

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY**

FACT SHEET

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM
PERMIT TO DISCHARGE TREATED WASTEWATER

General Permit No.: NCG580000

Date: July 1, 2013

Background

Development of this NPDES general permit was mandated by the General Assembly of North Carolina in Session Law 2011-48 as a means to encourage the use of reclaimed water. Ideally, both storage and irrigation using reclaimed water are nondischarge activities. Potential users have expressed reservations regarding the acceptance and use of reclaimed water because of jeopardy they may face if any volume of reclaimed water reached surface waters from property under their control due to run off or overspray of reclaimed water during irrigation, or if a reclaimed water storage pond overflowed during a rainfall event.

This general permit allows for the de minimus discharge of reclaimed water from a conjunctive use reclaimed water system by users of reclaimed water. Covered discharges are limited to:

- Discharges from reclaimed water storage ponds resulting from rainfall or other storm events
- Overspray or run off of reclaimed water, provided that the volume is <10% of the total volume of reclaimed water use, or 5,000 gallons per day, whichever is less

The restrictions inherent in the scope of coverage under the general permit should serve to ensure protection of water quality and encourage responsible oversight of reclaimed water utilization activities, while providing peace of mind to reclaimed water users that de minimus discharge of reclaimed water is allowed per the terms of the general permit.

1. TYPES OF DISCHARGES COVERED

A. Activities Covered by this General Permit

De minimus point source discharges of reclaimed water from conjunctive use reclaimed water systems resulting from incidental overspray and run off associated with irrigation activities, and the incidental overflow of storage ponds holding reclaimed water that result from rainfall or storm events.

Potential Permittees under the general permit may include users of reclaimed water, such as:

Individual Homeowners
Golf Courses
Nurseries

B. Activities Not Covered by this General Permit

- Direct, intentional or negligent discharge of reclaimed water to waters of the State

C. Geographic Area(s) Covered by this General Permit

Discharges covered by this General Permit are located at any place within the political boundary of the State of North Carolina (discharges located on the Cherokee Indian Tribal Reservation are subject to permitting by the US Environmental Protection Agency and are not covered by this General Permit).

D. Receiving Waters

All surface waters of the State of North Carolina or separate storm sewer systems conveying water to surface waters.

E. Types of Wastewater Discharged

- Reclaimed water generated by a conjunctive use reclaimed water system.

Reclaimed water is highly treated (not less than tertiary treatment) wastewater effluent that is used for beneficial reuse – i.e., it is used for the purpose of conservation of the State’s water resources by reducing the use of other water resources (potable water, surface water, groundwater) - as opposed to being discharged into surface waters or the land surface as a method of final disposal. Minimum effluent standards for reclaimed water are established by 15A NCAC 2U .0301. More stringent effluent limits may be imposed per the terms of an associated NPDES or land application permit.

A conjunctive use reclaimed water system is a system where the reclaimed water option is not necessary to meet the wastewater disposal needs of the facility, and where other wastewater utilization or disposal methods (e.g. NPDES permit) are available to the facility at all times.

F. Description of Typical Treatment Facilities.

This type of discharge will be generated from a wastewater treatment plant producing tertiary quality effluent (filtered or equivalent). Facilities may also manage temporary storage ponds for reclaimed water and distribution lines to convey reclaimed water to users. Minimum design standards for conjunctive use wastewater treatment systems are established in 15A NCAC 02U .0401.

2. PROPOSED DISCHARGE CONTROLS AND LIMITATIONS

Effluent quality shall be governed by reclaimed water effluent standards established in 15A 02U .0301 and/or any NPDES or nondischarge permit issued to the facility.

Coverage under the general permit is restricted to the following activities:

- Discharges from reclaimed water storage ponds resulting from rainfall or other storm events
- Overspray or run off of reclaimed water, provided that the volume is <10% of the total volume of reclaimed water use, or 5,000 gallons per day, whichever is less

Additionally,

Coverage under the general permit for discharges from reclaimed water storage ponds shall be applicable only where no viable alternative to discharge exists and measures are taken to reduce the risk of overflow.

Coverage under the general permit is predicated by the Permittee's compliance with all applicable statutes, rules and regulations governing the utilization of reclaimed water and the terms and conditions of any permit issued regulating the Permittee's utilization of reclaimed water.

Discharges covered under the general permit shall not result in any violations of surface water standards.

3. MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Because the effluent quality of reclaimed water is established at the point of its generation (the wastewater treatment facility) and is monitored at that point for compliance with effluent limits and standards, Permittees covered under this general permit are not required to conduct any qualitative monitoring of discharges to surface waters. However:

Permittees shall conduct visual spot checks of any discharge from a reclaimed water storage pond to assess if adverse impacts to the waters are occurring, and;

The Division may request additional sampling of the discharge or receiving stream.

4. EFFECTIVE DATE OF EFFLUENT LIMITS (AND COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE IF APPLICABLE)

This general permit is planned to become effective on September 1, 2013. The permit will be in effect for a period of five (5) years.

5. PROCEDURE FOR RECEIVING COVERAGE

Coverage under the general permit will be extended to users of reclaimed water from conjunctive use systems upon their approval as a user by the permit issuing authority. There is no application fee, annual fee or renewal fee associated with the general permit.

6. THE ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

The administrative record, including draft permit, fact sheet, and additional information is available by writing to:

**North Carolina Department of Environment & Natural Resources
Division of Water Quality
Compliance & Expedited Permitting Unit
1617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1617**

The above documents are available for review and copying at the Archdale Building / Room 925, 512 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27604, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Copies of the administrative record will be provided at a charge of 10 cents per page.

7. STATE CONTACT

Additional information concerning the permit application may be obtained during the hours stated in item No. 6 above or by contacting Mr. Bob Sledge of the Compliance & Expedited Permitting Unit at telephone number (919) 807-6398.

8. PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR ISSUANCE OF THE GENERAL PERMIT

The draft General Permit to public notice: July 1, 2013

Permit scheduled to issue: September 1, 2013

9. PROCEDURES FOR THE FORMULATION OF FINAL DETERMINATIONS

A. Comment Period

The Division of Water Quality proposes to issue a General NPDES Permit for this group of discharges to assign the conditions outlined above. These determinations are tentative and are open to comment from the public.

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the general permit or on the Division of Water Quality's proposed determinations to the following address:

North Carolina Department of Environment & Natural Resources
Division of Water Quality
Water Quality Section
Compliance & Expedited Permitting Unit
1617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1617

All comments received within thirty days following the date of public notice will be considered in the formulation of final determinations with regard to this application.

B. Public Hearing

The Director of the Division of Water Quality may hold a public hearing if there is a significant degree of public interest in the General Permit. Public notice of such a hearing will be circulated in newspapers in the State of North Carolina and to those on the Division of Water Quality's mailing list at least thirty days prior to the hearing.