NORTH CAROLINA
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POULTRY WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM GENERAL PERMIT

This General Permit is issued pursuant to North Carolina G.S. §~~General Statutes~~ 143-215 et seq., may apply to any poultry facility in the State of North Carolina, and shall be effective from October 1, 2014 until September 30, 2019.

All activities authorized herein shall be consistent with the terms and conditions of this General Permit.

Holders of Certificates of Coverage (COC) under this General Permit shall comply with the following specified conditions and limitations.

I. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

1. Any discharge of waste that reaches surface waters or wetlands is prohibited except as otherwise provided in this General Permit and associated statutory and regulatory provisions. Waste shall not reach surface waters or wetlands by runoff, drift, manmade conveyance, direct application, direct discharge or through ditches, terraces, or grassed waterways not otherwise classified as state waters.

   The waste collection, treatment, storage and application system operated under this General Permit shall be effectively maintained and operated as a non-discharge system to prevent the discharge of pollutants to surface waters or wetlands. Application of waste to terraces and grassed waterways is acceptable as long as it is applied in accordance with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Standards and does not result in a discharge of waste to surface waters or wetlands.

   Facilities must be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained to contain all waste plus the runoff from a 25-year, 24-hour rainfall event for the location of the facility. A facility that has a discharge of waste that results because of a storm event more severe than the 25-year, 24-hour storm will not be considered to be in violation of this General Permit if the facility is otherwise in compliance with its Certified Animal Waste Management Plan (CAWMP) and this General Permit.

   Any discharge or application of waste to a ditch that drains to surface waters or wetlands is prohibited except as follows: (a) discharges from the ditches are controlled by best management practices (BMPs) designed in accordance with NRCS standards; (b) the BMPs have been submitted to and approved by the Division of Water Resources (Division); (c) the BMPs were implemented as designed to prevent a discharge to surface waters or wetlands; (d) the waste was removed immediately from the ditch upon discovery; and (e) the event was documented and reported in accordance with Condition III.13. of this General Permit. Nothing in this exception shall excuse a discharge to surface waters or wetlands except as may result because of rainfall from a storm event more severe than the 25-year, 24-hour storm.

2. This General Permit does not allow the Permittee to cause a violation of any of the water quality standards established pursuant to Title 15A, Subchapter 2B of the North Carolina Administrative Code and Title 15A, Subchapter 2L of the North Carolina Administrative Code.

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3. The facility's COC and its CAWMP are hereby incorporated by reference into this General Permit. The CAWMP must be consistent with all applicable laws, rules, ordinances, and standards (federal, state and local) in effect at the time of siting, design and certification of the facility.

   The Permittee must assess and record, on an ongoing basis, the effectiveness of the implementation of the CAWMP. The Permittee must make "major changes," "revisions," or "amendments" to the CAWMP, as defined in Section VII, "Definitions," of this General Permit, in order to address any changes needed to maintain compliance with the facility's COC and this General Permit. "Major changes," "revisions," and "amendments" to the CAWMP must be documented, dated, and included as part of the CAWMP. "Major changes" and "revisions" to the CAWMP shall be submitted to the appropriate Division Regional Office within thirty (30) calendar days of the "major change" or "revision." "Amendments" are not required to be submitted to the Division Regional Office unless specifically requested by the Division. If field, riser or pull numbers are changed, an explanation shall also be submitted and include a description of how the new numbers relate to the old numbers.

   Any violation of the COC or the CAWMP shall be considered a violation of this General Permit and subject to enforcement actions. A violation of this General Permit may result in the Permittee having to take immediate or long-term corrective action(s) as required by the Division. These actions may include but are not limited to: modifying the CAWMP; ceasing land application of waste; removing animals from the facility; or the COC being reopened and modified, revoked and reissued, and/or terminated.

4. Any proposed increase or modification to the annual average design capacity from that authorized by the COC will require a modification to the CAWMP and the COC prior to modification of the facility. For all new and expanding operations, no collection, treatment or storage facilities may be constructed in a 100-year flood plain.

5. Facilities located in watersheds sensitive to nutrient enrichment may be notified by the Division to conduct an evaluation of the facility and its CAWMP to determine the facility's ability to comply with the NRCS nutrient management standard as it relates to phosphorous. This evaluation will not be required until such time as the permittee is notified by the Division. The evaluation must be documented on forms supplied by or approved by the Division and must be submitted to the Division. This evaluation must be completed by existing facilities within twelve (12) months of receiving notification from the Division.

   For facilities located in watersheds sensitive to nutrient enrichment, all fields with a "HIGH" phosphorous-loss assessment rating shall have land application rates that do not exceed the established crop removal rate for phosphorous. There shall be no waste application on fields with a "VERY HIGH" phosphorous-loss assessment rating.

