North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Technical Bulletin for N.C. General Stormwater Permit NCG160000

What activities are covered by this general permit?

NCG160000 allows stormwater discharges associated with activities classified as establishments primarily engaged in Asphalt Paving Mixtures and Blocks [standard industrial classification (SIC) 2951] with or without vehicle maintenance activities; and like activities deemed by DWQ to be similar in the process and/or the exposure of raw materials, products, by-products, or waste materials.

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, document, and report analytical and qualitative monitoring during a representative storm event (Part II, Section B & C).
- Perform annual analytical monitoring and submit the results on the monitoring report forms for vehicle maintenance areas (using over 55 gallons of motor oil per month).

What has changed since the last renewal?

Some of the major changes since the last renewal include:

- Twice per year monitoring of pH, Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH), and Total Suspended Solids (TSS).
- 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 exceedances. **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.
- Requirement to submit an annual monitoring summary to the DWQ Regional Office (RO).

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.

Structural (equipment or devices) BMPs include:

* Containment dikes around the loading areas of bulk liquid storage containers.
* Roofs and secondary containment around materials stored outside so that stormwater cannot contact them.

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) for a No Exposure Exclusion. The facility **must re-certify** No Exposure every five (5) years. 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

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

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. All 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 onsite 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).

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.

What happens if when I pull samples for my annual analytical monitoring I'm unable to get a sample for one of the parameters?

If this happens it is fine to go ahead and just sample for the missing parameter during the next representative storm event, just be sure to note the total rainfall, event duration, and total flow apart from the initial monitoring data.

What Do I Do When My Stormwater Permit Expires?

In the State of North Carolina, the Stormwater General Permit is in force and effect and covered facilities are allowed to continue discharging under the permit until the general permit is reissued or a new general permit is issued.

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

Helpful Links:

DWQ Stormwater Permitting Unit: *http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/ws/su*
303(d) Impaired Waters List: *http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/ps/mtu/assessment*
TMDL Information: *http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/ps/mtu/tmdl/tmdls*