

Water

NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Stormwater Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit

What Activities Require This Permit? **Direct discharges** of stormwater from municipal separate storm sewer systems (**MS4s**) to surface waters of the state.

- **Direct discharge to surface water:** Any discernible, confined, discrete conveyance such as pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, from which stormwater is or may be discharged to surface water
- **MS4s** in US Census Bureau designated Urbanized Areas or are designated under state rules (15A NCAC 02H .0151)

What Is the Purpose of This Permit? To protect surface waters into which MS4 discharges by regulating the **MS4 system and activities that discharge into the MS4 system.**

- MS4 is regulated by developing and implementing a comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) to address six minimum measures
 - Public Education and Outreach
 - Public Participation and Involvement
 - Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)
 - Construction Site Runoff Controls
 - Post-Construction runoff Controls
 - Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping (PP/GH) for Municipal Operations
- Deemed permitted activities are allowed to discharge into MS4 without a permit, please see references:
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>
- Industrial facilities that have either an individual stormwater permit or have coverage under one of the 20 Industrial General Permits that 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> may also be regulated under the MS4 permit if they discharge to the MS4.
- Construction activities that disturb one or more acres of land - <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/energy-mineral-and-land-resources/stormwater/stormwater-program/npdes-construction-program> and have coverage under the Construction Stormwater General Permit (NCG01) may also be regulated under the MS4 permit if they discharge to the MS4.
- MS4s covered apply for individual permits - <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/energy-mineral-and-land-resources/stormwater/stormwater-program/npdes-ms4-0>

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 NPDES MS4 Individual Stormwater Permits: \$860

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”

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Where Can I Get the Application For This Permit?

MS4 - <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/energy-mineral-and-land-resources/stormwater/stormwater-program/npdes-ms4-program-2> or <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/energy-mineral-and-land-resources/stormwater/stormwater-program/npdes-ms4-program-0>

Other helpful resources may be found at the above links.

How Long Will It Take To Review My Application? NPDES stormwater individual permits will take approximately six months from the receipt of a complete application package.

Where Do I Submit Application and Check?

N.C. Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources (DEMLR)
Stormwater Program
1612 Mail Service Center
512 North 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.

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

Statewide Contact Information:

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