   No COC will be issued to any new or expanding facility located in a watershed sensitive to nutrient enrichment until the applicant has completed and submitted a phosphorous loss assessment to determine if the new or expanding facility can comply with the NRCS phosphorous standards.

6. If prior approval is received from the Director of the Division ~~of Water Resources~~ (Director), facilities that have been issued a COC to operate under this General Permit may add treatment units for the purpose of removing pollutants before the waste is discharged into the lagoons/storage ponds. Prior to any approval, the Permittee must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Director that the new treatment unit will not interfere with the operation of the existing treatment system and that a process is in place to properly manage and track the pollutants removed.

7. If prior approval is received from the Director, facilities which have been issued a COC to operate under this General Permit may add innovative treatment processes to the systems on a pilot basis in order to determine if the innovative treatment process will improve how the waste is treated and/or managed. Prior to any approval, the Permittee must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Director that the innovative treatment process will not interfere with the operation of the existing treatment system and that a process is in place to properly manage and track the pollutants removed.

8. Animal waste shall not be applied within 100 feet of any well with the exception of monitoring wells. The allowable distance to monitoring wells shall be established on a case-by-case basis by the Division.

II. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. The collection, treatment, and storage facilities, and the land application equipment and fields shall be properly operated and maintained at all times.

2. A vegetative cover shall be maintained as specified in the facility's CAWMP on all land application fields and buffers in accordance with the CAWMP. No waste shall be applied upon areas not included in the CAWMP or upon areas where the crop is insufficient for nutrient utilization. However, if the CAWMP allows, then waste may be applied up to thirty (30) days prior to planting or breaking dormancy.

3. Soil pH on all land application fields must be maintained in the optimum range for crop production.

4. Land application rates shall be in accordance with the CAWMP. In no case shall land application rates exceed the agronomic rate of the nutrient of concern for the receiving crop.

5. In no case shall land application rates result in excessive ponding or any runoff during any given application event.

6. Animal waste shall not be directly applied onto crops for direct human consumption that do not undergo further processing (e.g., strawberries, melons, lettuce, cabbage, apples, etc.) at any time during the growing season, or in the case of fruit bearing trees, following breaking dormancy. Application of animal wastes shall not occur within thirty (30) days of the harvesting of fiber and food crops for direct human consumption that undergoes further processing.

7. If manure or sludges are applied on conventionally tilled bare soil, the waste shall be incorporated into the soil within two (2) days after application on the land, or prior to the next rainfall event, whichever occurs first. This requirement does not apply to no-till fields, pastures, or fields where crops are actively growing.

8. No material other than animal wastes of the type generated on this facility shall be disposed of in the animal waste collection, treatment, storage or application systems. This includes but is not limited to pesticides, toxic chemicals and petroleum products.

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9. Domestic and/or industrial wastewater from showers, toilets, sinks, etc. shall not be discharged into the animal waste collection, treatment, storage, and application system. Washdown of stock trailers owned by and used to transport animals to and from the facility only, will be permissible as long as the system has been evaluated and approved to accommodate the additional volume. Only those cleaning agents and soaps that are EPA approved according to their label, will not harm the cover crop, and will not contravene the groundwater standards listed in 15A NCAC 2L may be utilized in facilities covered by this General Permit. Instruction labels are to be followed when using cleaning agents and soaps.

10. Disposal of dead animals resulting from normal mortality rates associated with the facility shall be done in accordance with the facility's CAWMP and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) Veterinary Division's Statutes and regulations.

    Disposal of dead animals whose numbers exceed normal mortality rates associated with the facility shall also be done in accordance with the facility's CAWMP and NCDA&CS Veterinary Division's Statutes and regulations provided that: 1) burial of such animals shall be done in consultation with the State Veterinarian of the NCDA&CS Veterinary Division's Statutes and in compliance with NCDA&CS regulations; 2) all such burial sites must be mapped, and the dates and numbers of the animals buried by species and type must be recorded; and 3) the map is submitted to the appropriate Regional Office Aquifer Protection Section within fifteen (15) calendar days of burial.

    In the event of a state of emergency declared by the Governor, disposal of dead animals shall be done in accordance with requirements and guidelines dictated by the State Veterinarian according to G.S. §106-~~339.4~~402.1. The Division may require groundwater monitoring when there is massive burial of animals. All burial sites of such animals must be mapped, and the dates and numbers of the animals buried by species and type must be recorded.

11. Unless accounted for in temporary storage volume, all uncontaminated runoff from the surrounding property and buildings shall be diverted away from the waste storage structures to prevent any unnecessary addition to the liquid volume in the structures.

