

FACT SHEET
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
WEST HEATING PLANT, WASHINGTON, DC

NPDES PERMIT NUMBERDC0000035
December 28, 2006 Public Notice

1. NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE PERMIT

The United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, (EPA) has made a decision to reissue the National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the West Heating Plant which is operated by the United States General Services Administration (GSA) and located in the District of Columbia. This facility is classified as a minor permit under the NPDES categorization system. The permit will regulate the discharge of groundwater and steam condensate as well as stormwater which are discharged to Rock Creek. The permit requirements are based on the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.), hereinafter referred to as the Act, and NPDES regulations (40 C.F.R. Parts 122, 124, 125 and 131).

2. PERMITTING AUTHORITY

The NPDES permitting authority is the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, Office of NPDES Permits and Enforcement, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103. The permit writer is Mary Letzkus, NPDES Permits Branch, (215) 814-2180.

3. PERMITTEE

The permittee is the United States General Services Administration (GSA), 301 7th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20407. The West Heating Plant is located at 1051 29th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20007. The contact person for GSA is Steven R. Willingford, Director of Heating Operation and Transmission District, (202) 690-9720.

4. WASTES OR POLLUTANTS DISCHARGED: Groundwater and steam condensate leakage from a sump located at the terminus of a steam tunnel.

5. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACTION: EPA Region III has made the decision to reissue a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the GSA West Heating Plant. This permit establishes permit limits and monitoring requirements for the discharge of ground water and steam condensate leakage which collect in a steam tunnel sump. The discharge from the steam tunnel to Rock Creek is 41,000 gallons per day.

Past NPDES permits for this facility have also regulated stormwater which was collected from building roofs. GSA has notified EPA that a portion of the roof stormwater discharge has been discontinued. Some of the drainage from roof drains has been rerouted to a combined sewer and is discharged to the Blue Plains Advanced Waste Water Treatment Plant in accordance

with an approved pretreatment permit. For that portion of the roof stormwater that continues to be discharged to Rock Creek, the facility has sent a statement of non-exposure, which states that the stormwater from the West Heating Plant roof drains do not come in contact with any process water. Further, the West Heating Plant is a back-up plant that has not operated since 1997.

The West Heating Plant is one of two plants which supply steam to the District of Columbia heating system. Fuels include gas and oil as this facility no longer stores or burns coal. The peak steam production is approximately 600,000 pounds per month, however, as reported on the applicant's 2006 application, the plant has not operated since September of 1997.

6. NPDES PERMIT LIMITS: Permit limits and conditions for total suspended solids (TSS), temperature and pH have been carried over from the previous permit. The NPDES permit limit for TSS is technology-based limits. Since EPA has not promulgated effluent limits for the heating plant point source category, technology based limits for this permit have been adopted from the closest available category, the Steam Electric Power Generating Point Source Category found at 40 CFR 423. Oil and grease, temperature and pH limits are based upon DC water quality standards. The temperature requirement for this permit has been converted from Fahrenheit to Celsius. The new proposed limit for oil and grease has been reduced from the previous permit from a monthly average of 15 mg/l to 10 mg/l; and a weekly average of 20 mg/l to 15 mg/l.

The former limits and monitoring requirements for the roof stormwater drainage have been removed from this permit because it does not come into contact with any process wastes or is discharged to the Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant.

7. CONSULTATION WITH SERVICES: In accordance with the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Environmental Protection Agency and the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US National Marine Fisheries Service, this permit does not meet the criteria for consultation.

8. PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT: Since this permit was last issued in 2001, EPA has modified its public notice procedures for minor permits. For minor NPDES permits, the agency no longer publishes notice of public comment in an area newspaper, however, it continues its practice of mailing copies of the draft fact sheet and permit to persons living in the District who are known to EPA to be interested in NPDES matters. This permit was offered for public comment beginning on December 28, 2006 and the comment period ended on January 29, 2007.

No comments were received regarding this matter.

9. District of Columbia Department of Environment 401 Certification:

The District of Columbia Department of the Environment certified the permit by letter dated February 6, 2007.