STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

FACT SHEET
ANIMAL WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS
NPDES GENERAL PERMITS

Date: November 13, 2026

1. TYPES OF OPERATIONS COVERED

A. Activities Covered by NPDES General Permits

On the basis of preliminary staff review and application of Article 21 Part 1A of Chapter 143, General Statutes of North Carolina, North Carolina Administrative Code (NCAC) 15A 02T Section .1300, and other lawful standards and regulations, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality proposes to renew, with modifications, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permits for animal operations. It is proposed that these NPDES General Permits be issued for the following types of operations;

NPDES General Permit NCA200000 – Swine Operations
NPDES General Permit NCA300000 – Cattle and Dairy Operations
NPDES General Permit NCA400000 – Poultry Operations with a liquid animal waste management system

Each of the three (3) Draft Permits contain the same Draft conditions. The Swine Operations General Permit has additional language in one condition as follows:

NPDES General Permit NCA200000 - Swine Operations
Contains additional language in condition I.7 related to new and expanding swine operations.

These three (3) NPDES General Permits are proposed to replace current NPDES General Permits NCA200000, NCA300000, and NCA400000 that expire on June 30, 2027.

Facilities that discharge waste to surface waters will be issued coverage under NPDES general or NPDES individual permits. These NPDES permits must be written to comply with both state and federal requirements.

The Division has determined that NPDES general permits are the appropriate mechanism to address the majority of the animal operations that are subject to the requirements of Section 402 of the Clean Water Act and the NPDES program. General permits may be written to

regulate categories of facilities that involve the same or substantially similar operations; have similar discharge characteristics; require the same effluent limitations or operating conditions; require the same or similar monitoring; and in the opinion of the Director of the Division are more appropriately controlled by a general permit. However, the Director may determine that a particular operation cannot meet the requirements, scope or intent of an NPDES general permit and therefore may require such a facility to obtain coverage under an individual NPDES permit.

Pursuant to 15A NCAC 02T .0111(h), the Director may require any facility owner/operator, otherwise eligible for coverage under a NPDES general permit, to apply for an NPDES individual permit. If the is the case, the Director must notify the facility owner/operator. Notification shall consist of a written description of the reason(s) for the decision, appropriate permit application forms and application instructions, a statement establishing the required date for submission of the application, and a statement informing the person that coverage by the general permit shall automatically terminate upon issuance of the individual permit.

B. Geographic Area(s) Covered by these General Permits

Animal operations covered by these NPDES general permits are located within the State of North Carolina.

C. Types of Wastewater Produced

"Animal waste" will consist of livestock or poultry excreta or a mixture of excreta with feed, bedding, litter, or other materials from an animal operation. (NC GS 143-215.10B), (15A NCAC 2T .0103)

D. Description of Typical Treatment Facilities.

The animal waste management systems covered by these general permits normally include some type of collection system (flush, pit recharge, scraped lots, etc.); pipes or ditches for transmission of the waste; lagoons or ponds to collect, treat and store the waste; irrigation or land application equipment; and sufficient acreage for application of the animal waste at agronomic rates.

Animal waste is usually applied to the land by using permanent or mobile pumps and pipes to send the waste to traveling gun reel systems, solid set irrigation systems, or center pivot irrigation systems. The waste can also be land applied using a transportation and application vehicle system such as manure spreaders or honey wagons.

2. BASIS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GENERAL PERMITS

The basis for the renewal of the animal operations NPDES general permits is that the existing general permits expire on June 30, 2027. These permits apply to animal waste management systems subject to regulation under 40 CFR 122.23, NC GS 143-215.10C, and 15A NCAC 02T Section .1300. These laws and regulations authorize the operation of the animal waste management systems in this State. The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has also developed a series of minimum standards and

specifications for animal waste management practices. The NRCS Standards have been adopted by reference in 15A NCAC 02T .1305(b)(1). Updates to the draft permits include but are not limited to implementation of EPA electronic reporting requirements, updating general statute and NRCS Standards citations, and technical corrections for clarification.

The basis of the animal waste NPDES general permits can be found in North Carolina General Statute 143-215.1 and 143-215.10C. As per the directives from the Environmental Protection Agency, draft NPDES general permits have been developed for animal operations meeting certain criteria. The draft general permits contain many of the requirements currently contained in the existing state non-discharge general permits for animal operations. Differences, however, include but are not limited to incorporation of federal requirements, additional operational requirements, additional monitoring requirements and additional reporting requirements.

Individual permits will be required of facilities when coverage under a general permit is not appropriate.

3. THE ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

The full administrative record, including draft permits, fact sheet, and additional information is available for review and copying at the Division of Water Resources, 512 N. Salisbury St., Room 640A, Raleigh, North Carolina between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Copies of the draft permits and fact sheets are available at **https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-quality-permitting/animal-feeding-operations** or by contacting:

Animal Feeding Operations
NC Division of Water Resources
1636 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1636
Phone: 919.707.3702
publiccommentsDWR@deq.nc.gov

Paper copies of the administrative record will be provided at a charge of 10 cents per page.

4. EFFECTIVE DATE AND LENGTH OF THE GENERAL PERMITS

The general permits are scheduled for issuance in July 2027 and will be effective on July 1, 2027, for a period of five years, until June 30, 2032. Each facility will be covered under an animal waste general permit by issuance of a certificate of coverage (COC).

5. PROCEDURES FOR THE FORMULATION OF FINAL DETERMINATIONS

The Division of Water Resources pursuant to NCGS 143-215. 4(b)(1) and (2) and 15A NCAC 2T .0111 has determined that it is in the public's interest for the Division to receive pertinent public

comment on the Draft General Permits. All comments received prior to 5:00 PM on December 18, 2026, will be taken into consideration in finalizing the permit decision.

Comment Period

The comment period for these draft general permits will last until 5:00 PM on December 18, 2026. All comments received prior to that date will be considered in the formulation of final determinations with regard to these permits. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed general permits to the email address or the mailing address below.

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