

EPA New England Remediation General Permit (RGP)

August 2005 NPDES Factsheet

Contact: Roger Janson 617-918-1621

In Massachusetts and New Hampshire

The Federal (US EPA) Permit Basics for:

- Groundwater remediation
- Contaminated construction site dewatering
- Miscellaneous discharges with Petroleum Products, Solvents, or Metals

Where To Find the Proposed Permit & Factsheet:

For dischargers in
Massachusetts
(MA)
www.epa.gov/region1/npdes/mass.html#dgp

For dischargers in
New Hampshire
(NH),
www.epa.gov/region1/npdes/newhampshire.html#dgp

Or, contact EPA
New England at
617-918-1600 to
request a hard
copy.

What types of projects can be covered?

If you plan to discharge ground or surface water from one of the following categories to surface water (such as a pond, stream, or wetland), you may be eligible for coverage under the RGP:

- **Groundwater remediation or construction sites** **contaminated** with: gasoline; fuel oils and/or other oils; volatile organic compounds (VOCs); heavy metals; or mixed contaminants, e.g., “**urban fill**”
- **Aquifer pump testing** at previously contaminated sites
- **Well development and rehabilitation** activities at previously contaminated sites
- **Hydrostatic testing** of oil and gas tanks and pipelines
- Long-term dewatering of **contaminated sumps**
- Short-term testing and pilot studies of **contaminated condensates from dredging**

What does the permit require?

Permittees must meet all terms and conditions of the permit, including:

- Effluent limitations and water quality related requirements.
- Monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting, including: monthly sampling and testing, on-site record keeping, and reporting only when violation occurs or is requested by EPA/State.
- Development and implementation of a Best Management Practices Plan (kept on site) describing how you will minimize pollution.

How do I apply for coverage under the RGP?

Applicants must submit a completed Notice of Intent (NOI) to EPA, New Hampshire or Massachusetts, as well as to the potentially affected municipalities. New dischargers should fill out and submit a NOI at least **14 days prior** to discharge. The NOI can be downloaded at the websites listed in the left sidebar on this page.



Get updates on the NPDES program by signing up at EPA's website at:

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/newsregister.cfm>



You are done with the project when:

Within 30 days after the discharge activity has been completed, you must file a **Notice of Termination (NOT)**. See the websites listed on this factsheet front for the suggested NOT form.

How is the RGP different from: the Multi-Sector General Permit for storm water discharges associated with industrial activity (MSGP), or the construction general permit (CGP), and construction dewatering general permit ?

The **Construction General Permit** covers discharges associated with construction activity and certain non-storm water discharges, including uncontaminated ground water and trench dewatering. If these sources contaminated, the **Remedial General Permit (RGP)** can cover these discharges.

The **Construction Dewatering General Permit** covers pumped or drained discharges of uncontaminated groundwater and/or stormwater from excavations or other points of accumulation associated with construction activities at sites that disturb less than one acre of land. If contaminated, the **RGP**

covers these types of discharges.

The **Multi-Sector General Permit** covers storm water discharges associated with industrial activity and certain non-storm water discharges, including uncontaminated ground water. Contaminated ground water or non-industrial discharges can be covered by the **RGP**.

What if my project is already covered by an EPA-issued "NPDES Exclusion Letter"?

Owners/operators currently operating under a previously issued NPDES exclusion letter must submit either a Notice of Intent (NOI) to be covered under the RGP, or application Forms 1 & 2C for coverage under an individual NPDES permit.

If you have not previously submitted a NPDES application, you will need to fill out and submit an

application or NOI within **30 days** of the effective date of the permit.

If you have previously submitted a NPDES application, you will need to certify which type of permit coverage you are requesting (i.e., general or individual) and whether the information contained in the application is still accurate. If minor changes have been made to the site since the

application was submitted, the certification may substitute for a NOI for a facility to be covered under the RGP. If significant changes have occurred, the owner/operator must submit an updated application or NOI in addition to the certification. If activities have been terminated, the owner may indicate such on the certification form.

How do you know if you are covered by the permit?

After EPA New England receives your NOI (by fax or mail), EPA will post your NOI for 7 days on our website. Fourteen days after the NOI is posted on the website, EPA will determine if coverage under the RGP is appropriate and contact the applicant with the decision.