Technical Bulletin

For General Permit NCG510000 Petroleum-Remediated Groundwater



NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

Revised

September 15, 2011

Coverage Under This Permit

This general permit covers point source discharges of remediated petroleum contamination (i.e., gasoline, diesel fuel, aviation fuel, kerosene, or fuel oil) to surface waters. Such wastewater discharges include:

- Groundwater remediations
- Well construction and similar wastewaters
- Other construction activities (e.g., dewatering)

Wastewater contaminated with contaminants other than petroleum compounds (e.g., solvents, pesticides) are excluded from this general permit, and will require an individual NPDES permit to discharge to surface waters. Also, proposed discharges to receiving waters classified as ORW or HQW are excluded from general permit coverage. NOTE: Discharge of groundwaters generated by well construction or other construction activities that are <u>not</u> contaminated are deemed to be automatically permitted per 15A NCAC 2H.0106 (f) (7).

Changes in Reissued General Permit

The previous General Permit expired September 30, 2011. Several important changes from the previous version of this permit are:

- <u>Toluene.</u> The saltwater limit for aquatic life protection was changed from 180 ug/l to 215 ug/l based on updated EPA ECOTOX data.
- Ethylbenzene. The freshwater limit was changed from 520 μg/L to 97 ug/l, based on updated EPA ECOTOX data. Likewise, the saltwater limit of 130 μg/L was changed to 25 ug/l based on EPA ECOTOX data.
- <u>Total Xylenes.</u> The freshwater limit for aquatic life protection was changed from 780 ug/l to 670 ug/l based on EPA ECOTOX data.
- <u>MTBE</u>. The human health limit for water supply class was changed from 30 ug/l to 19 ug/l, based on EPA advisory for drinking water taste/odor impacts.
- Naphthalene. The freshwater limit for aquatic life protection was changed from 78 μg/L to 12 ug/l, based on updated EPA ECOTOX data.
- pH. Addition of pH limit of 6.0-9.0

Key Permit Requirements

- Quarterly effluent monitoring of parameters specified in Part I, Section A. Three separate monitoring pages are included in Part I, Section A – one for gasoline, one for diesel fuel, aviation fuel, kerosene and fuel oil, and one for combined releases.
- All samples should be collected before the effluent joins or is diluted by any other wastestream, water or substance. (Part II, Section D:1)
- Proper operation and maintenance of the system to achieve compliance with the conditions of the permit. (Part II, Section C:2)
- Solids, sludges, filter backwash or other pollutants removed in the course of treatment shall be disposed properly to prevent materials from entering waters of the State. (Part II, Section C:6)
- The permittee shall give notice to the Division of any planned physical alterations or additions to the system that could significantly increase the quantity of pollutants discharged or introduce new pollutants to the discharge. (Part II, Section E:2)
- Any exceedances of the permit limits must be reported to the Division within 24 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances. (Part II, Section E:6)
- Minimum Treatment System Requirements include: air stripper and/or activated carbon; and oil water separator (if free product available). Permittee should consider the need for surge tanks and filters. It is permittee's responsibility to design a treatment system that will comply with permit limits.

Frequently Asked Questions

1) Do I need to employ a certified wastewater treatment plant operator to manage and run the system?

Not at this time. The Division's Technical Assistance and Certification Unit does not currently plan to classify these types of remediation facilities for the purposes of requiring a certified operator. The requirement remains in the permit at this time with clarification, in the event that classification is assigned at a future time.

2) Where do I find my stream classification?

The stream classification, i.e. WS-IV, C, Tr, etc. can usually be found in the Certificate of Coverage. If

you are unsure of your stream classification, you can contact the NPDES Unit.

3) Does a certified lab need to be used to analyze samples?

Yes, a North Carolina certified lab must be used to perform analytical monitoring. A list of certified labs is available from the Division.

4) What If I Sell My Business Or The Name of My Business Changes?

The Division views changes of name or ownership as a minor permit modification and requires the Director's approval. Name and ownership changes require you to complete a Name/Ownership Change Form. The forms are available by contacting the NPDES Permitting Unit or via the website (see Contact Information below).

5) How do I apply for coverage, renew coverage, or rescind coverage under this General Permit.

This General Permit expires on September 30, 2016. Approximately 180 days prior to the expiration of the General Permit, existing permittees will receive a renewal notice in the mail from the Division. To renew coverage under this General Permit, existing Permittees must submit a completed Notice of Intent (NOI) application form. New applicants must also submit a completed NOI and applicable permit fees. The application forms are available by contacting the NPDES Permitting Unit or via the website (see Contact Information below). If an existing permittee plans to eliminate the remediation activity and no longer requires coverage under this General Permit, the permittee will need to request rescission of permit coverage from the NPDES Unit by letter request.

6) Do I need to submit the monitoring results to the Division?

No. The submission of monitoring reports for this permit is not required. There are no standardized Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) associated with this permit. All monitoring results should be kept on site for three years. The Division may request these reports for review at any time. (Part II, D.8). However, as per Part II, E.6, violations of any permit limitation must be reported within 24 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances.

Contact Information

For additional information on NPDES wastewater permitting and compliance, please contact us at:

N.C. Division of Water Quality NPDES Unit 1617 Mail Service Center Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1617 Phone: (919) 807-6300

(919) 807-6495

Fax:

You may also contact the local DWQ Regional Office at:

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

The NPDES Unit can be accessed on the internet at: http://www.ncwaterquality.org/NPDES. Copies of the General Wastewater Permits, technical bulletins, application fees, guidance documents, and miscellaneous forms may be downloaded from this web site.

Another source of information on regulatory requirements for all media is the DENR Customer Service Center, which can be reached at 1-877-NC ENR 4 U (1-877-623-6748).