



STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**GENERAL PERMIT TO DISCHARGE UNDER THE WISCONSIN POLLUTANT
DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM**

In compliance with the provisions of Chapter 283, Wisconsin Statutes, any facility engaged in

PIT/TRENCH DEWATERING

located in the State of Wisconsin and meeting the applicability criteria listed in this General Permit, is permitted to discharge these wastewaters directly to surface waters of the state and/or indirectly to groundwaters of the state in accordance with the effluent limitations, monitoring requirements and other conditions set forth in this permit.

State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
For the Secretary

By *Susan L. Sylvester*
Susan L. Sylvester
Director, Bureau of Water Quality Management

8-27-12
Date Permit Signed/Issued

PERMIT TERM: EFFECTIVE DATE - September 01, 2012 EXPIRATION DATE - August 31, 2017

1 APPLICABILITY CRITERIA

1.1 Activities Covered: This permit applies to activities that result in the discharges from dewatering operations, including pumping or draining water from construction pits and dewatering well systems. Except as provided in Section 1.2 of this permit, the following wastewaters are eligible for coverage under this permit:

- 1.1.1 Discharges from the dewatering of construction trenches and pits;
- 1.1.2 Discharges from the dewatering of trenches and pits associated with sewer and water main construction;
- 1.1.3 Discharges from the dewatering trenches or pits associated with other pipeline construction;
- 1.1.4 Discharges from sites that utilize water injection/application during the backfilling of a trench or pit at the site; or
- 1.1.5 Discharges from draining and/or maintaining the function of sedimentation basins and ponds.

Note: A high capacity dewatering well system must obtain approval from the Bureau of Water Supply before initiating operation, if the total design pump capacity proposed for the dewatering system is greater than 70 gpm.

1.2 Activities Not Covered: This permit does not apply to discharges that meet any of the following conditions:

- 1.2.1 Discharges covered by the general WPDES construction site storm water discharge permit issued pursuant to ch. NR 216, Wis. Adm. Code;

Note: The construction site general permit does not typically cover discharges from high capacity dewatering well systems. If such discharges are routed around or by-pass the storm water runoff control system, they are not covered by the construction site storm water general permit.

- 1.2.2 Discharges from pit dewatering operations associated with coal, salt, food by-products, or other storage piles where the discharge may be contaminated with pollutants other than suspended solids;
- 1.2.3 Discharges of contaminated groundwater (treated or untreated);
- 1.2.4 Discharges to a natural wetland where the Department has determined that the discharge of pollutants will not meet the wetland protection requirements of ch. NR 103, Wis. Adm. Code;
- 1.2.5 Discharges directly to an outstanding resource water as defined in s. NR 102.10, Wis. Adm. Code, or discharges that would lower the water quality of downstream outstanding resource waters;
- 1.2.6 Discharges directly to an exceptional resource water as defined in s. NR 102.11, Wis. Adm. Code, or discharges that would lower the water quality of downstream exceptional water resources;

1.2.7 Discharge to a 303d listed water body or a TMDL covered waterbody that is not in conformity with best management practices or the TMDL load allocation. Typically a discharge that is in compliance with the general permit requirements will also be in compliance with an impaired water objectives or TMDL requirements.

1.2.8 Discharges containing pollutants that are not regulated by this permit and the pollutant quantities must be limited to prevent harm to animals, aquatic life, or human health or would violate any of the surface water quality standards in chs. NR 102, NR 105, NR 106, and NR 207, Wis. Adm. Code or the groundwater standards in ch. NR 140, Wis. Adm. Code. Chemical additives used to flocculate colloidal clay must be reviewed to determine compliance with this requirement.

2 REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL COVERED FACILITIES

The following requirements apply to all facilities covered by this permit. Facilities discharging to either groundwaters or surface waters are required to meet the following requirements:

2.1 Dikes and Berms

Dikes or berms constructed as part of a treatment or seepage facility shall be designed and operated to have no above-ground leakage through or over the outer surface of such dikes or berms.

2.2 Adequate Design

Constructed disposal or treatment facilities shall have sufficient capacity to contain all wastewater discharges and any precipitation resulting from a 10-year, 24-hour storm event which falls within or flows into the area of disposal or treatment. The discharge of wastewater from the site shall not cause the erosion of soils in the receiving area or at the site where the discharge enters surface waters.

3 DISCHARGES TO GROUNDWATER

Discharges to groundwater that contain dewatering wastewater from a covered activity shall comply with the limits and requirements listed below. Samples collected to fulfill the monitoring requirements shall be taken at each outfall following treatment (if applicable) and prior to discharge to groundwater. The samples taken shall be representative of the discharge to groundwater.

