

Water

Wastewater Irrigation Systems (Wastewater Treatment)

What Activities Require This Permit? Any activity that uses surface irrigation as a wastewater disposal method at a rate less than 91 inches per year, excluding single-family residences and reclaimed water utilization.

What Is The Purpose of This Permit? To provide a viable alternative to discharging treated wastewater to the state's surface waters. Irrigating the wastewater allows for natural treatment of the water by the soil and vegetation before it re-enters the natural hydrologic system.

Who Issues This Permit? N.C. Department of Environmental Quality 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? <http://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 wastewater irrigation system permit remains valid up to eight years. Permit renewals are submitted 180 days prior to expiration.

Notes/Comments: Wastewater irrigation systems are required to meet several effluent monitoring requirements, as well as comply with the [02L Groundwater Standards](#). New wastewater irrigation systems require soils reports and agronomic evaluations from licensed soils scientists and designs by licensed professional engineers. In addition, hydrogeological reports by an appropriate licensed profession may be required. Please consult an experienced licensed professional to see if an irrigation system will work for a particular project.

Legal Authority/Statute Reference: 15A NCAC 02T .0500

Link: <http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-permits/wastewater-branch/non-discharge-permitting>

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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