Technical Bulletin

For General Permit NCG560000

Pesticides

NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

Revised November 2026

Coverage Under This Permit

This General Permit covers Permittees who discharge to waters of the State from the application of (1) biological pesticide products or (2) chemical pesticide products that leave a residue (hereinafter collectively "pesticides"), when the pesticide application is for one of the following pesticide use patterns:

- Mosquito and Other Flying Insect Pest Control
- Aquatic Weed and Algae Control
- Aquatic Animal Pest Control
- Forest Canopy Pest Control
- Intrusive Vegetation Control

A Permittee generally includes both (1) the entity with control over the financing for, or the decision to perform pesticide applications, including the ability to modify those decisions, that results in a discharge to waters of the State and (2) the entity with day-to-day operational control of or who performs activities (e.g., the application of pesticides) that are necessary to ensure compliance with the permit (e.g., they are authorized to direct workers to carry out activities required by the permit or perform such activities themselves). As such, more than one person may be responsible for compliance with this permit for any single discharge from the application of pesticides.

Significant Changes from Previous General Permit

- Added definition, coverage, and additional requirements for Innovative or Research Technology.
- Updated the coverage for pesticides applications by a licensed researcher or in conjunction with a manufacturer, university or similar organizations.
- Added visual monitoring record requirement.
- Added annual report requirement for any entity required to submit an NOI and who is a large entity.
- Added annual report requirement for any entity with discharges to waters of the State and/or discharge-related activities that may expose FWS listed resources of concern or NMFS listed resources of concern to pollutants, and who is a small entity.

Key Permit Requirements

- Any discharges from a pesticide application to waters of the State that is identified as impaired by that pesticide or its degradants are not eligible for coverage under this permit.
- Coverage under this permit is available only for discharges and discharge-related activities that are not likely to result in any short- or long-term adverse effects to species that are federally-listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) or habitat that is federally-designated as critical under the ESA.
- For discharges with innovative or research technology, a pre-application meeting with the Division is required to determine the eligibility of coverage under this General Permit, and additional monitoring and reporting requirements applies.
- The Division may require you to apply for and/or obtain authorization to discharge under either an individual NPDES permit or an alternative NPDES General Permit. The Applicant may also request to be covered under an individual permit if desired.
- If you are required to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI), you must prepare a Pesticide Discharge Management Plan for your pest management area.
- If situations requiring corrective action (such as unauthorized release) occurs, control measures must be reviewed and revised as necessary to ensure such situations won't repeat in the future.
- You must immediately notify your NC DEQ Regional Office and other appropriate parties if adverse incident occurs within the required timeframe, depending on the location and type of release. A written report of the adverse incident must also be provided as specified in the permit.

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- Applicators must keep written records as required by this permit. The records are required to be kept up-to-date to help you determine if you will meet the annual treatment area threshold during any calendar year. All required records must be documented as soon as possible but no later than 14 days following completion of such activity. Records required under this permit must be retained for at least 3 years from the date that your coverage under this permit expires or is terminated, and made available to the Division upon request.
- Any entity 1) required to submit an NOI and who is a large entity, or 2) with discharges to waters of the United States and/or discharge-related activities that may expose FWS Listed Resources of Concern or NMFS Listed Resources of Concern to pollutants and who is a small entity, are required to submit annual report to DWR.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1) 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 or made available for three years. The Division may request these reports for review at any time. (Part II, Section E.1.) However, as per Part II, Section E.6.b., violations of any permit limitation must be reported within 24 hours from the time the Permittee becomes aware of the circumstances.

2) Where do I find my stream classification?

The stream classification, i.e. WS-IV, C, Tr, etc. can usually be found in the Certificate of Coverage. If you are unsure of your stream classification, you can contact the Division.

3) Does a certified lab need to be used to analyze samples?

No, lab samples are not needed for this permit.

4) 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 the Division's website at:

https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-quality-permitting/npdes-wastewater/npdes-compliance-and-0

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

The expiration date of the permit expires on November 30, 2031. Existing Certificate of Coverages (CoCs) will be automatically renewed as long as all annual fees have been paid. New Applicants must submit a complete NOI and application permit fees. The application forms can be found at on the Division's website. If an existing Permittee stops pesticide application and no longer requires coverage under this General Permit, the Permittee needs to request rescission of permit from the NPDES Unit by letter or e-mail.

Contact Information

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

Division of Water Resources
Water Quality Permitting Section – NPDES
1617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1617

Phone: (919) 707-9000
Fax: (919) 807-6489

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You may also contact your local Division of Water Resources Regional Office at:

Asheville	828-296-4500
Fayetteville	910-433-3300
Mooresville	704-235-2100
Raleigh	919-791-4200
Washington	252-946-6481
Wilmington	910-796-7215
Winston-Salem	336-776-9800

Other Information about North Carolina's NPDES General Permits Program

Copies of our General Wastewater Permits, technical bulletins, application forms, guidance documents, and other miscellaneous forms can be found at https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/permitting/npdes-wastewater/npdes-permitting-process/npdes-general-permits.

NCG500000 – Non-contact cooling water, boiler blowdown, cooling tower blowdown, condensate, hydroelectric dams

NCG510000 – Groundwater remediation for petroleum and/or chlorinated solvent contamination

NCG520000 – Sand dredging

NCG530000 – **Replaced by NCG600000**

NCG550000 – Single-family residences and other 100% Domestic < 1,000 GPD

NCG560000 – Pesticides

NCG580000 – Re-use from conjunctive use reclaim water systems

NCG590000 – Water treatment plant dischargers [wastewater from conventional and greensand systems]

NCG600000 – Aquaculture, fish/seafood packing and rinsing

The Division maintains a website at https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources.

Also try the DEQ Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service at https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/environmental-assistance-and-customer-service.

For industry-specific information on minimizing pollutants, contact the North Carolina Office of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance at (919) 715-6500, or at http://www.p2pays.org.