12. A protective vegetative cover shall be established and maintained on all earthen lagoon/storage pond embankments (outside toe of embankment to maximum liquid level), berms, pipe runs, and diversions to surface waters or wetlands. Trees, shrubs, and other woody vegetation shall not be allowed to grow on the lagoon/storage pond embankments. All trees shall be removed in accordance with good engineering practices. Lagoon/storage pond areas shall be accessible, and vegetation shall be kept mowed.

13. At the time of sludge removal from a lagoon/storage pond, the sludge must be managed in accordance with the CAWMP. When removal of sludge from the lagoon is necessary, provisions must be taken to prevent damage to the lagoon dikes and liner.

14. Lagoons/storage ponds shall be kept free of foreign debris including, but not limited to, tires, bottles, light bulbs, gloves, syringes or any other solid waste.

15. The facility must have at least one of the following items at all times: (a) adequate animal waste application and handling equipment, (b) a lease, or other written agreement, for the use of the necessary equipment, or (c) a contract with a third party applicator capable of providing adequate waste application.

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16. The Permittee shall designate a certified animal waste management system operator with a valid certification to be in charge of the animal waste management system. The waste management system shall be operated by the Operator in Charge (OIC) or a person under the OIC's supervision.

17. In accordance with 15A NCAC 8F .0203(b)(2), the OIC or a designated back-up OIC of a Type A Animal Waste Management System shall inspect, or a person under the supervision of an OIC or designated back-up OIC shall inspect, the land application site as often as necessary to insure that the animal waste is land applied in accordance with the CAWMP. In no case shall the time between inspections be more than 120 minutes during the application of waste. A record of each inspection shall be recorded on forms supplied by, or approved by, the Division and shall include the date, time, sprayfield number and name of the operator for each inspection. Inspections shall include but not be limited to visual observation of application equipment, spray fields, subsurface drain outlets, ditches, and drainage ways for any discharge of waste.

    The Permittee may assert as an affirmative defense in any enforcement action alleging noncompliance with the requirements imposed in this condition that such noncompliance was due to circumstances beyond the Permittee's control. A notation shall be made on the form indicating the inspection affected by such circumstance and an explanation setting forth the circumstances claimed to have been beyond the Permittee's control shall be submitted with the form.

18. The Director may require any permittee to install and operate flow meters with flow totalizers based on the facility's violations and/or incomplete or incorrect record keeping events.

19. No waste shall be applied in wind conditions that might reasonably be expected to cause the mist to reach surface waters or wetlands or cross property lines or field boundaries.

20. The Permittee shall maintain buffer strips or other equivalent practices as specified in the facility's CAWMP near feedlots, manure storage areas and land application areas.

21. Waste shall not be applied on land that is flooded, saturated with water, frozen or snow covered at the time of land application.

22. Land application of waste is prohibited during precipitation events. The Permittee shall consider pending weather conditions in making the decision to land apply waste and shall document the weather conditions at the time of land application on forms supplied by or approved by the Division.

    Land application of waste shall cease within four (4) hours of the time that the National Weather Service issues a Hurricane Warning, Tropical Storm Warning, or a Flood Watch associated with a tropical system including a hurricane, tropical storm, or tropical depression for the county in which the permitted facility is located. Watches and warnings are posted on the National Weather Service's website located at: **www.weather.gov**. More detailed website information can be found on Page 2 of the Certificate of Coverage. Watch and warning information can also be obtained by calling the local National Weather Service Office that serves the respective county, which can be found on Page 2 of the Certificate of Coverage.

    The Director may require any permittee to install, operate and maintain devices on all irrigation pumps/equipment designed to automatically stop irrigation activities during precipitation. This decision will be based on the facility's compliance history for irrigation events.

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23. Land application activities shall cease on any application site that exceeds a Mehlich 3 Soil Test Index for Copper of greater than 3,000 (108 pounds per acre) or Zinc of greater than 3,000 (213 pounds per acre).

24. All waste application equipment must be tested and calibrated at least once every two years. The results must be documented on forms provided by, or approved by, the Division.

25. Any major structural repairs to lagoons/storage ponds must have written documentation from a technical specialist certifying proper design and installation. However, if a piece of equipment is being replaced with a piece of equipment of the identical specifications, no technical specialist approval is necessary [i.e. piping, reels, valves, pumps (if the gallons per minute (gpm) capacity is not being increased or decreased), etc.] unless the replacement involves disturbing the lagoon/storage pond embankment or liner.

26. Crops for which animal waste is land applied must be removed from the land application site and properly managed and utilized unless other management practices are approved in the CAWMP.

