



# ***DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES***

## **GENERAL PERMIT TO DISCHARGE UNDER THE**

### **WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM**

In compliance with the provisions of Chapter 283, Wis. Statutes, any facility or equipment engaged in

### **DISCHARGING NONDOMESTIC WASTEWATER TO A SUBSURFACE SOIL ABSORPTION SYSTEM**

located in the State of Wisconsin and meeting the applicability criteria listed in Section 1 of this General Permit is permitted to discharge nondomestic wastewater to groundwaters of the state via a subsurface soil absorption system in accordance with the site requirements, application rate limitations, operational requirements, effluent limitations, monitoring requirements and other conditions set forth in this permit.

State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

For the Secretary

By

Russell A. Rasmussen, Director

Bureau of Watershed Management

Division of Water

April 27, 2006

Date Permit Signed/Issued

**PERMIT EFFECTIVE DATE - May 1, 2006**

**EXPIRATION DATE - March 31, 2011**

# 1 APPLICABILITY CRITERIA

## 1.1 Activities Covered

This permit applies to discharges from industrial, commercial, or agricultural facilities to subsurface soil absorption systems meeting the following conditions.

- Discharges that contain primarily organic, biodegradable substances at low concentrations;
- Discharges that do not exceed 5,000 gallons per day as a monthly average;
- Discharges that are generated by: a) food processing facilities, including fruit, vegetable, dairy products, meat, fish, and poultry processing operations; b) mink raising operations; c) aquaculture operations; d) car washes, provided such discharges do not include wastewater associated with the maintenance and repair of motorized vehicles; e) laundromats subject to the conditions in section 2.1.3 of this permit; and f) other similar wastes that will not cause detrimental effects to groundwater and the soil; and
- Discharges to systems that meet the site location criteria specified in NR 214.16(1), Wis. Adm. Code, or an exemption to such criteria has been granted by the Department under NR 214.06(1), Wis. Adm. Code.

## 1.2 Activities Not Covered

This permit does not apply to wastewater discharges that meet any of the following conditions:

- Discharges from facilities that maintain or repair motorized vehicles;
- Discharges containing toxic or hazardous substances (such as metals, solvents, lubricants, biocides, pesticides, etc.), unless the permittee demonstrates to the Department that the discharge of such pollutants will be in such small quantities that no environmental pollution will result and the groundwater standards established in ch. NR 140, Wis. Adm. Code, will not be exceeded;
- Discharges containing chlorides or other substances which the Department determines do not meet the requirements of NR 214.16(3), Wis. Adm. Code, and, therefore, may cause exceedances of the groundwater standards contained in ch. NR 140, Wis. Adm. Code;
- Discharges to subsurface soil absorption systems that are within a source water protection area for a public drinking water system using groundwater as designated under the source water assessment program approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under 42 USC 300j-13. The Department may waive this requirement on a case-by-case basis if the Department determines that the proposed facility will not adversely affect the safety of the public water system.

## **2 OPERATION AND PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS**

### **2.1 Design and Operation**

#### **2.1.1 Operation**

The permittee shall operate the subsurface soil absorption system in accordance with the design parameters for the system, including the volumetric loading rate, as defined by any construction plan approvals granted by the Department under s. 281.41, Stats.

#### **2.1.2 Pretreatment**

All wastewater shall be pretreated to remove settleable solids and floating scum and reduce biodegradable material prior to discharge to the subsurface soil absorption system.

#### **2.1.3 Special Treatment**

Wastewater from commercial laundromats or other facilities containing solids or other materials which do not readily settle or float and may interfere with the absorption capacity of the soil should be pretreated with screens prior to discharge to the subsurface soil absorption system.

