

Water

Closed-Loop Recycle Systems (Wastewater Treatment)

What Activities Require This Permit? Recycle systems typically are for non-contained vehicle wash facilities, as well as wet-decking facilities used to keep lumber supplies moist. All of these facilities utilize water in a recycled fashion and do not discharge wastewater to the ground or surface waters of the state. The treatment systems usually consist of earthen basins or tankage designed to remove solids (i.e., sand, grit, etc.), as well as components used to remove oils and grease that may wash off of vehicles.

What Is The Purpose of This Permit? The purpose of closed-loop recycle systems are to help conserve potable water and conserve costs, while still providing water for important industrial processes. Most importantly, these systems do not discharge wastewater into groundwater or surface waters.

Who Issues This Permit? N.C. Division of Water Resources, Water Quality Permitting Section / Non-Discharge Branch.

How Much Will This Permit Cost? A full list of current permitting fees can be found at the following link:
<https://www.deq.nc.gov/accessdeq/permit-fees-2025-updates>

What Are My Payment Options for Permit Application Fees? Check, Money Order, or Electronic Transfer.

If Paying by Check, Who do I Make the Check Payable to and Where Do I Send the Check? Made payable to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) and sent to NC Division of Water Resources, Water Quality Permitting Section / Non-Discharge Branch, 1617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1617.

Where Can I Get The Application For These Permits? <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-permits/wastewater-branch/non-discharge-permitting-unit/application>

How Long Will It Take To Review My Application? The statutory review time is 90 days from receipt of a complete application. If the application is not complete, an additional information letter shall advise the applicant how the application may be modified to make it complete. If all required information is not submitted within 30 days, the application will be returned as incomplete.

Where Do I Submit My Application? Permit applications are submitted electronically using the Electronic Application and Document Upload form (<https://edocs.deq.nc.gov/Forms/NonDischarge-Branch-Submittal-Form-Ver2>), or by email to Non-Discharge.Reports@ncdenr.gov (for applications smaller than 20 MB).

How Long Is My Permit or License or Certificate Valid? A closed-loop recycle system permit remains valid for up to eight years. Permits shall be renewed 180 days prior to expiration.

Notes/Comments: The system must be a complete closed-loop system in order to meet the definition.

Legal Authority/Statute Reference: 15A NCAC 02U

Link: <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-quality-permitting/non-discharge-branch>

Statewide Contact Information:

NC Division of Water Resources
Water Quality Permitting Section / Non-Discharge Branch
1617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1617
Telephone: (919) 707-3654