prior to commencement of land disturbing activities, <del>the City shall be contacted to obtain a City site</del> <u>erosion control inspection shall be scheduled and approved utilizing the City’s inspection scheduling system.</u> <del>Contacting the City to obtain</del> <u>Scheduling</u> the site inspection is the responsibility of the property owner on whose parcel the land-disturbing activity occurs and the person undertaking such activities...”	Requiring the scheduling of an erosion control inspection prior to land disturbing activities