North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality



# Technical Bulletin for General NPDES Permit NCG140000 (Ready-Mixed Concrete) Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources

Last Revised 07/28/2017

## What activities are covered by this general permit?

### NCG140000 coverage authorizes:

- Stormwater point source discharges associated with ready-mix concrete (SIC code 3273) and like activities, including onsite vehicle maintenance activities (VMA).
- Authorized process wastewater discharges (wastewater associated with vehicle cleaning, raw material stockpiles and mixing drum cleanout).
- Operation of wastewater treatment systems (Authorization to Construct no longer required).

### NCG140000 coverage is NOT APPLICABLE to:

• Disposal of process wastewater not specifically designated in this permit. Concrete disposal directly into stormwater conveyances, storm sewer outfalls, or into any waters of the state is not applicable.

## What are key stormwater requirements?

NCG140000 requires periodic discharge monitoring and a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SPPP):

- Develop and implement a SPPP, reviewed and updated on an annual basis (Part III, Section A).
- Perform semi-annual Analytical monitoring and Qualitative (visual) monitoring during a measurable storm event (Part IV, Sections A and C). See the next page for more information on measurable storm event.
- Report stormwater monitoring data once a year by March 1st to DEQ Central Office.
- Report benchmark exceedances or Tier 2 monitoring to the DEMLR Regional Office within 30 days.
- Respond to benchmark exceedances according to Tier response requirements.

## What are key wastewater requirements?

NCG140000 stipulates process wastewater discharges and periodic discharge monitoring:

- Authorizes discharge of 1. Vehicle and equipment cleaning, 2. wetting of raw material stockpiles, 3. mixing drum cleanout.
- Quarterly analytical monitoring for first year, or until four consecutive samples comply with all limits (then semi-annual monitoring allowed). Quarterly monitoring schedule resumes upon any limit violation.
- Settleable solids (SS) monitoring applies only to discharges to HQW, ORW, SA, SB, PNA, or Tr designated waters.
- Perform operation and maintenance of treatment facilities (Part II, Section B).
- Report wastewater effluent monitoring data once a year (by March 1st) to DEQ Central Office.
- Report effluent limitation violations to the DEMLR Regional Office within 30 days.
- Monitoring parameter of Daily Flow Rate is recorded for HQW/ORW waters.

## What has changed from the previous permit?

#### Some changes specific to Stormwater:

- Changes to SPPP Annual Update.
- "Measurable storm event" (any size that results in a discharge) replaces "Representative" event.
- Total Flow and event duration no longer required.
- pH removed from VMA monitoring.

### Some changes specific to Wastewater:

- May drop to semi-annual WW monitoring after four quarterly samples that comply with all limitations.
- SS monitoring for sensitive waters only (HQW, ORW,

SA, SB, PNA or Tr waters)

 Removed Closed-Loop Recycle Systems (CLRS) from this permit. Facilities must apply for coverage through Non-discharge Permitting Program in DWR.

Changes from the last permit are detailed in the "Response to Comments and Summary of Changes" Document for the 2017 NCG14 GP on our website.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### Do I have to monitor all outfalls?

Yes. However, you may request Representative Outfall Status (ROS) for stormwater-only outfalls. If approved, this status allows analytical monitoring at fewer outfalls. To request ROS, submit a ROS Request Form SWU-ROS (from our website) to your DEMLR Regional Office.

### Where & when do I send DMRs?

Permittees must send all monitoring reports to

Division of Water Resources
Attn: DWR Central Files
1617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina, 276991617 . These reports shall be submitted on DMR forms provide by
the Director, no later than 30 days
from the date the facility receives
the sampling results.

## What if I sell by business or the name changes?

You are required to notify DEMLR of those changes in writing, and continuation of permit coverage is subject to the Director's approval. Please submit the Name/ Ownership Change form located on our Program website.

## Can I take more samples than is required by the permit?

Yes. This permit does not bar the permittee from taking multiple samples while under permit coverage. The permittee may find resampling useful to quickly identify attempts to correct discharge problems.

## What do I do when my permit expires?

Permittees are not required to submit an application for renewal unless directed by the Division. The permittee should continue to abide by this general permit if it expires and renewed coverage has not yet been issued.

# When are EPA's electronic reporting requirements to take effect? What should I do until then?

NCDEMLR is moving towards being able to accept a permittee's discharge monitoring data electronically (eDMR) but the system is not in place yet. NCDEMLR will notify permittees when eDMR's will be accepted. Once eDMR is fully operational, the permittee will be required to submit the data to NCDEMLR within 30 days after receiving the results from the lab instead of once per year. Until that time, please continue to submit your DMRs annually to the address on the discharge monitoring report form and in the permit. Please see Section F: Special Conditions, for a full description of the requirements of electronic reporting requirements.

# Does a certified lab need to analyze my samples?

Monitoring under NPDES permits must be conducted in accordance with test procedures approved in federal regulations in 40 CFR § 136. All labs certified by

North Carolina perform analysis in accordance with those procedures. While N.C. certification requirements do not apply to testing stormwater-only discharges, data gathered under an NPDES permit must still conform to federal requirements. Using a North Carolina certified lab is one way to ensure compliance. A list of certified labs is available on our website.

# What if I pull samples for my analytical monitoring, and I'm unable to get a sample or valid results for a parameter?

If this happens, please sample for the missing parameter during the next measurable storm event.

# If I sample my discharge, do I have to do visual monitoring at the same time?

Yes, the qualitative monitoring must be performed at outfalls during a measurable storm event.

# What if there is no flow for a period between two samples that exceed a benchmark? Are those consecutive exceedances?

Yes. This scenario still puts you in Tier 2. The new permit is more clear about how the Tier 2 trigger omits periods of no discharge.

## Who can help me with questions?

Your questions about stormwater permit requirements can be addressed to your Regional DEMLR Office:



#### **Helpful Link:**

http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/ energy-mineral-land-resources/stormwater

