

Key Changes to NCG140000, NCG150000, and NCG24000 General Permits in 2022

NCG14 Key Changes

- Sampling schedule switches from semi-annually to quarterly
- Adding pH to stormwater sampling requirements
- Adding pH benchmark for saltwater receiving waters
- Registration for eDMR emphasized

NCG15 Key Changes

- Adding analytical monitoring (TSS, pH, Conductivity, COD, Non-Polar Oil & Grease)
- SWPPP Requirements for deicing operations
- Registration for eDMR emphasized

NCG24 Key Changes

- Registration for eDMR emphasized
- Added SA classification to group of classifications to which composting operations are NOT eligible to obtain GP to discharge.

Fact Sheet info: Composting operations directly or indirectly discharging to especially protected receiving waters (receiving waters classified as **ORW, HQW, trout waters, PNA waters, SA waters, areas with special water quality management strategies** established in North Carolina rules at 15A NCAC 2B .0200, and zero-flow streams as described in 15A NCAC 2B .0206) are **not eligible** for coverage under this General Permit. SA waters was added to this list because it is a more highly sensitive classification that was previously omitted. *DEMLR believes that while exceptions to this prohibition may be warranted on a case-by-case basis, individual permits should be strongly preferred for such facilities.*

- Added BOD5 to stormwater discharge monitoring requirements.

Fact Sheet info: Examination of monitoring data appear to indicate that the majority of the compost facilities covered under NCG24 are Type 1 and not monitoring for process wastewater. BOD5 has been required to be monitored in process wastewater, but not stormwater. With no facilities monitoring process wastewater, there are no data to indicate whether BOD5 is occurring at concentrations of concern. For this next permit cycle BOD5 will be added to the stormwater monitoring discharge, so that there will be BOD5 stormwater discharge data to examine.

- Added Enterococcus to stormwater discharge monitoring requirements.

Fact Sheet info: 2013 Benchmark Rational document recommends Enterococcus monitoring for discharge to saltwaters. Since compost facilities are not allowed to discharge to SA waters, this monitoring will only pertain to facilities discharging to SB or SC waters.

- Removed Pb and Zn from stormwater discharge monitoring requirements.

Fact Sheet info: DEMLR reviewed 2014-2021 stormwater discharge data from about ten composting facilities permitted under NCG24. At all the facilities examined, Pb was either below the benchmark value or not detected and Zn was only detected above the benchmark value twice. Data support removing Pb and Zn monitoring from the permit. Another reason to remove Zn monitoring is because background Zn levels sometimes cause problems at facilities. Cu monitoring will remain in the permit because there were several instances of stormwater discharges with Cu levels above the benchmark.