



Fact Sheet

EPA Proposes Reissuance of General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Industrial Activities

Summary

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed the reissuance of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permit for stormwater discharges from industrial activities. The Agency is seeking public comment on the proposed general permit for 60 days following the publication of the *Federal Register* notice.

Background

Industrial stormwater has been regulated since the promulgation of the EPA's 1990 stormwater regulations, which established NPDES permit requirements for "stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity." The EPA's first Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) for stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity was issued on September 29, 1995, and has since been reissued in 2000 and 2008.

The stormwater regulations at 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14)(i)-(ix) identify the categories of industrial activities subject to the NPDES stormwater regulations by Standard Industrial Classification, or SIC, code or by a general description of the industrial activities, which are:

- Facilities subject to New Source Performance Standards 122.26(b)(14)(i)
- Heavy manufacturing (ii)
- Mining, oil & gas (iii)
- Hazardous waste facilities (iv)
- Landfills (v)
- Recycling facilities (vi)
- Steam electric power plants (vii)
- Transportation industries (viii)
- Sewage treatment facilities (ix)
- Light industry (xi)

These industrial activities were categorized into 29 industrial sectors covered under a single permit, the MSGP, with each sector having tailored requirements.

EPA's MSGP only applies in areas of the country where EPA remains the NPDES permitting authority and has made the permit available for coverage, which includes four states (Idaho, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New Mexico), the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, all other U.S. territories with the exception of the Virgin Islands, facilities operated by federal operators in four states (Colorado, Delaware, Vermont, and Washington), most Indian Country lands, and a couple of other specifically designated activities in specific states (e.g., oil and gas activities in Texas and Oklahoma).

Summary of Proposed MSGP

The 2013 MSGP provisions are largely similar to the 2008 MSGP; however, some changes have been made to improve permit clarity, to address errors, and to make the permit more streamlined. The following is a summary of the more significant proposed changes:

- Additional specificity for several of the technology-based effluent limits (i.e., the control measures) for clarity.

- A requirement that facilities discharging to a small number of federal Superfund sites notify their Regional EPA office prior to filing their Notice of Intent (NOI).
- Streamlining of Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) documentation (i.e., facilities do not have to expound on their compliance with certain effluent limits).
- Public accessibility to SWPPP information, either by posting on the Internet or by incorporating salient information into the NOI.
- Electronic submission for the NOI, Notice of Termination (NOT), annual report, and monitoring (waivers may be granted).
- Requirement for pavement wash water discharges to be treated by control measures.
- Reduced requirements for inspections (i.e., facilities no longer have to conduct a separate comprehensive site inspection).
- Specific deadlines for taking corrective actions.

- Inclusion of saltwater benchmark values for metals.
- Inclusion of the Airport Deicing Effluent Limitation Guideline.

How to Comment

EPA will accept comment on the proposed permit for 60 days after publication in the *Federal Register*. Comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2012-0803, may be submitted by one of the following methods:

1. *Online at* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
2. *E-mail:* ow-docket@epa.gov.
3. *Mail to:* Water Docket, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code: 2822T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460, Attention: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2012-0803. Such deliveries are only accepted during the docket's normal hours of operation, and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.

For further information about this notice, please write to:

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For additional information on the MSGP or to view or download the complete text of the *Federal Register* notice, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/msgp>