

What to Do with Accumulated Rainwater from Containment Systems?



Precipitation that accumulates in the secondary containment system can adversely affect the containment by reducing the capacity in an event of a rapid discharge, accumulated precipitation can accelerate tank and secondary containment corrosion, and accumulated precipitation may reduce the stability of the tanks in the containment area.

Fertilizer Facilities

You have a liquid fertilizer secondary containment that is full of water from rain or snow with some traces of fertilizer. Is it acceptable to pump the water over the side of the containment on the ground?

NO, According to South Dakota Rule **12:44:05:11** Disposal of contaminated liquid or material within secondary containment. For disposal purposes when any liquid or material within secondary containment contains a fertilizer, the liquid or material must be applied to a field or fields at normal fertilizer rates or used in a mixing operation.

The best means to handle precipitation accumulation is to use it as make up water. If you are sure the water does not contain fertilizer you may pump it over the side but you run the risk that there are fertilizer components in the water. We suggest testing before pumping water over the side of the containment. There is no standard to what is "clean". We suggest using the drinking water standard of 10 ppm or less established by the State of South Dakota.

Pumping slightly contaminated water over the side of a secondary containment may cause fertilizer accumulation over an extended period of time. This could result in soil and ground water contamination and expensive clean-up of the facility.

What is the Department of Environmental and Natural Resource (DENR) position on dumping secondary containment water?

DENR recommends testing the water before disposing of the water. If the water contains a fertilizer or pesticide dispose of at recommended fertilizer and pesticide rates.

Pesticide Facilities

Can you dispose of your storm water over the side of your operational area containment?

YES, if accumulations of precipitation may be discharged from the pesticide operational area containment, if the operational area containment was cleaned after the last use.

NO, accumulated liquids or materials containing pesticides must be disposed of in accordance with chapter 12:56:02.

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