Pinellas County’s Industrial Pretreatment Program (IPP) was approved by the Environmental Protection Agency in April of 1984 in accordance with the requirements of the 1972 Federal Water Pollution Control Act, commonly referred to as the Clean Water Act.

This legislation was passed by Congress to assure protection of United States waters by controlling wastewater discharge from industry and non-domestic sources to municipal sewer collection systems and treatment facilities. The primary function of the IPP is to prevent interference of biological processes within the treatment facility, prevent pass through of pollutants to reuse and receiving waters, and protect the public health.

In order to effectively administer Pinellas County’s program, the IPP has the legal authority to issue industrial user permits, conduct inspections of industrial and commercial businesses, sample industrial wastewater discharges, and enforce applicable federal, state and local regulations.

All industrial and non-domestic wastewater sources located within the South Cross Bayou Advance Wastewater Treatment Facility and the William E. Dunn Water Reclamation Facility service areas, as well as those located within the city of Pinellas Park, are required to complete an industrial user survey in order for the county to make a determination of Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit (IWDP) applicability.

Businesses will require an Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit if processes generating wastewater meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Categorical Industrial User - a business subject to categorical pretreatment standards as described in the Federal Code of Regulations (40 CFR Parts 405-471)
- Discharges an average of 25,000 gallons per day or more of processed wastewater
- Contributes a process waste steam that is five percent or more of the average dry weather hydraulic capacity of the wastewater treatment facility
- Wastewater characteristics that exceed local discharge parameter limits
- Reasonable potential to adversely affect the wastewater treatment facility’s operation as determined by the county

Obtaining an IWDP does not relieve a permittee of its obligation to comply with all federal and state pretreatment standards or requirements, or with any other requirements of federal, state or local law. In addition, businesses must contact Pinellas County’s Building and Development Review Services Division to assure compliance with PCC, Division 4 - Zoning Clearances and Clearances for Permits, Section 138.151, Zoning Clearance Required.