27. In accordance with NRCS North Carolina Conservation Practice Standard No. 359 "Waste Treatement Lagoon", an operator may temporarily lower lagoon levels to provide irrigation water during drought periods and to provide additional temporary storage for excessive rainfall during the hurricane season and in preparation for the following winter months. All conditions of NRCS NC Standard No. 359 must be satisfied prior to lowering lagoon levels below designed stop pump levels.

III. MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. An inspection of the waste collection, treatment, and storage structures, and runoff control measures shall be conducted and documented at a frequency to insure proper operation but at least monthly and after all storm events of greater than one (1) inch in 24 hours. For example, lagoons/storage ponds, and other structures should be inspected for evidence of erosion, leakage, damage by animals, or discharge. Inspections shall also include visual observation of subsurface drain outlets, ditches, and drainage ways for any discharge of waste.

2. Monitoring and Recording Freeboard Levels

   a. Highly visible waste-level gauges shall be maintained to mark the level of waste in each lagoon/storage pond that does not gravity feed through a free flowing transfer pipe into a subsequent structure. The gauge shall have readily visible permanent markings.

      The waste level in each lagoon with a waste level gauge shall be monitored and recorded weekly on forms supplied by or approved by the Division.

      The Director may require more frequent monitoring and recording of waste levels based on the facility's compliance history for freeboard violations.

   b. Any facility which experiences freeboard violations in any two consecutive years following the issuance of this General Permit, or as determined necessary by the Director, shall monitor and record waste levels as follows:

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In addition to the facility's existing lagoon waste-level gauges, automated lagoon/storage pond waste-level monitors and recorders (monitored and recorded at least hourly) must be installed on all treatment and storage lagoons covered by a COC issued under this General Permit to measure and record lagoon freeboard. This equipment must be properly maintained and calibrated in a manner consistent with manufacturer's operation and maintenance recommendations. This automated equipment must be in place no later than ninety (90) days following notification from the Director. The Director may determine that installation of automated waste level monitors is not required if the Permittee can demonstrate that preventative measures were taken to avoid the violations and that the violations resulted from conditions beyond the permittee's control.

If an automated level monitor(s) becomes inoperable, the Permittee shall:

i. report the problem by telephone to the appropriate Division Regional Office as soon as possible, but in no case more than 24 hours following first knowledge of the problem; and,

ii. make any needed repairs to the equipment as quickly as possible, and take and record daily lagoon levels at the same time every day until such time as the automated equipment is placed back into operation.

c. The Director may require new or modified waste-level gauges at any facility if it is determined that the existing gauges are not adequate to accurately indicate actual lagoon levels, or the various lagoon levels required to be maintained by this General Permit or the facility's CAWMP.

3. Monitoring and Recording Precipitation Events

a. Precipitation events at facilities issued a COC to operate under this General Permit shall be monitored and recorded as follows:

A rain gauge must be installed at a site that is representative of the weather conditions at the farm's land application site(s) to measure all precipitation events. The precipitation type and amount must be recorded daily for all precipitation events and maintained on site for review by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (Department). Daily records do not need to be maintained for those days without precipitation events.

b. The Director may require that an automated rain gauge and recorder must be installed on site to measure and record all precipitation events. This equipment must be properly maintained and calibrated in a manner consistent with manufacturer's operation and maintenance recommendations. This automated equipment must be in place no later than ninety (90) days following receipt of notice from the Director.

If an automated rain gauge(s) becomes inoperable, the Permittee shall:

i. report the problem by telephone to the appropriate Division Regional Office as soon as possible, but in no case more than twenty four (24) hours following first knowledge of the problem; and,

ii. make any needed repairs to the equipment as quickly as possible, and take and record all rainfall events until such time as the automated equipment is placed back into operation.

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4. A representative Standard Soil Fertility Analysis, including pH, phosphorus, copper, and zinc, shall be conducted on each application field receiving animal waste in accordance with G.S. §~~NCGS~~ 143-215.10C(e)(6). As of the effective date of this General Permit, the Statute requires that the analysis be conducted at least once every three years.

5. An analysis of a representative sample of the animal waste to be applied shall be conducted in accordance with recommended laboratory sampling procedures as close to the time of application as practical and at least within sixty (60) days (before or after) of the date of application. Every reasonable effort shall be made to have the waste analyzed prior to the date of application and as close to the time of waste application as possible. This analysis shall include the following parameters:

Nitrogen	Zinc
Phosphorus	Copper

6. The Permittee shall record all irrigation and land application event(s) including hydraulic loading rates, nutrient loading rates and cropping information. The Permittee shall also record removal of solids and document nutrient loading rates if disposed of on-site, or record the off-site location(s). These records must be on forms supplied by, or approved by, the Division.