### **2.2 Management Plan**

The permittee shall operate and maintain the subsurface wastewater disposal system to meet the conditions of this permit in accordance with a management plan approved by the Department as provided in NR 214.16(5), Wis. Adm. Code. A copy of the management plan shall be retained by the permittee at the property on which the system is located and the plan shall be available for Department inspection. Whenever the permittee intends to make operational changes affecting the character, quality or quantity of the wastewater discharge, the management plan shall be amended and such amended plan shall be submitted to the Department for approval prior to implementing such changes.

#### **2.2.1 Submittal of the Management Plan**

If a management plan has not been approved by the Department prior to the reissuance of this permit, then the permittee shall submit a management plan to the Department for approval not more than 60 days from the date of reissuance of this permit or from the date that coverage under this permit was granted, whichever is later. If, when granting coverage under this permit, the Department determines that a previously approved management plan must be amended to comply with NR 214.16(5), Wis. Adm. Code, the letter granting coverage shall require the permittee to submit an amended management plan not more than 60 days from the date that coverage under this permit was granted.

### **2.3 Compliance with Groundwater Quality Standards**

The concentration of any substance that may impact groundwater quality shall be limited, at the point of discharge, to a value that will minimize the concentration of the substance in the groundwater to the extent technically and economically feasible and will prevent exceedances of the preventive action limits (NR 140.10 and NR 140.12, Wis. Adm. Code) in the groundwater.

### **2.4 Discharge to Ground Surface Prohibited**

The permittee may not allow wastewater to reach the ground surface prior to or after discharge to the subsurface soil absorption system.

## 2.5 Discharge to Drain Tiles Prohibited

The permittee may not allow wastewater from the subsurface soil absorption system to reach and discharge into agricultural drain tiles or other drainage systems that discharge to surface waters.

## 2.6 Solids/sludge Removal

Solids, sludge and scum shall be removed from the pretreatment component or components of the system as established in the management plan. Any solids, sludge and scum removed may be transported by a hauler to a publicly owned wastewater treatment works or to a licensed landfill for disposal or may be landspread in accordance with s. NR 214.18, Wis. Adm. Code. A separate WPDES permit is required for landspreading solids and sludge.

# 3 MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

## 3.1 Flow Volume

The permittee shall measure the volume of wastewater discharged to the subsurface soil absorption system each day and shall maintain a record of the flow in units of gallons per day.

## 3.2 Sample Collection and Analysis

The permittee shall collect representative grab samples of the pretreated wastewater prior to discharge to the subsurface soil absorption system and all samples shall be analyzed for the following:

- pH
- BOD5
- total suspended solids
- organic nitrogen
- ammonia nitrogen
- nitrite and nitrate nitrogen
- chlorides

Discharges from meat processing facilities and car washes shall also be sampled and analyzed for oil and grease.

## 3.3 Sampling Frequency

The permittee shall collect samples required under section 3.2 of this permit once each calendar year during which this permit is effective.

## 3.4 Discharge Monitoring Reports

The permittee shall submit an annual report to the Department by February 15<sup>th</sup> each year that contains the monitoring information required by this permit for discharges during the previous calendar year. This report may be submitted to the office identified in the letter granting coverage under this permit or it may be submitted to the Department of Natural Resources Regional Headquarters office.

## **4 STANDARD REQUIREMENTS**

### **4.1 NR 205, Wisconsin Administrative Code**

The conditions in ss. NR 205.07(1) and NR 205.07(3), Wis. Adm. Code, are included by reference in this permit. The permittee shall comply with all of these requirements, except for s. NR 205.07(1)(n), which does not apply to facilities covered under general permits. Selected NR 205.07 requirements are listed below for convenience.

### **4.2 Spill Reporting for Hazardous Substances**

The permittee shall immediately notify the Department of an accidental release or spill of any hazardous substance to the environment as specified in ch. NR 706 and s. NR 205.07(3)b, Wis. Adm. Code. The Department shall be notified via the 24-hour toll free spills hotline (1-800-943-0003).

