North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Technical Bulletin for N.C. General Stormwater Permit NCG020000

What activities are covered by this general permit?

NCG020000 ***coverage includes the discharge of***:

- ✓Stormwater - Mining & Quarrying (Non-Metallic Minerals, Mine excavation, Processing, & Vehicle Maintenance)
- ✓Mine Dewatering Discharges (*Wastewater*)
- ✓Sand and/or Gravel operation discharges (*Wastewater*)
- ✓Non-Closed-Loop Recycle systems discharges (*Process Wastewater*)
- ✓Non-Discharging Closed-Loop Recycle systems & infrequent overflows

NCG020000 ***excludes discharges from***:

- DOT Borrow Pits
- Peat, Coal & Metal Mining
- Oil and Gas Extraction Operations
- Combined Mining/Asphalt Operations

What are key Stormwater Requirements?

- ✓Semi-Annual Analytical & Qualitative Monitoring.
- ✓Inspect BMPs with land disturbance activities every 7 calendar days & within 24-hours of a storm event.
- ✓Develop & Implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SPPP) (*Part III, Section A*).
- ✓Provide Secondary Containment for bulk storage (*Part III, Section A*).

What are key Wastewater Requirements?

- ✓Quarterly Analytical Monitoring (*Table at Right*).
- ✓Perform Operation & Maintenance of treatment facilities (Part II, B).
- ✓Per North Carolina Session Law 2011-394, industrial wastewater permit dischargers with an NPDES permit no longer need an Authorization to Construct (ATC), however, wastewater discharges must still meet effluent limitations. An exceedence of these limits is a violation.

Table 1: Summary of Wastewater Permit Requirements

	Quarterly Monitoring?	
Mine Dewatering (MD)	**Yes**	**No**
Mine Dewatering Discharges	✓	
Process Wastewater		
Other Recycle	✓	
Closed Loop Recycle		✓
Any Other Process WW	✓	

What has changed since the last renewal?

All Facilities:

- Reduced *inspections* for inactive mines: Inactive mines are now to be inspected at least 1x/month and after 0.5" (or more) of rain.
- Reporting of monitoring that is at or below benchmarks or limits has been reduced to an Annual Summary DMR due March 1.
- Turbidity limits on effluent discharges have been removed—*however turbidity standards still apply in the receiving waters*.
- Exceedences or violations must be sent to the Regional Office *within 30 days of receipt from lab*.
- Failure to monitor according to permit terms triggers *monthly monitoring for the remainder of the permit*.

Changes Specific to Stormwater

- Benchmark exceedences shall be reported to the Regional Office. Benchmarks are not limits.
- Stormwater discharges shall be monitored from Vehicle Maintenance Areas for Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) rather than Oil & Grease (O&G).
- Stormwater discharges shall be monitored from basins designed to contain the 10-year storm.
- The SBMP plan has been replaced by a specific mining SPPP.
- Stormwater Analytical Monitoring has been *increased to twice per year*.
- When an analytical benchmark is exceeded, a Tiered Response applies. Cut-off concentrations have been removed.
- Qualitative monitoring must be recorded during the same representative storm event as analytical monitoring.
- 48 hours of little or no precipitation may now precede a "Representative Storm Event".

Changes Specific to Wastewater

- A Lower TSS Wastewater limit for PNA waters has been added.
- All mines must monitor for TSS—but only industrial sand has limits.
- Approval of a Pumping O&M Plan may be required prior to coverage (for sites that may drain wetlands, or where dewatering discharge may affect sensitive waters like shellfishing (SA) waters).
- Fecal coliform monitoring is required for all WW discharges to SA waters.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to monitor all outfalls?

Yes. However, you may request Representative Outfall Status (ROS). If approved, this status allows *analytical & now qualitative* monitoring at fewer outfalls. To request ROS, submit a ROS Request Form SWU-ROS (from our website) to the DWQ Regional Office.

What if I can't collect a stormwater discharge in 30 minutes?

