

DATE: April 7, 2020

TO: Food Service Establishments within Gainesville Regional Utilities' Service Area

FROM: Natalia Larsen, GRU FOG Program Coordinator

SUBJECT: Grease Interceptor Guidance during Current COVID-19 Pandemic

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Dear GRU Customer:

We hope that this correspondence finds you well. We wanted to reach out to you to provide some information on Gainesville Regional Utilities' (GRU) Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) Program and offer our assistance during this difficult time. GRU recognizes that, due to current COVID-19 concerns, day to day operations are fluid and can change very quickly based on orders by the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners, Gainesville City Commission, the Governor, the Centers for Disease Control, and other similar authorities. During this challenging time we have received questions from some of you and wanted to provide an update on the current status of GRU's FOG Program and provide you with some recommendations to consider during this reduction in operation.

We understand that many of your food service establishments (FSEs) may need to reduce or pause operations during this social-distancing time. GRU is encouraging FSEs to reach out to our FOG program representatives to let us know if these circumstances are impacting your ability to maintain your regular FOG compliance. In order to protect our wastewater collection system from overflows, FSEs remain responsible for the wastewater discharges leaving their facilities, and although potentially challenging during the COVID-19 circumstances, you should maintain best management practices to minimize FOG from entering the wastewater collection system.

If a change in operation occurs at your FSE and you anticipate it will impact your FOG compliance, please do the following:

- Provide notification by email or phone (contact info below) detailing the following:
  - Indicate if there will be a pause/closure in operations - detail date of pause/closure
  - Provide brief description of change in operation (e.g., changed to take out only, added delivery, etc.)
- FSEs that are closed may have their pump-out schedules adjusted once verified by the inspector that the business is indeed closed. Please contact us so that we can evaluate each FSE individually and provide an adjusted schedule, if applicable.

GRU environmental inspectors are continuing to work and are here to assist you with any FOG related concerns you may have. Our inspectors will continue to inspect outdoor infrastructure (grease interceptors, receiving manholes, etc.) and provide reports. We encourage FSEs to work with GRU's environmental inspectors and their grease professionals to determine any recommended measures and/or maintenance to protect the grease interceptor during abnormal operations. Special

consideration should be given to adopt strategies to prevent grease solidification and interceptor corrosion during reduced usage/pumping, as these issues could become costly to resolve.

Contact Information for the FOG Program Group:

Natalia Larsen | Environmental Programs Coordinator | P: 352.393.1698 | E: [LarsenNG@gru.com](mailto:LarsenNG@gru.com)

Brett Strickland | Technical Support Specialist III | P: 352.494.3052 | E: [StricklanJB@gru.com](mailto:StricklanJB@gru.com)

Jesse Alvarez | Technical Support Specialist III | P: 352.393.1698 | E: [AlvarezJA@gru.com](mailto:AlvarezJA@gru.com)

Please let us know if there is anything we can do to assist you during this challenging time.

Thank you and be safe!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N. Larsen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Natalia G. Larsen  
Environmental Programs Coordinator  
Gainesville Regional Utilities