



Technical Bulletin

General Permit NCG500000

Revised

July 1, 2025

The NPDES permitting program's objective is to reduce the pollutant load entering the waters of the state by:

1. Educating the permitted community about wastewater and stormwater pollutants,
2. Encouraging the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize the entry of pollutants into the waters of the state via wastewater and stormwater discharges, and
3. Using collected analytical data to assess these discharges contribution to water pollution to help prioritize controls in problem areas.

Changes in Reissued General Permit

Several important changes from the previous version of this permit are:

- Part I, Section A. Applicability has been expanded to include Geographical Area(s) Covered, Receiving Waters, and Ineligible Discharges.
- Additional language has been added to Part I, Section A. to provide clarity to the definition of 'exempt stormwater.'
- Chemical additive and biocide information has been moved to Part I. Section C.
- A geographic coordinates field has been added to the New Permit application and Permit Modification application.
- Units of measure have been added to Part I, Section B. (1.) – B. (4.).

Key Permit Requirements

- Semi-annual or quarterly effluent monitoring of parameters specified in Part I, Section B.
- All samples should be collected before the effluent joins or is diluted by any other wastestream, water or substance. (Part I, Section B.1, 2, & 3, Part II, Section D:1)
- The permittee shall give notice to the Division of any planned physical alterations or additions to the system that could significantly increase the quantity of pollutants discharged or introduce new pollutants to the discharge. (Part II, Section E:3)
- Any exceedances of the permit limits must be reported to the Division within 24 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances. (Part II, Section E:6)

Coverage Under This Permit

This permit covers the following types of discharges:

- Non-contact cooling water and water used in industrial processes for the sole purpose of cooling machinery and other equipment. Contact cooling water discharges require an individual NPDES permit. Non-contact cooling water is defined as water used for cooling which does not come into direct contact with any raw material, intermediate product, waste product or finished product.
- Condensate wastewater from atmospheric cooling systems (air conditioners, etc.)
- Blowdown wastewaters. Blowdown is defined as the minimum discharge of recirculating water for the purpose of discharging materials contained in the water, the further buildup of which would cause concentration in amounts exceeding limits established by best engineering practice.
- Exempt stormwater, which is defined as discharges of stormwater which do not require permits under the state or Federal NPDES programs. Exempt stormwater includes:
 - Stormwater which accumulates in outdoor basins or ponds designed for cooling water or other waters covered by this permit.
 - Uncontaminated groundwater, foundation drains, air-conditioner condensate without added chemicals, springs, discharges of uncontaminated potable water, waterline and fire hydrant flushings, water from footing drains, irrigation waters, flows from riparian habitats and wetlands.
 - Discharges resulting from fire-fighting or emergency shower or eye wash as a result of use in the event of an emergency.
- Water associated with hydroelectric power facilities, including cooling waters, waters from sumps and drains, dam seepage and exempt stormwater.
- Other similar wastewaters which may qualify for coverage under this General Permit.

Facilities that qualify as a Major discharger, as classified by the EPA, are ineligible for coverage under this General Permit.

Other sources of information on North Carolina's NPDES General Permits Program

The Division of Water Resources website is can be found at <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources>.

Frequently Asked Questions

1) When does my permit expire and how do I renew it?

The expiration date of the permit is on the first page of the General Permit. This General Permit expires on November 30, 2030. CoCs under NCG500000 will be automatically renewed so long as the CoC holder [permittee] pays all the annual fees for the CoC. No renewal application is required, unless the Division specifically requests one.

2) Do I need to submit the monitoring results annually?

No. The submission of monitoring reports for this permit is not required. There are no standardized Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) associated with this permit. All monitoring results should be kept on site for three years. The Division may request these reports for review at any time. (Part II, Section E:1)

3) Do I need to employ a certified wastewater treatment plant operator to manage and run the system?

Not at this time. The Division's Operator Training and Certification Unit does not currently plan to classify these types of facilities for the purposes of needing a certified operator. The requirement was left in the permit at this time with clarification, in the event that classification was assigned in the future. (Part II, Section C:1)

4) Where do I find my stream classification?

The stream classification, i.e. C, WS (Water Supply), SC, etc. can be found on the CoC. Classes C, B, and WS are all considered freshwater. Classes SC, SB, and SA are all considered saltwater. If you are unsure of your stream classification, you may contact the NPDES Staff at the phone number listed below or by going to: <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-quality-permitting/npdes-wastewater/permitting-contacts>.

5) How do I know if my stream is Nutrient Sensitive Waters (NSW), Trout Waters (Tr), ORW, or HQW?

In addition to your stream classification, some waters have supplemental classifications such as NSW, Tr, etc. The supplemental classifications are listed next to the stream classification which can be found in the CoC or the Supplement to Permit Cover sheet of an individual permit. For example: C-NSW. Note, some

streams may have several supplemental stream classifications.

6) What if I sell my business or the name of my business changes?

The Division views changes of name or ownership as a minor modification and requires the Director's approval. Name and ownership changes require you to complete a Name/Ownership Change Form. The forms are available on our web site: <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-quality-permitting/npdes-wastewater/npdes-compliance-and-0>

7) How do I rescind coverage under this General Permit?

If an existing permittee plans to eliminate the covered discharge and no longer requires coverage under this General Permit, the permittee will need to request rescission of permit coverage from the NPDES Unit by email or letter.

8) Can stormwater at my site be covered under this permit?

In some cases. Please review the exempt stormwater section of 'Coverage Under This Permit' above or Part I Section A (1)(d) of the NCG500000 General Permit.

9) How do I modify my existing Certificate of Coverage?

When there has been a change at the facility that requires an update to the existing CoC, permittees must submit a CoC modification form. CoC modification forms can be found at the link below under the NCG500000 General Permit Section: <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/permitting/npdes-wastewater/npdes-permitting-process/npdes-general-permits>



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Contact Us

For additional information on NPDES wastewater permitting and compliance, please contact us at:

N.C. Division of Water Resources
Water Quality Permitting Section
1617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1617
Phone: (919) 707-9000
Fax: (919) 807-6494

You may also contact the local DWR Regional Office at:

- Asheville: (828) 296-4500
- Fayetteville: (910) 433-3300
- Mooresville: (704) 663-1699
- Raleigh: (919) 791-4200
- Washington: (252) 946-6481
- Wilmington: (910) 796-7215
- Winston-Salem: (336) 776-9800

The DWR Water Quality Permitting Section can be accessed on the internet at:

<https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/permitting/npdes-wastewater/npdes-permitting-process/npdes-general-permits>. Copies of the General Wastewater Permits, technical bulletins, application fees, guidance documents, and miscellaneous forms may be downloaded from this web site.

Another source of information on regulatory requirements for all media is the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Environmental Assistance & Customer Service, which can be reached at 1-877-623-6748.