7. A record shall be created and maintained of all transfers of waste between waste structures on the same site not typically operated in series. Such record shall include at least the identity of the structure from which the waste was transferred, the identity of the structure receiving the waste, the date and time of transfer and the total volume/quantity of waste transferred.

8. The Permittee must maintain monthly stocking records for the facility and make the records available to the Department.

9. If, for any reason, there is a discharge from the waste collection, treatment, storage and application systems (including the land application sites), to surface waters or wetlands, the Permittee is required to make notification in accordance with Condition III. 13. The discharge notification shall include the following information:

   a. Description of the discharge: A description of the discharge including an estimate of the volume discharged, a description of the flow path to the receiving surface waters or wetlands and a site sketch showing the path of the waste. Also, an estimation of the volume/quantity discharged.

   b. Time of the discharge: The length of time of the discharge, including the exact dates and times that it started and stopped, and if not stopped, the anticipated time the discharge is expected to continue.

   c. Cause of the discharge: A detailed statement of the cause of the discharge. If caused by a precipitation event, detailed information from the on-site rain gauge concerning the inches and duration of the precipitation event.

   d. All steps being taken to reduce, stop and cleanup the discharge. All steps to be taken to prevent future discharges from the same cause.

   e. Analysis of the waste: A copy of the last waste analysis conducted as required by Condition III. 5. above.

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f. A waste sample, obtained within seventy-two (72) hours following first knowledge of the discharge to surface waters or wetlands, from the source lagoon/storage pond, shall be analyzed for the following minimum parameters:

Fecal coliform bacteria	Five-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD_5)
Total suspended solids	Total phosphorous
Ammonia nitrogen (NH_3-N)	Total Kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN)
Nitrate nitrogen (NO_3-N)	

Monitoring results must be submitted to the Division within thirty (30) days of the discharge event.

10. In accordance with 15A NCAC 02T .0108(c), the Division may require any monitoring and reporting (including but not limited to groundwater, surface water or wetland, waste, sludge, soil, lagoon/storage pond levels and plant tissue) necessary to determine the source, quantity, quality, and effect of animal waste upon the surface waters, groundwaters or wetlands. Such monitoring, including its scope, frequency, duration and any sampling, testing, and reporting systems, shall meet all applicable Division requirements.

11. A copy of this General Permit, the facility's COC, certification forms, lessee and landowner agreements, the CAWMP and copies of all records required by this General Permit and the facility's CAWMP shall be maintained by the Permittee in chronological and legible form for ~~a minimum of~~ three (3) years. Records include but are not limited to: soil and waste analyses, rain gauge readings, freeboard levels, irrigation and land application event(s), past inspection reports and operational reviews, animal stocking records, records of additional nutrient sources applied (including but not limited to sludges, unused feedstuff leachate, milk waste, septage and commercial fertilizer), cropping information, waste application equipment testing and calibration, and records of removal of solids to off-site location(s). These records shall be maintained on forms provided or approved by the Division and shall be readily available at the facility (stored at places such as the farm residence, office, outbuildings, etc.) where animal waste management activities are being conducted.

12. Within fifteen (15) working days of receiving the request from the Division, the Permittee shall provide to the Division one (1) copy of all requested information and reports related to the operation of the animal waste management system. Once received by the Division, all such information and reports become public information, unless they constitute confidential information under G.S. §~~NC G.S.~~ 132-1.2, and shall be made available to the public by the Division as specified in Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.

13. Regional Notification:

The Permittee shall report by telephone to the appropriate Division Regional Office as soon as possible, but in no case more than twenty-four (24) hours following first knowledge of the occurrence of any of the following events:

a. Failure of any component of the animal waste management system resulting in a discharge to ditches, surface waters, or wetlands.

b. Any failure of the waste treatment and disposal system that renders the facility incapable of adequately receiving, treating, or storing the waste and/or sludge.

c. A spill or discharge from a vehicle transporting waste or sludge to the land application field which results in a discharge to ditches, surface waters, or wetlands or an event that poses a serious threat to surface waters, wetlands, or human health and safety.

d. Any deterioration or leak in a lagoon/storage pond that poses an immediate threat to the environment or human safety or health.

e. Failure to maintain storage capacity in a lagoon/storage pond greater than or equal to that required in Condition V.2. of this General Permit.

f. Failure to maintain waste level in a lagoon/storage pond below that of the designed structural freeboard (twelve (12) inches from top of dam or as specified in lagoon design). Note that this notification is in addition to the report required by Condition III.13.e above.

g. An application of waste either in excess of the limits set out in the CAWMP or where runoff enters ditches, surface waters, or wetlands.

h. Any discharge to ditches, surface waters, or wetlands or any discharge that poses a serious threat to the environment or human health or safety.

