4.5 Hyper-Chlorinated Water Management

Waste Control

Description: Hyper-chlorinated water is routinely used to disinfect new waterlines and appurtenances. Chlorine protects humans from pathogens in water, but it is toxic to aquatic ecosystems. The objective of hyper-chlorinated water management is to discharge the water in a manner that protects surface water and related aquatic ecosystems.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

DESIGN CRITERIA:

- Educate employees on proper procedures
- Discharge to sanitary sewer if the system operator approves
- Discharge water onsite for natural chlorine attenuation
- Use appropriate dosage for chemical de-chlorination based on chemical used and chlorine concentration
- Chlorine concentration must be less than 4 ppm before leaving the site
- Use velocity dissipation devices for discharges
- Always monitor receiving waters for negative effects

LIMITATIONS:

- Discharge to sanitary sewer limited by sewer capacity
- Discharges limited to areas without vegetation that is to be preserved
- Wet, cool, and overcast days limits chlorine attenuation and removal

MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS:

- Monitor continuously during discharge
- Check for and repair any erosion caused by discharge
- Sample and test receiving water hourly for chlorine

TARGETED POLLUTANTS

- ○ Sediment
- ● Nutrients & Toxic Materials
- ○ Oil & Grease
- ○ Floatable Materials
- ○ Other Construction Wastes

APPLICATIONS

Perimeter Control
Slope Protection
Sediment Barrier
Channel Protection
Temporary Stabilization
Final Stabilization
Waste Management
Housekeeping Practices

IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS

- ◒ Capital Costs
- ○ Maintenance
- ● Training
- ○ Suitability for Slopes > 5%

Other Considerations:

- *None*

4.5.1 Primary Use

Hyper-chlorinated water is used to disinfect new water lines.

4.5.2 Applications

Construction sites that install new water lines or repair or replace existing water lines should use hyper-chlorinated water management measures.

4.5.3 Design Criteria

- Drawing notes shall include procedures for the proper discharge of hyper-chlorinated water from waterline disinfection.
- The contractor should be required to designate the site superintendent, foreman, or other person who is responsible for water line disinfection to also be responsible for hyper-chlorinated water management.
- Educate employees about the environmental hazards of high chlorine concentrations and the proper procedures for handling hyper-chlorinated water.
- Hyper-chlorinated water shall not be discharged to the environment unless the chlorine concentration is reduced to 4 ppm or less by chemically treating to dechlorinate or by onsite retention until natural attenuation occurs.
- Water with a measurable chlorine concentration of less than 4 ppm is considered potable and an authorized discharge; however, large volumes of water with chlorine at this concentration can still be toxic to aquatic ecosystems. Do not discharge water that has been de-chlorinated to 4 ppm directly to surface water. It shall be discharged onto vegetation or through a conveyance system for further attenuation of the chlorine before it reaches surface water.
- Discharges of high flow rate and velocities shall be directed to velocity dissipation devices.

Discharge to Sanitary Sewers

- The preferred method of disposal for hyper-chlorinated water is discharge into a sanitary sewer system.
- Permission from the sanitary sewer operator **must** be obtained to discharge to the sanitary sewer.
- Limitations on discharges to the sanitary sewer are the capacity of the sanitary sewer and the availability of a sewer manhole near the construction site.
- The designer shall verify that the sanitary sewer is capable of receiving the flow rate that will result from dewatering the disinfected line within the required time.
- Consideration should be given to timing the discharge with the daily low flow period for the sanitary sewer system.

Onsite Discharge

- Hyper-chlorinated water may be applied to the construction site if it can be done without causing a discharge. The feasibility of this option is dependent on the volume of water, the size of the construction site, and the conditions of the site. Site application should not be done when the soil moisture content is high due to recent storm events.
- Chlorine can burn vegetation, so it should not be used to water vegetation that is being used for stabilization, vegetated filters or buffers, or other vegetation to be preserved.
- Hyper-chlorinated water may be discharged to an onsite retention area until natural attenuation occurs. The area may be a dry stormwater retention basin, or a portion of the site may be graded to form a temporary pit or bermed area.

