

Permitting Guidance

Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems (DWTS) (Septic Systems) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Helene Decentralized Funding

Last updated July 2026

This guidance is intended to help awardees, contractors, and homeowners identify the permit documents that may be required before and after decentralized wastewater treatment system (DWTS) (septic system) repair or replacement funded by the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Hurricane Helene Decentralized Funding. This guidance is subject to change. Please refer to the applicable agencies for the most current information.

Permits Needed Before Installation

One of the following pre-construction DWTS permit documents must be obtained, as applicable:

Septic System Permits

- Construction Authorization (CA) permit from the Local Health Department/District (LHD)
- Notice of Intent to Construct (NOI) from an Authorized Onsite Wastewater Evaluator (AOWE)
- NOI for an Engineered Option Permit (EOP)

Discharge Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Permits

The permit below is not expected to be required for routine household DWTS repair or replacement. It is only relevant when the project involves a DEQ Division of Water Resources (DWR)-regulated National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitted discharge system. If this applies, the project should be reviewed by DEQ before work proceeds.

- DEQ DWR NPDES Permit Authorization to Construct (ATC)

Non-Discharge DEQ Permits

The permit below is not expected to be required for routine household DWTS repair or replacement. It is only relevant when the project involves a DEQ DWR-regulated non-discharge spray irrigation or surface drip permit. If this applies, the project should be reviewed by DEQ before work proceeds.

- DEQ DWR Spray Irrigation or Surface Drip Permit ATC

Permits Needed After Installation

One of the following post-construction DWTS permit documents must be obtained and provided, as applicable.

Septic System Permits

The document should correspond to the permitting pathway used before construction.

- Operations Permit (OP) from LHD
- Authorization to Operate (ATO) from AOWE
- ATO for an EOP

Discharge DEQ Permits

This completion document is required only when the project involves an applicable NPDES general or individual permit. It is not expected for routine household DWTS repair or replacement.

- DEQ DWR NPDES Permit Certificate of Completion (CoC)

Non-Discharge DEQ Permits

This completion document is required only when the project involves an applicable DEQ DWR non-discharge spray irrigation permit or surface drip permit. It is not expected for routine household DWTS repair or replacement.

- DEQ DWR Spray Irrigation or Surface Drip Permit CoC

Permitting Resources

NC Department of Health and Human Services: [On-Site Wastewater Program](#)

Local Health Department Offices: [Find Your Local Health Department](#)

DEQ DWR Discharge Permitting: [NPDES General Permits](#)

DEQ DWR Non-Discharge Permitting: [Application Forms](#)