For any emergency, which requires immediate reporting after normal business hours, contact must be made with the Division of Emergency Management at **1-800-858-0368**.

The Permittee shall also file a written report to the appropriate Division Regional Office within five (5) calendar days following first knowledge of the occurrence. This report shall outline the actions taken or proposed to be taken to correct the problem and to ensure that the problem does not recur. In the event of waste level violations as described in Condition III.13.e, the written report shall outline the actions proposed to be taken to restore compliance within thirty (30) calendar days. The requirement to file a written report may not be waived by the Division Regional Office.

In the event the waste level in a lagoon/storage pond is found to be within the designed structural freeboard, the Permittee shall file a written report to the appropriate Division Regional Office within two (2) calendar days following first knowledge of the occurrence. This report shall outline actions taken or proposed to be taken to reduce waste levels below the designed structural freeboard within five (5) calendar days of first knowledge of the occurrence

14. The Director may require any permittee to file an annual certification report or other reports/certifications based on the compliance history of the facility. If required, the report must be filed on forms provided by the Division.

15. In the event of a discharge of 1,000 gallons or more of waste to surface waters or wetlands, the Permittee must issue a press release to all print and electronic news media that provide general coverage in the county in which the discharge occurred setting out the details of the discharge. The press release must be issued within forty-eight (48) hours after it is determined that the discharge has reached the surface waters or wetlands. A copy of the press release and a list of the news media to which it was distributed must be kept for at least one (1) year after the discharge and must be distributed to any person upon request.

16. In the event of a discharge of 15,000 gallons or more of animal waste to surface waters or wetlands, a public notice is required in addition to the press release described in Condition III 15. The public notice must be placed in a newspaper having general circulation in the county in which the discharge occurred and the county immediately downstream within ten (10) days of the discharge. The minimum content of the notice is the name of the facility, location of the discharge, estimated volume of waste entering state waters, time and date discharge occurred, duration of the discharge, identification water body that was discharged into including creek and river basin if applicable, actions taken to prevent further discharge, and a facility contact person and phone number.

17. If a discharge of 1,000,000 gallons of wastewater or more reaches surface waters or wetlands, the appropriate Division Regional Office must be contacted to determine in what additional counties, if any, a public notice must be published. A copy of all public notices and proof of publication must be sent to the Division within thirty (30) days of the discharge.

18. All facilities, which are issued a COC to operate under this General Permit, shall conduct a survey of the sludge accumulation in all lagoons every year. The survey report should be written on forms provided or approved by the Division and shall include a sketch showing the depth of sludge in the various locations within each lagoon. This survey frequency may be reduced if it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Division that the rate of sludge accumulation does not warrant an annual survey.

    If the sludge accumulation is such that the structure does not satisfy the criteria set by NRCS NC Conservation Practice Standard No. 359, a sludge removal or management plan must be submitted to the appropriate Division Regional Office within ninety (90) days of the determination. The plan shall describe removal and waste utilization procedures to be used. Compliance regarding sludge levels must be achieved within two (2) years of the determination.

IV. INSPECTIONS AND ENTRY

1. The Permittee shall allow any authorized representative of the Department, upon the presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law and in accordance with reasonable and appropriate biosecurity measures, to:

    a. Enter the Permittee's premises where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted, or where records must be kept under the conditions of this General Permit;

    b. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that must be kept under the conditions of this General Permit;

    c. Inspect, at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this General Permit; and,

    d. Sample or monitor, at reasonable times, for the purpose of assuring permit compliance, any substances or parameters at any location.

V. GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. The issuance of a COC to operate under this General Permit shall not relieve the Permittee of the responsibility for compliance with all applicable surface water, wetlands, groundwater and air quality standards or for damages to surface waters, wetlands or groundwaters resulting from the animal operation.

2. The maximum waste level in lagoons/storage ponds shall not exceed that specified in the facility's CAWMP. At a minimum, maximum waste level for lagoons/storage ponds must not exceed the level that provides adequate storage to contain the 25-year, 24-hour storm event plus an additional one (1) foot of structural freeboard except that there shall be no violation of this condition if: (a) there is a storm event more severe than a 25-year, 24-hour event, (b) the Permittee is in compliance with its CAWMP, and (c) there is at least one (1) foot of structural freeboard.