When distances separate multiple outfalls and preclude collection within 30 minutes of each discharge event, begin collection within 30 minutes and continue until all outfalls with discharges are sampled. Documentation must be kept in the SPPP.

Do I still need to monitor my inactive mine?

Yes. BMP *inspections* of inactive mines are reduced (to at least 1x/month and within 24 hours of any storm event 0.5" or more). However, *monitoring* of inactive mine discharges remains the same. Inactive mines must possess an "Inactive Renewal" from DLR *and* notify the DWQ Regional Office, *or* certify to DWQ the site has been stabilized.

Where to do I have to sample for turbidity?

Turbidity may be monitored at the Stormwater or Wastewater Outfall. The permittee *may* choose to monitor turbidity in the receiving water, directly upstream and downstream of the Outfall. If you have a question about where to monitor turbidity, contact your Regional Office for assistance.

What if I don't address qualitative monitoring problems?

If mines do not respond to problems seen in visual monitoring, DWQ may require that mines change the monitoring frequency, apply for an individual permit, implement in-stream monitoring, install or modify structural stormwater controls, or implement other controls.

What if I forget to monitor?

Mines that do not monitor per permit conditions, shall monitor every month until the permit is renewed.

Do I need an ATC?

No. Per North Carolina Session Law 2011-394, industrial wastewater permit dischargers with an NPDES permit no longer need additional approval "...for the construction, installation, or alteration of any treatment works ". However, wastewater discharges must still meet effluent limitations. Exceeding these limitations is a violation of permit terms.

Where & when do I send DMRs?

See Permit Section: *Part IV, Section E:*

Type & Location	Data	Date
Annual DMR Summary to ***Central*** Office	***ALL* Analytical SW & WW DATA** (*including* Exceedences & No Flow / No Discharge)	By March 1 of each year
Exceedence DMR to ***Regional*** Office	Benchmark **Exceedences**, Limit **Violations** & **All Tier 2 Monitoring**	Within 30 days
Record in ***SPPP***	**No Flow** or **No Discharge**	Within 30 Days

Must a PE sign-off on my new or expanded treatment facility?

It is no longer a requirement *of this permit application* for a Professional Engineer to sign off on plans and calculations. *However it may be a requirement of other North Carolina regulations, such as those of the N.C. Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors.*

What if I can't sample because of bad weather?

Adverse weather is dangerous or creates inaccessibility for personnel. Documentation of adverse weather and the reasons for not sampling must be included with your SPPP records. A substitute sample must be taken during the next qualifying storm event.

When do I need an O&M Plan?

When a mine with dewatering activities has the potential to drain nearby wetlands or surfaces waters, the Division may require a Pumping O&M Plan be approved ***prior to issuance***. These O&M Plans shall include *but are not limited to*: groundwater monitoring strategies & detailed plans to maintain the surrounding hydrology.

Why did you replace Oil & Grease with TPH in VM areas?

The TPH test only targets chemicals derived from crude oil. The Oil & Grease (O&G) test recovers fats from animal & vegetable sources *and* chemicals from crude oil. Because TPH is more specific, it is a better parameter for vehicle maintenance areas. The TPH method we are specifying for NCG02 is EPA 1664A (SGT-HEM). *It is important to note that DWQ is **not** specifying the more expensive Gas Chromatograph (GC) TPH method*. DWQ found lab costs for EPA 1664A (SGT-HEM) to be comparable to current O&G test costs. To test these parameters in *Stormwater*, labs must perform this test in accordance with EPA procedures, but do not need to be certified. *Note*: A lower benchmark applies for TPH: 15 mg/l (not 30 mg/l).

What about the Coastal Rules?

If you have a new mine in one of the 20 Coastal Counties with >10,000 BUA, you may also need a State Stormwater Permit. If you are in the 20 Coastal Counties, check with the Regional Office.

Can I use PAMS at my site?

Yes, flocculants may be used. A list of evaluated products is on our website.

Who can help me?

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

DWQ Stormwater Permitting Unit: *http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/ws/su*
Impaired Waters & TMDL Lists: *http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/tmdl/*