Technical Bulletin

For General Permit NCG520000

NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

Revised May 24, 2010

Coverage Under This Permit

This permit covers point source discharges of wastewater from in-stream sand mining operations. In-stream mining operations are defined as mining of materials below water, in rivers, estuaries, lakes and oceans which must be removed with specialized equipment including dredges, draglines and floating cranes. In-stream mining wastewaters are typically water running back to the water body after the sand is deposited on the bank/shore or water from settling ponds. Dewatering of a pit or quarry is not considered in-stream mining.

- This permit also covers stormwater discharges which are associated with the in-stream mining activities. These types of stormwater discharges will typically be runoff from sand piles or stormwater, which comingles with wastewater in settling ponds. A stormwater general permit should be obtained for any separate stormwater discharges not directly related to the sand mining operations.

Changes in Reissued General Permit

Important changes from the previous version of this permit

- In Part I, Section A, discharge monitored during normal operations. Monitoring should be performed during normal sand dredging operation. Settleable Solids limits and monitoring has been deleted. pH monitoring has also been deleted.
- In Part I, Section A, the turbidity standard has been reiterated although the monitoring has been eliminated.
- In Part I, Section A, best management practices requirement has been added to stabilize stream banks and also to prevent petroleum leakages and spillage into the water body.
- In Part I, Section D, NPDES unit contact information has been updated and the NOI should be submitted to the NPDES unit directly.

Key Permit Requirements

- Semi-annual monitoring of parameters specified in Part I, Section A.
- All samples should be collected before the effluent joins or is diluted by any other wastestream, water or substance. (Part II, Section D:1)
- 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:3)
- 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)

Do I Need a NCG520000 or NCG020000 Permit?

There has been some confusion regarding which permit is required for sand mining activities. The NCG520000 permit applies to in-stream sand mining as defined above. The NCG020000 permit applies to conventional mining operations including quarries, excavation and surface removal. Dewatering of a pit or quarry is not considered in-stream mining. Discharges from pit dewatering are covered under the NCG020000 permit.

If you have a NCG520000 permit, you may also need a NCG020000 permit to cover certain stormwater discharges. If there are stormwater discharges at the site which are not directly associated with the mining activity, for example vehicle maintenance areas, a separate stormwater permit must be obtained.

Frequently Asked Questions

1) **Do I need to submit the monitoring results annually?**
   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 or made available for three years. The Division may request these reports for review at any time. (Part II, Section E:1) However, as per Part II, Section E:6:b, violations of any permit limitation

must be reported within 24 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances.

2) **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 facilities for the purposes of requiring a certified operator. The condition regarding operators remains in the permit at this time in the event that these facilities are classified in the future. (Part II, Section C:1)

3) **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 Stormwater and General Permits Unit.

4) **Does a certified lab need to be used to analyze samples?**
No. Since only flow is required to be estimated, you do not have to obtain a certified lab.

5) **What If I Sell My Business Or The Name of My Business Changes ?**
The Division views changes of name or ownership as a minor modification and requires the Director's approval. Name and ownership changes require you to complete a Name/Ownership Change Form SWU-239. The forms are available by contacting the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Unit at (919) 733-5083 or may be downloaded from our web site:
http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/swp/ps/npdes/appforms

6) **When does my permit expire and how do I renew it?**
The expiration date of the permit is on the first page of the General Permit. This General Permit expires on July 31, 2012. Approximately 180 days prior the expiration of the General Permit, you will receive a renewal notice in the mail from the Division.

Contact Us

For additional information, please contact us at:

N.C. Division of Water Quality
NPDES Program
1617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1617

Phone: (919) 807-6300
Fax: (919) 807-6495

You may also contact your local 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 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Unit can be found on the World Wide Web at: http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/swp/ps/npdes. Copies of the General Permits, technical bulletins, guidance documents and miscellaneous forms may be downloaded from the web site.

Another source of information is the DENR Customer Service Center, which can be reached at 1-877-NC ENR 4 U (1-877-623-6748). An additional source of information is the North Carolina Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance, which can be reached at (919) 715-6500. This Office has specific information on how to minimize pollutants at various types of industries.