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In addition to the above requirements, for new and expanding farms with lagoon and storage pond designs completed after September 1, 1996, storage must also be provided for the heavy rainfall factor for the lagoons/storage pond. In case of lagoons/storage ponds in series that are gravity fed, the 25-year, 24-hour storm event and/or the heavy rainfall factor storage requirement for the system may be designed into the lowest lagoon/storage pond in the system. However, adequate freeboard must be designed into the upper lagoons/storage ponds to allow sufficient storage to prevent the waste level from rising into the structural freeboard while the storm water is draining into the lowest structure in the system.

3. Any containment basin, such as a lagoon or a storage pond, used for waste management shall continue to be subject to the conditions and requirements of this General Permit until properly closed. When the containment basin is properly closed in accordance with the NRCS NC Conservation Practice Standard No. 360 "Closure of Waste Impoundments," February 2008 or any subsequent amendment, the containment basin shall not be subject to the requirements of this General Permit. The Permittee must submit a letter to the Division to request rescission of the COC by providing documentation of closure of all containment basins.

   Closure shall also include a minimum of 24 hours pre-notification of the Division and submittal of the Animal Waste Storage Pond and Lagoon Closure Report Form to the address identified on the form within fifteen (15) days of completion of closure.

4. This General Permit allows for the distribution of up to four (4) cubic yards of manure per visit or ten (10) cubic yards per year to individuals for personal use. The Permittee provide the recipient(s) with information on the nutrient content of the manure. Distribution of greater quantities must be to individuals or businesses permitted to distribute the waste, or to be land applied to sites identified in the Permittee's CAWMP.

   The Permittee must inform the recipient(s) of his/her responsibilities to properly manage the land application of manure. Record keeping for the distribution of manure up to four (4) cubic yards per visit or ten (10) cubic yards per year to individuals for personal is not required.

5. The annual permit fee shall be paid by the Permittee within thirty (30) days after being billed by the Division. Failure to pay the fee accordingly constitutes grounds for revocation of its COC to operate under this General Permit.

6. Failure of the Permittee to maintain, in full force and effect, lessee and landowner agreements, which are required in the CAWMP, shall constitute grounds for revocation of its COC to operate under this General Permit.

7. A COC to operate under this General Permit is not transferable. In the event there is a desire for the facility to change ownership, or there is a name change of the Permittee, a Notification of Change of Ownership form must be submitted to the Division, including documentation from the parties involved and other supporting materials as may be appropriate. This request shall be submitted within sixty (60) days of change of ownership. The request will be considered on its merits and may or may not be approved.

8. A COC to operate under this General Permit is effective only with respect to the nature and volume of wastes described in the application and other supporting data. The Permittee shall notify the Division immediately of any applicable information not provided in the permit application.

   Any proposed modification to an animal waste management system including installation of lagoon covers shall require approval from the Division prior to construction.

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9. If the Permittee wishes to continue an activity regulated by this General Permit after the expiration date of this General Permit, the Permittee must apply for and obtain a new COC. Renewal applications must be filed at least 180 calendar days prior to the expiration of the General Permit.

10. The issuance of a COC to operate under this General Permit does not prohibit the Division from reopening and modifying the General Permit or COC, revoking and reissuing the General Permit or COC, or terminating the General Permit or COC as allowed by the appropriate laws, rules, and regulations.

11. The Director may require any person, otherwise eligible for coverage under this General Permit, to apply for an individual permit by notifying that person that an application is required.

12. The Groundwater Compliance Boundary is established by 15A NCAC 2L .0102 and 15A NCAC 2T .0103. An exceedance of Groundwater Quality Standards at or beyond the Compliance Boundary is subject to the requirements of 15A NCAC 2L and the Division in addition to the penalty provisions applicable under the North Carolina General Statutes.

13. Upon abandonment or depopulation for a period of four years or more, the Permittee must submit documentation to the Division demonstrating that all current NRCS standards are met prior to restocking of the facility.

VI. PENALTIES

1. Failure to abide by the conditions and limitations contained in this General Permit; the facility's COC; the facility's CAWMP; and/or applicable state law; may subject the Permittee to an enforcement action by the Division including but not limited to the modification of the animal waste management system, civil penalties, criminal penalties and injunctive relief.

2. The Permittee must comply with all conditions of this General Permit. Any permit noncompliance constitutes a violation of state law and is grounds for enforcement action; for permit coverage termination, revocation and reissuance, or modification; or denial of a permit coverage renewal application.

3. It shall not be a defense for a Permittee in an enforcement action to claim that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this General Permit.

VII. DEFINITIONS

25-year, 24-hour rainfall or storm event means the maximum 24-hour precipitation event with a probable recurrence interval of once in 25 years, as defined by the National Weather Service in Technical Paper Number 40, "Rainfall Frequency Atlas of the United States," May 1961, and subsequent amendments, or equivalent regional or state rainfall probability information developed therefrom.

