

Water

Industrial User Pretreatment Permit

What Activities Require This Permit? Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) are required to have a pretreatment program if process wastewater from significant industrial user(s) (SIU) is accepted by the POTW. A POTW may be a city, town, county, sanitary district or sewer authority. An Industrial User (IU) is broadly defined to cover any user of a collection system and wastewater treatment plant that conducts commercial and/or industrial scale operations that result in a discharge into the POTW. These users are not generally defined as a private residence, although some commercial operations at a home may make them an IU. A permit is required where an IU is defined as a significant industrial user. A SIU may be a large facility that discharges industrial process wastewater, a small operation, an operation covered under federal regulations or as something that is not typically considered an industry (such as hospitals or commercial laundries).

What Is The Purpose of This Permit? This permit program protects the environment and the POTW that is technically feasible and judicially defensible. Pretreatment permitting protects the state's waterways by preventing "pass-through" of wastes resulting in compliance problems with discharge limits, interference and inhibition with the collection system and the POTW, and to prevent the production of biosolids residuals or sludges that have unacceptable levels of substances or have such characteristics that they are not acceptable for land farming operations. In addition, the permit also works to protect that health and safety of wastewater treatment system workers.

Who Issues This Permit? The POTW is the control authority that actually issues this type of permit. Federal and State pretreatment regulations require the local delegated pretreatment program to effectively control and document the discharge of wastewater from Significant/Categorical Industrial Users to the POTW. It is the POTW's responsibility to ensure that these objectives are consistently met. The Division of Water Resources (DWR) – Municipal Unit (formerly identified as the PERCS Branch) conducts reviews of program elements for the control authority to assure that they meet regulatory requirements. After approval is granted, the control authority or POTW may issue permits and oversee compliance for industrial users it serves. The Industrial Users Permit (IUP), Sewer Use Ordinance (SUO), local limits review, long-term and short-term monitoring plans assists the control authority in meeting both state and federal requirements.

How Much Will This Permit Cost? Local POTWs are authorized to charge fees and these may vary depending on the local program.

What Are My Payment Options for Permit Application Fees? Check with the local governing authority.

If Paying by Check, Who do I Make the Check Payable to and Where Do I Send the Check? Check with the local governing authority.

Where Can I Get The Application For This Permit? All Significant Industrial Users who discharge waste into a POTW or construct or operate a pretreatment facility are required to obtain a permit from their respective control authority. POTWs are required to submit signed Industrial Use Permits (IUPs) to the N.C. Division of Water Resources upon issuance. The DWR-Municipal Unit also provides various permitting forms, guidance documents, calculation sheets and other relevant materials to POTWs and industrial users. These may be obtained by going to the following link: <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-permits/percs/pretreatment-permits>.

How Long Will It Take To Review My Application? The POTW director is required to take action on all applications by either issuing a pretreatment permit or by denying the discharge not later than 90 days following the receipt of a complete application. The DWR has 30 days from the receipt of the pretreatment permit to make comments and unless an objection is specified by the division, the pretreatment permit shall be final and binding. In the event that DWR objects, the POTW has 60 days upon receipt of the objection to resubmit the pretreatment permit to address that objection. If this period of time expires, pretreatment permit authority passes to the Division.

Where Do I Submit My Application? The local POTW that serves as the controlling authority issues pretreatment permits. Where the division has an objection that is not satisfied by the controlling authority, the DWR may issue a permit based on conditions in rules.

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How Long Is My Permit or License or Certificate Valid? The pretreatment permit cycle is typically five years. Typical IUP renewals involve a new application and start a new five-year cycle when a previous Industrial Use Permit expires, is about to expire, anticipates a major expansion of the industrial operation(s), or there is an ownership change. IUP modification(s) may occur within the five-year time frame and do not involve a new application but usually a letter from the SIU requesting the change. The POTW may also request modification of an IUP.

Notes/Comments: Rules governing pretreatment are in title 15A North Carolina Administrative Code 2H (15A NCAC 2H. 0900).

Legal Authority/Statute Reference: GS 143-215.1 thru GS 143-215.3; GS 143-215.6(a) (1); GS 153A-274; GS 153A-275

Link: <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-permits/percs/pretreatment-permits>

Statewide Contact Information:

NC Division of Water Resources

Water Resources- Municipal Unit

1617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1617

Permitting Contacts (see NPDES Municipal Permitting Staff): <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-quality-permitting/npdes-wastewater/permitting-contacts>