

Regulations update

In 2012 the EPA developed new regulations that require new and existing airports with 1000 or more jet departures that use urea based pavement deicers to switch to a non-urea based product or meet effluent discharge limits for ammonia.

Additionally new airports with 10,000 annual departures or more located in specified cold climate zones are required to collect 60 percent of aircraft deicing fluid after deicing. If the collected aircraft deicing fluid is discharged directly to waters of the U.S. then the airport must also meet numeric discharge limits for chemical oxygen demand. The guidelines at existing airports will continue to be established in permits on a site-specific basis.



Picture from the following web site: www.nsrwa.org

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Protecting the Vermillion River: Your Recreational Area

Part 5 – Aircraft Deicing

Lafayette Airport Commission
Lafayette Regional Airport



Picture from the following web site: nonpoint.deq.louisiana.gov

Why is deicing fluid runoff such an issue?

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), “The introduction of ethylene and propylene glycol to a waterway causes depletion of oxygen, which leads to fish kills and undesirable bacterial growth. Additionally, additives present in the deicing fluid, such as corrosion inhibitors, wetting agents, flame retardants, pH buffers, and dispersing agents can produce toxic byproducts and exhibit high aquatic and mammal toxicities.”



Picture from the following web site: www.koreaitimes.com

What are the requirements for aircraft deicing?

A summary of the requirements for aircraft deicing that are listed in the Airports Stormwater Discharge Permit issued by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality are as follows:

- Records of the types and quantities of deicing fluid utilized before dilution with water should be kept on a monthly basis and submitted to the Airport.
- Dry weather discharges of deicing fluids are not allowed.
- Deicing operations should be assessed for excessive deicing fluid usage.
- Use alternatives to minimize deicing fluid usage such as hot water and hot air pretreatment.
- Conduct deicing activities away from stormwater drainage inlets and only in the designated deicing area.
- Collect and recycle to greatest extent practical used deicing fluid and keep all associated documentation.
- Determine the feasibility of containment measures for applied chemicals and implementing control measures for reducing deicing fluid.

Additionally the following runoff control measures should be implemented where feasible:

- plug-and-pump;
- using vacuum/collection trucks;
- recycling collected deicing fluid; and

- directing runoff into vegetative areas for infiltration.

Are there designated areas for deicing at the airport?

Yes, the designated deicing areas are located on the terminal and cargo ramps (see pictures below – deicing areas are shown in red).

