



# Technical Bulletin for N.C. General Stormwater Permit NCG210000



Technical Bulletin for NCG210000, Volume IV

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## What activities are covered by this general permit?

NCG210000 allows stormwater discharges associated with establishments primarily engaged in **Timber Products** [standard industrial classification (SIC) 24] and activities deemed by DWQ to be similar in the process and/or the exposure of raw materials, products, by-products, or waste materials. **In 2011, the general permit was modified to cover discharges from Wood Chip Mills, which were previously excluded.**

*Excluded:* Wood Kitchen Cabinets [SIC 2434] and Wood Preserving [SIC 2491].

## What are the key permit requirements?

- Implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SPPP) (Part II, Section A).
- Provide secondary containment for all bulk storage of liquid materials (Part II, Section A, 2.(b)).
- Perform and document qualitative monitoring during a representative storm event (Part II, Section C).
- Perform analytical monitoring twice per year if storing exposed piles of sawdust, wood chips, bark, mulch, or like materials on site for more than seven (7) days and submit the results on the monitoring report forms provided with the permit (Part II, Section B).

## What has changed since the last renewal?

Some of the major changes since the last renewal include:

- Twice per year monitoring of pH, Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) for facilities storing exposed piles of sawdust, wood chips, bark, mulch, or like materials for longer than a week.
- Refinements and clarifications to the SPPP requirements; refer to Part II, Section A.
- Tiered response requirements for benchmark exceedences based on analytical results, and direction to notify the Regional Office in the event of four benchmark exceedences. **Benchmarks are not limits.**
- Twice per year qualitative monitoring during a representative storm event.
- Requirement to use forms provided by the Division to record qualitative monitoring results.
- Perform analytical monitoring twice per year for any vehicle maintenance area (Part II, Section D).

## What are BMPs, and why are they important?

The SPPP should include “Best Management Practices” (BMPs) to control discharge of pollutants from a facility’s stormwater outfalls. BMPs include a variety of things that help minimize potential for pollutants to get into the stormwater draining from a facility. There are different types of BMPs:

### *Non-structural (practices or activities) BMPs include:*

- \* Eliminating exposure of materials and equipment wherever possible by moving them to indoor locations.
- \* Practicing good housekeeping on-site. Handle and store materials at the facility in an orderly fashion.
- \* Exchanging hazardous materials for non-hazardous ones wherever possible.
- \* Establishing routine leak & maintenance checks to minimize chance of spills. Clean up spills immediately.
- \* Establishing bulk storage tank protocols that minimize the risk of spills during loading and unloading.
- \* Store used pallets and process waste dumpsters inside or under roof so water can’t flow on or around them.

### *Structural (equipment or devices) BMPs include:*

- \* Containment dikes around the loading areas of bulk liquid storage containers.
- \* Changing painting operations from liquid systems to powdered systems that do not generate solvent waste.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Could I be exempted from an NPDES stormwater permit?

Possibly. A facility with industrial activity subject to the NPDES Stormwater regulations that eliminates all potential stormwater exposure may be eligible for a No Exposure Exclusion from a permit. A facility that meets this condition may submit a No Exposure Certification application (see our website below).

### What if I sell my business, or the name changes?

This change is a minor modification and requires the Director's approval. Complete the Name/Ownership Change Form SWU-239, , available on our website: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/ws/su>

### Do I have to monitor all the outfalls?

Yes. However, you may request Representative Outfall Status (ROS). If approved, this status allows analytical monitoring at fewer outfalls. To request ROS, submit a ROS Request Form SWU-ROS to the DWQ Regional Office. The form is available on our website (see above).

### Does a certified lab need to analyze my samples?

Monitoring under all NPDES permits must be conducted in accordance with test procedures approved under federal regulations in 40 CFR §136. Labs certified by North Carolina perform analysis in accordance with those procedures. N.C. certification requirements do not apply to *stormwater* only discharges, but data gathered under an NPDES permit must conform to federal requirements. Using a certified lab is one way to ensure compliance. A list of certified labs is available from: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/lab/cert/>

Note that pH is a field parameter and **must be measured within 15 minutes**. You must train on-site staff to measure pH using approved methods or contract with commercial services. All entities with *field parameter* certification per 15A NCAC 2H .0800 can analyze pH in accordance with federal procedures (see website for list).

### How big of a pile triggers monitoring?

The permittee must perform analytical monitoring if the facility stores exposed piles of sawdust, wood chips, bark, mulch, or similar materials for longer than seven (7) days. The permit does not specify a

size threshold because a large area covered in "small mounds" could impact stormwater as much as one large pile. If reasonable judgment tells you there are piles on site, monitoring is required unless that material is removed within a week. Also, removing only the top portion of piles and leaving significant amounts of material on the bottom **does not satisfy** the monitoring exemption. Furthermore, in some cases DWQ may determine leachate from such piles is a wastewater. The facility should prevent discharge of pile leachate as much as possible.

### Do I have to keep a record of every little piece of sawdust to prove I don't have to monitor?

No. However, if the facility "opts out" of analytical monitoring because it removes piles within a week's time, DWQ expects the facility to keep a record of when the material was generated, and when and how it was removed to demonstrate short periods of storage.

### If I'm sampling my discharge, do I do qualitative monitoring at the same time?

We advise you to. The permit does not specify it, which was an oversight. However, if you are subject to analytical monitoring, it is practical to do both at the same time.

## Other resources

In addition to the Stormwater Permitting Unit's website above, the Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance is a valuable resource. The DPPEA has specific information about how to minimize pollutants at various industries. Call (919) 571-4100 or visit:

<http://www.p2pays.org/>

## Who can help me with questions?

Your questions about stormwater permit requirements can be addressed to the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) Offices:

Asheville Office.....	(828) 296-4500	Washington Office.....	(252) 946-6481
Fayetteville Office.....	(910) 433-3300	Wilmington Office.....	(910) 796-7215
Mooresville Office.....	(704) 663-1699	Winston-Salem Office....	(336) 771-5000
Raleigh Office.....	(919) 791-4200	Central Office.....	(919) 807-6300



For more information about the programs of the Division of Water Quality's Stormwater Permitting Unit, see our website at: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/ws/su>