- Natural attenuation of the chlorine may be aided by aeration. Air can be added to the water by directing the discharge over a rough surface (e.g. riprap) before it enters the temporary retention area or an aeration device (e.g. circulation pump) can be placed in the retention area.
- Onsite discharge may require several hours to a few days before the water is safe to discharge. The rate at which chlorine will attenuate is affected by soil conditions and weather conditions. Attenuation will occur quickest during warm, sunny, dry periods.
- If the hyper-chlorinated water is retained in a pit or basin, and then pumped to discharge, pumping shall follow the criteria in *Section 3.3 Dewatering Controls*.

Chemical Dechlorination

- If non-chemical means of dechlorination are not feasible, chemical methods may be used to neutralize the chlorine before discharging the hyper-chlorinated water.
- Vitamin C in the form of ascorbic acid or sodium ascorbate is the preferred dechlorination agent.
- Consider the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) rating when selecting a dechlorination chemical. The NFPA rating is given by a series of three numbers ranging from 0 to 4, with 0 being no risk and 4 the highest risk. The sequence of numbers rank the health hazard, flammability risk and reactivity risk of the chemical. A NFPA rating of 0,0,0 indicates no risk for all three categories.
- Ensure appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) is specified for workers depending on the chemical being used to neutralize the chlorine.
- The chemicals listed in Table 4.1 may be used to neutralize chlorine.

Table 4.1 Chemical Dechlorination Agents and Approximate Dosages

Dechlorinating Agent	*Dosing Rate (parts Agent : parts Chlorine)*	*Advantages*	*Disadvantages*
Ascorbic Acid (form of Vitamin C)	2.5:1	• Not toxic to aquatic species • Quick reaction time • NFPA rating of 0,0,0	• May lower pH in receiving water
Sodium Ascorbate (form of Vitamin C)	2.8:1	• Does not affect pH • Not toxic to aquatic species • Quick reaction time • NFPA rating of 0,0,0	• Greater amount needed than Ascorbic Acid • More expensive
Sodium Thiosulfate	2:1 to 7:1 depending on pH	• Less expensive • Readily available • Long history of use (familiarity)	• Must calculate dosage based on pH • Skin, eye, nose and throat irritant • Consumes oxygen in water • May encourage bacterial growth in receiving streams
Calcium Thiosulfate	1:1 to 0.5:1 depending on pH	• Less expensive • Not toxic to aquatic species • NFPA rating of 0,0,0	• Must calculate dosage based on pH • Over-dosing produces suspended solids • Over-dosing may increase turbidity in receiving water • May encourage bacterial growth in receiving streams

- The designer shall confirm dosages with the chemical supplier before using the dechlorination agent.

- Chlorine and residual agent concentrations and the pH of the discharged water shall be monitored at least hourly using field tests.
- The treated water should be discharged onto pavement or into a dry conveyance system to allow aeration and reaction time before the dechlorinated water reaches the receiving water. The receiving water should be closely monitored for any signs of negative effects from the discharge.

4.5.4 Design Guidance and Specifications

No specification for hyper-chlorinated water management is currently available in the Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction – North Central Texas Council of Governments.

4.5.5 Inspection and Maintenance Requirements

Hyper-chlorinated water management measures should be monitored continuously while the hyper-chlorinated water is being discharged. Discharges to a sanitary sewer should be monitored for back-ups or overflows that indicate the discharge is exceeding the sewer's capacity. If these occur, the rate of discharge must be decreased or another discharge method is needed.

Onsite or chemically treated discharge should be monitored for chlorine and residual chemical concentrations. Verify that discharges are not causing erosion, and modify the discharge to use velocity dissipation devices if erosion is occurring. Repair any eroded areas. If water is being pumped from a temporary retention area, verify that appropriate dewatering controls are in place.

For all discharges, frequently inspect the receiving water for any evidence of negative effects. Sample and test the receiving water hourly for chlorine. Stop the discharge immediately if chlorine is detected and modify the discharge procedures before resuming.