Technical Bulletin

For STORMWATER GENERAL PERMITS NCG030000, NCG060000, and NCG090000

NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

November 1, 2007, rev. 1/9/08

The stormwater permitting program's objective is to reduce the pollutant load in stormwater runoff by:

1- Educating the permitted community about stormwater pollutants,
2- Encouraging the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize the entry of pollutants into stormwater, and
3- Using collected analytical data to assess the stormwater contribution to water pollution in order to help prioritize controls in problem areas.

Key Permit Requirements

- ☐ Implement the 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 semi-annual analytical monitoring, and submit the results on the monitoring report forms provided with the permit (Part II, Section B).
- ☐ Perform and document semi-annual qualitative monitoring (Part II, Section C).

Representative Outfall Status

Representative outfall status offers the permittee an opportunity for reduced monitoring costs. It may be applied for if one or more stormwater outfalls drain an area that is representative of other industrial activities conducted on site. Application is made by a letter clearly explaining which outfalls are to be considered representative of other discharges from the site. A site layout map that delineates drainage areas, industrial activities, and any other potential stormwater pollutant exposures must be included with the letter to support the request for representative outfall status.

BMPs

Best management practices (BMPs) include a variety of things that the industrial facility can do in order to minimize the actual, or potential, delivery of pollutants to into the stormwater draining from a facility.

Non-Structural BMP's

Some examples of non-structural BMPs (practices or activities) are:

- Reduce the exposure of materials and equipment by moving them to indoor locations.
- Good housekeeping is a very cost effective BMP. For example, clean up spills immediately when they occur, and maintain the facility in an orderly fashion.
- Review your process and exchange hazardous materials for non-hazardous where possible.
- Establish routine leak and maintenance checks to minimize the chance of spills.
- Establish bulk storage tank protocols that minimize the risk of spills during loading and unloading procedures.
- Store used pallets and process waste dumpsters inside or under a roof where water cannot flow on or around them.

Structural BMPs

Some examples of structural BMPs (equipment or devices) are:

- Build containment dikes around the loading areas of bulk liquid storage containers.
- Where practical, change painting operations from liquid systems to powdered systems that don't generate solvent wastes.
- Build roofs and secondary containment around any materials stored outside so that stormwater doesn't run onto them and carry away pollutants.
- Install wet detention basins or infiltration basins for stormwater treatment.

Other sources of information

The Stormwater Permitting Unit website address is: **http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/su/stormwater.html**.

Another source of information is the North Carolina Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance. They have lots of specific information on how to minimize pollutants at various types of industries. They may be reached at (919) 715-6500.

Frequently asked questions

1) Do all stormwater outfalls need to be analytically monitored?
Only those outfalls that drain areas of the facility associated with the industrial activity must be monitored. Also, see the previous discussion on representative outfall status.

2) What happens if I pull samples for my semi-annual analytical monitoring, but I'm unable to sample for one of the parameters?
Just sample for the missing parameter during the next representative storm event, but be sure to record the total rainfall separately from the first, partial sample.

3) Must I use a certified lab to analyze stormwater samples?
[Note – below revised Jan. 9, 2008]
Monitoring under all NPDES permits must be conducted in accordance to

test procedures approved under federal regulations in 40 CFR §136. All labs certified by North Carolina perform analysis in accordance with those procedures. So, while facilities that are not considered Water Pollution Control Systems under T15A NCAC 8G .0306 do not need to meet and maintain certification requirements, any data gathered under an NPDES permit must conform to federal requirements. Using a North Carolina certified lab is often the easiest way to ensure compliance with NPDES Program requirements.

Note that pH is a special case (a field parameter) and **must be measured within 15 minutes.** You must either train on-site staff to conduct pH measurements in accordance with approved methods or contract with commercial services that can monitor pH properly at your site. All labs with N.C. wastewater field parameter certification as per 15A NCAC 2H .0800 can perform pH analysis in accordance with federal procedures.

A list of labs with field parameter certification is available from DWQ's Laboratory Certification Branch at: http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/lab/cert.htm

4) What if I either sell my business, or change its name?
Please submit a complete Name/Ownership Change form, available at our website: **http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/su/**

You are still responsible for compliance with the permit requirements until DWQ transfers the permit to the new owner. Please note that the transfer of permit coverage must be a DWQ action; it is not a transaction between a buyer and a seller of the permitted industrial facility.

Contact us at:

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Please make us aware of any issues you feel should be addressed in future Technical Bulletins.