3.1 Table 1

Limitations for Groundwater Discharges		Monitoring Requirements	
Parameter	Daily ^(a) Maximum	Sample ^(b) Frequency	Sample ^(c,d) Type
Flow (Total Gallons Per Day)	-	Daily	Estimate
Oil and Grease See 3.5	15 mg/l	Annually, or as specified in 3.2 & 3.3	Grab

- (a) Daily maximum effluent limitation is to be compared with each analysis for that day. Compliance is achieved when the result of each analysis is less than the maximum daily effluent limitation. If multiple samples are collected, all the test results shall be reported as separate values.
- (b) Quarterly sample frequency means performing the associated monitoring at least once during each of the four calendar quarters (Jan.-March, April-June, July-Sept., Oct.-Dec.). If there is no discharge during a quarter, the permittee shall enter a zero flow for that quarter on the annual discharge monitoring report.
- (c) Flow estimate means a reasonable approximation of the average daily flow of process wastewater to groundwater based on amounts of makeup water added to a pond, estimates of pond seepage based on hydraulic conductivity and head, meter measurements of discharge to a seepage area, any other method specified in s. NR 218.05(1), Wis. Adm. Code. Seepage flow estimates need not include storm water that falls within the boundaries of or diffusely enters a pit or infiltration area.
- (d) A grab sample means a single sample taken at one moment of time or a combination of several smaller samples of equal volume taken in less than a two-minute period.

3.2 Sample Frequency

The sample frequency for flow and oil and grease shall be annually as described in Table 1 above, unless the Department specifies the following frequency:

- (a) One time per day on two different days during the first five days of discharge.
- (b) One time per week during the second through fifth calendar week of discharge.
- (c) One time per month after the fifth week for the remaining duration of the project.

The Department shall evaluate factors such as the frequency of the discharge, volume of the discharge, duration of the discharge and permit compliance to determine if a sample frequency of daily, weekly, monthly or annually is required. Reporting of results shall be as specified in the letter of coverage and at a minimum, shall be by January 15th of the following year.

3.3 Removal of Oil and Grease Monitoring

The Department may waive, by letter, monitoring for oil and grease based on an inspection of a given site a given site demonstrating that oil and grease are not a concern, monitoring results, or documented practices implemented at a given site that prevent oil and grease from entering the pit or trench.

3.4 Solids Removal

Solids shall be removed from seepage areas, if needed, to maintain the absorptive capacity of the soil and prevent plugging.

3.5 Oil and Grease

Any discharge to groundwater that contains oil or grease, based on test result(s) or as evident by an oil sheen or oil film on the surface of the water within the seepage area, or by an accumulation of oil or grease on the soil surface within the seepage area is prohibited by this permit. Dewatering activities shall be halted or reduced or alternative disposal methods shall be implemented immediately upon identification of the conditions stated in this section. The visible or physical presence of oil and grease shall be reported on a daily log.

4 DISCHARGES TO SURFACE WATER

Discharges to surface waters from a covered activity shall comply with the limits and requirements listed below. Samples collected to fulfill the monitoring requirements shall be taken at each outfall following treatment (if applicable) and prior to discharge to surface waters. The samples taken shall be representative of the discharge to surface waters.

4.1 Table 2

Limitations for Surface Water Discharges		Monitoring Requirements	
Parameter	Daily ^(a) Maximum	Sample ^(b) Frequency	Sample ^(c,d) Type
Flow (Total Gallons Per Day)	-	Daily	Estimate
Flow – number of days of discharge	-	Quarterly	Record # of days with discharge flow in the quarter
Total Suspended Solids See 4.5	40 mg/l	Quarterly, or as specified in Part 4.2	Grab or 3-Grab Composite
Oil and Grease See 4.6	15 mg/l	Annually, or as specified in Part s 4.2 & 4.3	Grab

(a) Daily maximum effluent limitation is to be compared with each analysis for that day. Compliance is achieved when the result of each analysis is less than the maximum daily effluent limitation. If multiple samples are collected, all the test results shall be reported as separate values.

(b) Quarterly sample frequency means performing the associated monitoring once during each of the four calendar quarters (Jan.-March, April-June, July-Sept, and Oct.-Dec.). If there is no discharge during a quarter, no sampling is required, and the permittee shall enter a zero flow for that quarter on the annual discharge monitoring report.

(c) An estimate means a reasonable approximation of the average daily flow based on s. NR 218.05(1), Wis. Adm. Code, or any other method approved by the Department.

(d) A grab sample means a single sample taken at one moment of time or a combination of several smaller samples of equal volume taken in less than a two-minute period. A composite sample may be created by combining at least 3 individual grab samples of equal volume, taken at approximately equal intervals over a 3-hour period.

4.2 Sampling Frequency

The sample frequency for flow, total suspended solids and oil and grease shall be quarterly or annually as described in Table 2 above, unless the Department specifies the following frequency:

- (a) One time per day on two different days during the first five days of discharge.
- (b) One time per week during the second through fifth calendar week of discharge.
- (c) One time per month after the fifth week for the remaining duration of the project.

The Department shall evaluate factors such as the frequency of the discharge, volume of the discharge, duration of the discharge and permit compliance to determine if a sample frequency of daily, weekly, monthly or annually is required. Reporting of results shall be as specified in the letter of coverage and at a minimum, shall be by January 15th of the following year.

