



## **Announcing New Review Process and Documents:**

- **Review Process for Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects**
  - **Application for Authorization to Construct at Wastewater Treatment Plants Permit**
  - **Minimum Design Criteria for NPDES Wastewater Treatment Facilities**
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The Division of Water Quality Infrastructure Finance Section (IFS) issues Authorization to Construct (ATC) Permits for treatment-related construction work at all NPDES wastewater treatment facilities in North Carolina except for industrial facilities, which are not required to obtain an ATC.

To obtain the ATC, WWTP owners must apply to the IFS for the ATC Permit. The IFS has developed improvements to the permitting process which should help speed the review process. As part of the process change, the application has been revised and the Minimum Design Criteria (MDC) for NPDES Wastewater Treatment Facilities has been updated.

### **New Review Process for Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects**

For projects at existing wastewater treatment facilities that do not increase the plant's discharge capacity or implement new effluent limits, the new process allows the IFS to waive the technical review of the plans, specifications, calculations and other supporting documents that are submitted as part of the application package. The new process allows the IFS to issue the ATC for these types of projects based solely upon the North Carolina Licensed Professional Engineer's certification of adherence to all of the MDC for Wastewater Treatment Facilities. The IFS will later audit projects issued an ATC under this new review process.

For more complex projects such as those that increase discharge capacity or allow the facility to meet more stringent NPDES effluent limits, a technical review will still take place. In addition, all projects that are funded by an IFS-administered funding program will continue to receive a full technical review.

When complete adherence to all of the MDC is not practicable or may not represent the best engineering design, IFS will review the exceptions to the MDC on an individual basis. A technical review will be performed on unique or complex design situations before an ATC is issued so that the engineering design may be presented, discussed, and evaluated before construction occurs.

### **New Application for Authorization to Construct at Wastewater Treatment Plants Permit**

The application for the ATC has been completely revised to provide more detailed guidance about the information that is required to be submitted in order for an application package to be considered complete and ready for review. The submittal of a complete application package by the owner should help speed the IFS's review time and allow owners to receive ATCs more quickly. However, failure to submit all of the required items will result in the application package being returned as incomplete per 15A NCAC 02T .0105(b). **Use of the new application is effective immediately; all applications received on or after June 1, 2013 are required to utilize the new application.**

### **New Minimum Design Criteria for NPDES Wastewater Treatment Facilities**

IFS consolidated its design criteria into one concise new document: the Minimum Design Criteria (MDC) for NPDES Wastewater Treatment Facilities. The new MDC contains references to the Sections of the North Carolina Administrative Code (NCAC) which govern all wastewater treatment facility designs in the state. It also provides baseline, fundamental design requirements for reliability and sizing of essential treatment units. **Use of the new MDC is effective immediately; all submittals received on or after June 1, 2013 are required to utilize the new MDC.**

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