### **4.3 Duty to Halt or Reduce Activity**

Upon failure or impairment of treatment facility operation, the permittee shall, as required in NR 205.07(3)(e) and to the extent necessary to maintain compliance with its permit, curtail production or wastewater discharges or both until the treatment facility operations are restored or an alternative method of treatment is provided.

### **4.4 Permit Noncompliance Reporting**

As specified in s. NR 205.07(1)(s), Department notification is required within 24 hours of becoming aware of permit noncompliance.

### **4.5 Bypassing**

As specified in s. NR 205.07(1)(u) & (v) bypass or overflow of wastewater at the treatment works or collection system is prohibited unless there were no feasible alternatives to the bypass, the bypass is necessary to prevent severe injury or property damage, and the permittee notified the Department as required in s. NR 205 (1)(u)3.

### **4.6 Planned Changes**

The permittee shall report to the Department any facility expansion, production increase or process modifications which will result in new, different or increased discharges of pollutants as set forth in s. NR 205.07(3)(c).

### **4.7 Inspection and Entry**

The permittee shall allow an authorized representative of the Department, upon the presentation of credentials, to enter the permittee's premises, have access to records, and inspect and monitor the discharge as described in s. NR 205.07(1)(d).

### **4.8 Authorized Signature**

Reports, records, and monitoring results required by this permit shall be signed by the permittee's authorized representative or, in his or her absence, as specified in s. NR 205.07(1)(g).

### **4.9 Water Quality Sampling and Testing Procedures**

Sampling and laboratory testing procedures shall be performed as specified in s. NR 205.07(1)(p) and as set forth below. Sampling and analysis of effluent samples shall be performed as specified in chapters NR 218 and NR 219,

Wis. Adm. Code, respectively and shall be performed by a laboratory certified or registered in accordance with the requirements of ch. NR 149.

#### **4.10 Retention and Submittal of Reports, Records, and Monitoring Results**

The permittee shall retain records of all monitoring required by this permit and report monitoring results as set forth in s. NR 205.07(1)(f) and (r). Reports, records, and monitoring results required by this permit shall be retained by the permittee for the duration of this permit or three years after this information is generated, whichever is longer.

#### **4.11 Recording of Results**

For each effluent measurement or sample taken, the permittee shall record the following information as required in s. NR 205.07(1)(e):

- The date, exact place, method and time of sampling or measurements,
- The individual who performed the sampling or measurements,
- The date of the analysis and the individual who performed the analysis,
- The analytical techniques or methods used, and the results of the analysis.

#### **4.12 More Frequent Monitoring**

If the permittee monitors any parameter more frequently than required by the permit, using test procedures specified in ch. NR 214 or ch. NR 219, or as specified in the permit, the results of this monitoring shall be included in the calculation and reporting of the data submitted in the discharge monitoring report.

#### **4.13 Conventions for the Reporting and Use of Low Level Results**

The permittee shall use the following conventions when reporting effluent monitoring results: (a) non-detected pollutant results shall be reported as < (less than) the value of the analytical method's limit of detection; (b) pollutant concentrations equal to or greater than the limit of detection, but less than the limit of quantitation, shall be reported and the limit of quantitation shall be specified; and (c) a zero value may be substituted for any non-detected pollutant result for the purposes of calculating an average or a mass discharge.

#### **4.14 Continuation of an Expired General Permit**

As provided in s. NR 205.08(9), the terms and conditions of this general permit shall continue to apply until this general permit is reissued or revoked or until an individual permit is issued for the discharge to which the general permit applied. The status of expired general permits and forms for requesting continued permit coverage can be accessed at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/ww/gpindex/gpinfo.htm>.

#### **4.15 Enforcement**

Any violation of this permit is enforceable under ss. 283.89 and 283.91, Wisconsin Statutes.

#### **4.16 Severability**

The provisions of this permit are severable, and if any provisions of this permit or the application of any provision of this permit to any circumstance is held invalid the remainder of this permit shall not be affected thereby.