4.3 Removal of Oil and Grease Monitoring

The Department may waive, by letter, monitoring for oil and grease based on an inspection of a given site demonstrating that oil and grease are not a concern, monitoring results, or documented practices implemented at a given site that prevent oil and grease from entering the pit or trench.

4.4 Visible Foam and Floating Solids

There shall be no discharge of floating solids or visible foam in other than trace amounts for any discharge to surface waters.

4.5 Total Suspended Solids Limitations

The discharge shall not exceed a daily maximum effluent limitation for total suspended solids of 40 mg/L. Daily maximum effluent limitation means the limitation placed on each effluent characteristic which is to be compared with each single daily analysis. Compliance is achieved when the result of each analysis is equal to or less than the maximum daily effluent limitation.

4.6 Oil and Grease

Any discharge to surface water that contains oil or grease, based on test result(s) or as evidenced by an oil sheen or oil film on the surface of the water being discharged or within the settling area is prohibited by this permit. Dewatering activities shall be halted or reduced or alternative disposal methods shall be implemented immediately upon identification of the conditions stated in this section. The visible or physical presence of oil and grease shall be reported on a daily log.

4.7 Solids Removal

Solids shall be removed from settling treatment systems to maintain hydraulic capacity and prevent carry-over of solids.

4.8 Impaired Waters & TMDL Requirements for Surface Water Discharges

4.8.1 Once each calendar year, the permittee shall determine whether its facility discharges a pollutant of concern to an impaired water body listed in accordance with Section 303(d)(1) of the Federal Clean Water Act, 33 USC §1313(d)(1)(C), and the implementing regulation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 40 CFR §130.7(c)(1). Impaired waters are those listed as not meeting applicable surface water quality standards, or a discharge to a water body included in a State and Federal Approved TMDL. This determination shall be made at the time of requesting coverage for a new discharge or once annually for reoccurring or continuous discharge locations.

Note: The section 303(d) list of Wisconsin impaired surface water bodies may be obtained by contacting the Department or by searching for the section 303(d) list on the Department's Internet site. The Department updates the section 303(d) list approximately every two years. The updated list is effective upon approval by EPA. The current link to the section 303(d) list is:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/wqs/303d/> .

Note: A "Pollutant(s) of concern" means a pollutant that is contributing to the impairment of a water body. State and Federal Approved TMDLs can be identified by contacting the Department, or by searching for the State and Federal Approved TMDL list on the Department Internet site. The current link to identify the list of State and Federal Approved Final TMDLs is:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/wqs/303d/TMDL.html> .

4.8.2 If the discharge is to a 303(d) or TMDL water body, the permittee shall report by January 15, the discharges for the previous year including the locations, average and total discharge flow, days of discharge, average pollutant of concern concentration and total annual load discharge of the pollutant of concern for the past calendar year, if not already reported earlier as directed by the letter granting coverage. The permittee shall keep a record of the pollutant control method and conduct an estimate of the amount of pollutant discharge reduction that was achieved.

4.8.3 If the discharge is to a 303(d) or TMDL water body, the permittee shall report by January 15, the discharges for the previous year including the locations, average and total discharge flow, days of discharge, average pollutant of concern concentration and total annual load discharge of the pollutant of concern for the past calendar year, if not already reported earlier as directed by the letter granting coverage. The permittee shall keep a record of the pollutant control method and conduct an estimate of the amount of pollutant discharge reduction that was achieved.

4.8.4 The permittee may not establish a new wastewater discharge of a pollutant of concern to an impaired water body or significantly increase an existing discharge of a pollutant of concern to an impaired water body unless the new or increased discharge does not contribute to the receiving water impairment, or the discharge is consistent with a State and Federal approved total maximum daily load (TMDL) baseline allocation for the impaired water body.

5 STANDARD REQUIREMENTS

5.1 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.

5.2 Spill Reporting for Hazardous Sub: 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).

5.3 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.

5.4 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.

5.5 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.

5.6 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).

5.7 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).

5.8 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 described in s. NR 205.07(1)(g).

5.9 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.

5.10 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 secs. NR 205.07(1)(f) and (r) and as described below. 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 data is generated, whichever is longer.

5.11 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 the analysis was performed,

The individual who performed the analysis,

The analytical techniques or methods used, and the results of the analysis.

5.12 More Frequent Monitoring: If the permittee monitors any parameter more frequently than required by the permit, using test procedures specified in ch. NR 204 or 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.

5.13 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.

5.14 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>.

5.15 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.

5.16 Work near Surface Waters and Wetlands: Any work performed in wetland areas or within areas subject to local floodplain and shoreland regulations must conform to all applicable county or local ordinances. All applicable state permits and/or contracts required by chs. 30, 31 and 87, Wis. Stats. (or Wisconsin Administrative Code adopted under these laws), and applicable federal permits must be obtained as necessary.