

# Water

## NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Stormwater Industrial Stormwater Permit and No Exposure Certifications

**What Activities Require This Permit?** Direct discharges of stormwater associated with certain uncovered industrial activities to surface waters of the state that are not deemed permitted.

- **Direct discharge to surface water:** Any discernible, confined, discrete conveyance such as pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, from which stormwater is or may be discharged to surface water
- **Covered facilities that eliminate exposure to stormwater** may qualify for No Exposure Certification, please see guidance - <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/energy-mineral-and-land-resources/stormwater/stormwater-program/npdes-industrial-program/no-exposure-certification>
- **Please see references for deemed permitted activities (don't need a permit)**  
15A NCAC 02H .0106 (f) - <http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2015a%20-%20environmental%20quality/chapter%2002%20-%20environmental%20management/subchapter%20h/15a%20ncac%2002h%20.0106.pdf>  
15A NCAC 02T .0113 (a) - <http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2015a%20-%20environmental%20quality/chapter%2002%20-%20environmental%20management/subchapter%20t/subchapter%20t%20rules.pdf>

**What Is the Purpose of This Permit?** To manage and store pollutants on industrial facilities in a manner that prevents pollution of surface waters. Industrial facilities covered under general and individual permits are required to develop a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and monitor stormwater outfalls for specified water quality parameters.

This program includes three types of permits:

- General Permits: Industrial facilities that fall into one of ten categories, 21 Industrial General Permits cover stormwater discharges associated with industrial activities - <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/energy-mineral-and-land-resources/stormwater/stormwater-program/npdes-industrial-program/general-industrial-permits>.
- Individual Permits: facilities that do not qualify for general permit. Their discharges are more likely to be a concern to receiving water.
- No Exposure Certifications: facilities that take measures to prevent stormwater from coming in contact with potential sources of contamination, so that any stormwater discharge should not pollute receiving surface waters. For guidance, please see - <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/energy-mineral-and-land-resources/stormwater/stormwater-program/npdes-industrial-program/no-exposure-certification>

**Who Issues This Permit?** N.C. Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources (DEMLR), Stormwater Permitting Program

### How Much Will This Permit Cost?

New/Annual fee for Certificates of Coverage under General Stormwater Permits: \$100;

New/Annual fee for NPDES Industrial Stormwater Individual Permits: \$860; and No fee for No Exposure Certifications.

### What Are My Payment Options for Permit Application Fees?

Most application fees can be paid by check or money order. Annual fees can be paid online at

<https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/energy-mineral-and-land-resources/stormwater/stormwater-program/stormwater-epayments>.

**If Paying by Check, Who do I Make the Check Payable to?** Checks, money orders should be made payable to: Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources (or DEMLR) – Stormwater

For more information, see the section below titled "Where Do I Submit My Application and Check"

### Where Can I Get the Application for This Permit?

**Industrial (non-construction)** – <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/energy-mineral-and-land-resources/stormwater/stormwater-program/npdes-industrial-program> - Other helpful resources may be found at this link.

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**How Long Will It Take To Review My Application?** Certificates of coverage under general permits will take approximately 30-60 days to process depending on the complexity. NPDES stormwater individual permits will take approximately six months from the receipt of a complete application package.

**Where Do I Submit My Application and Check?**

N.C. Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources (DEMLR)  
Stormwater Program  
1612 Mail Service Center  
512 N. Salisbury Street  
Raleigh NC 27699-1612

**How Long Is My Permit or License or Certificate Valid?** Up to five years.

**Notes/Comments:** 30-day public notice period required for all individual NPDES permits and renewals. Facilities that qualify for a No Exposure Exclusion from the NPDES stormwater permit requirement must apply for No Exposure Certification from DEMLR and must re-certify No Exposure annually (see <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/energy-mineral-and-land-resources/stormwater/stormwater-program/npdes-industrial-program/no-exposure-certification>).

**Legal Authority/Statute Reference:**

Section 402 of the Clean Water Act; 40 CFR Parts 122-125; Parts 130-131; and Part 133; 15A NCAC 2H .0100, 15A NCAC 02H .1000.

**Links:** <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/energy-mineral-and-land-resources/stormwater> or type [deq.nc.gov/SW](https://deq.nc.gov/SW)

**Statewide Contact Information:**

NC Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources  
Stormwater Program  
1612 Mail Service Center  
512 N. Salisbury Street  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1612  
Telephone: (919) 707-9200