Agronomic rates means the amount of animal waste and/or other nutrient sources to be applied to lands as outlined in NRCS NC Conservation Practice Standards No. 590 "Nutrient Management" or as recommended by the NCDA&CS and the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service at the time of certification of the Animal Waste Management Plan by the appropriate certified technical specialist.

Amendment to the CAWMP means a change and/or addition to a part(s) of the plan, and requires that the change and/or addition adhere to current applicable standards. The following are examples of amendments to the CAWMP:

- In an existing CAWMP, a change in crops and/or cropping pattern that utilizes 25% or less of the N generated is considered a plan amendment. Additional acreage needed to facilitate the change in crops and/or cropping pattern is permissible and considered part of the amendment.

- The addition of winter crops and/or interseeded perennial crops are considered amendments to an existing CAWMP when the operation does not require additional acreage and/or crops for N utilization, and does not exceed the 25% criteria stated above.

- When a CAWMP cannot meet N utilization requirements due to land lost to irrigation inefficiency (usable versus total acres), then the CAWMP may be amended to increase available acreage and/or change the crop for N utilization. This is the only exception to the 25% N criteria for plan revision.

- Inclusions of emergency action plans, and insect, odor and mortality checklists are considered CAWMP amendments.

- Including additional acreage for land application beyond what is required in the existing CAWMP is considered a plan amendment.

Animal feeding operation means a lot or facility (other than an aquatic animal production facility) where the following conditions are met: (i) animals (other than aquatic animals) have been, are, or will be stabled or confined and fed or maintained for a total of forty five (45) days or more in any twelve (12) month period, and (ii) crops, vegetation, forage growth, or post-harvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing season over any portion of the lot or facility. Two or more animal feeding operations under common ownership are considered to be a single animal feeding operation if they adjoin each other, or if they use a common area or system for the disposal of wastes.

Certification means technical specialist certification of the CAWMP in accordance with the requirements of 15A NCAC 02T .1304. It is unrelated to terms "Annual Certification" as used in Condition III.14 of this General Permit, and the "No Discharge Certification Option" allowed by the November 2008 EPA CAFO Rule.

Ditch means any man made channel for the purpose of moving water off a site to the surface waters.

Excessive Ponding means any area of the application field where visible liquid waste is ponded on the surface of the land application site more than four (4) hours following the application of waste. Excessive ponding also means any areas where the ponding of waste has resulted in crop failure.

Groundwaters means any subsurface waters, as defined in 15A NCAC 2L .0102.

Land application means the application of wastewater and/or waste solids onto or incorporation into the soil.

Major changes to the CAWMP means changes in the number of animals, type of operation (feeder to finish to wean to feeder), retrofit of a lagoon, installation of a new irrigation system, and similar type changes. Recertification is only required for major changes to the CAWMP. Major changes to a facility must first be approved by the Division. The new CAWMP and the certification shall be submitted with a request that the COC be amended to reflect the changes. The facility may not make the changes until a new or amended COC has been issued.

Revision to the CAWMP means a change to an entire CAWMP to meet current applicable standards. A CAWMP must be revised if the operation cannot utilize all N nitrogen generated by the animal production in accordance with the existing CAWMP, except for the specific conditions noted in the CAWMP amendment criteria as previously defined. For an existing CAWMP, a change in crops and/or cropping pattern that utilizes more than 25% of the N generated by the operation is considered a plan revision. Any change to an existing CAWMP, whether an amendment or revision, must be signed and dated by both the producer and a technical specialist for the new CAWMP to be valid. A revision of the CAWMP does not require recertification.

State Waters means all surface waters, wetlands, groundwaters and waters of the United States located in the State.

Surface Waters means any stream, river, brook, swamp, lake, sound, tidal estuary, bay, creek, reservoir, waterway, or other surface body or surface accumulation of water, whether public or private, or natural or artificial, that is contained in, flows through, or borders upon any portion of the State of North Carolina, including any portion of the Atlantic Ocean over which the State has jurisdiction as well as any additional Waters of the United States which are located in the State.

Waste means manure, animal waste, process wastewater and/or sludge generated at an animal feeding operation.

Wetlands means areas that are inundated or saturated by an accumulation of surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions, as defined in 15A NCAC 2B .0202.

This General Permit issued the 20th day of February, 2014.

NORTH CAROLINA ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

_____, Director
Thomas A. Reeder
North Carolina Division of Water Resources
By Authority of the Environmental Management Commission

Permit Number AWG300000

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