

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

FACT SHEET ON RENEWAL OF ANIMAL WASTE
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM STATE GENERAL PERMITS
AND FARM DIGESTER SYSTEM GENERAL PERMITS

1. TYPES OF OPERATIONS COVERED

A. Activities Covered by this General Permit

On the basis of an advisory work group, thorough staff review, and application of North Carolina G.S. §143-215.10C et seq., North Carolina Session Laws 2023-63 and 2021-78, and North Carolina Administrative Code Title 15A Subchapter 02T, and other lawful standards and regulations, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality proposes to renew with modifications, the Non-Discharge Animal Waste Management System General Permits and the Non-Discharge Farm Digester System General Permits for animal operations. It is proposed that these General Permits be revised for the following operations:

- AWG100000 – Swine Waste Management System General Permit
- AWG200000 – Cattle Waste Management System General Permit
- AWG300000 – Poultry Waste Management System General Permit
- AWG400000 – Swine Farm Digester System General Permit
- AWG500000 – Cattle Farm Digester System General Permit
- AWG600000 – Poultry Farm Digester System General Permit

B. Geographic Area(s) Covered by these General Permits

Animal waste operations covered by these General Permits are located within the political boundary of the State of North Carolina.

C. Types of Wastewater Produced

“Animal waste” will consist of livestock or poultry excreta or a mixture of excreta with feed, bedding, litter, or other materials from an animal operation. (GS 143-215.10B), (15A NCAC 2T .0103)

D. Description of Typical Treatment Facilities.

The animal waste management systems covered by these permits include some type of animal waste collection (flush, pit recharge, scraped lots, etc.) with transmission pipes, lagoons or ponds to collect, treat and store the waste, land application equipment and sufficient acreage for application of the animal waste at agronomic rates. For Farm Digester Systems, the collected waste is first treated in a digester for the capture and use/transfer of biogas as a renewable energy resource. The remaining waste (digestate) may then be further treated and stored before being land applied at agronomic rates.

Animal waste is usually applied by using permanent or mobile pumps and piping to traveling gun reel systems but could also use a solid set irrigation system, a transportation and application vehicle system such as a honey wagon, and other forms of application systems for the animal waste.

2. BASIS FOR ISSUANCE OF THE GENERAL PERMITS

The basis of the renewal of the animal waste management system general permits and farm digester system general permits is that the existing general permits expire on September 30, 2024. NC G.S. §143-215.10C authorizes the operation of the animal waste management systems and farm digester systems in this State. 15A NCAC 02T .0111 establishes conditions for issuing non-discharge general permits. The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has also developed a series of minimum standards and specifications for animal waste management practices. The NRCS Standards have been adopted by reference in 15A NCAC 2T .1304 (b)(1). The Draft General Permits contain many of the requirements currently contained in the existing state Non-Discharge General Permits for animal operations. Differences however include but are not limited to elimination of obsolete conditions, updating general statute and NRCS Standards citations, and technical corrections for clarification.

The Division held two technical stakeholder workgroup sessions and one public stakeholder input session, that included representatives of environmental protection and natural resources conservation groups, representatives of community-based groups, farmers, representatives of the livestock industry, academia, and other interested parties. These meetings were conducted in-person to provide input into the development of the revised Draft General Permits. All stakeholders had a sixty (60) day comment period to provide input in the development of the revised Draft General Permits. The information provided through the stakeholder process was a key factor in the development of the current Draft General Permits.

Individual Permits will be required when coverage under a General Permit is not appropriate.

3. THE ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

The administrative record, including draft permits, fact sheet, and additional information is available for review and copying at the Division of Water Resources, Archdale Building – Room 640-X, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh, North Carolina 27604 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday excluding State Holidays.

Copies of the Draft Animal Waste Management and Farm Digester System General Permits (in English and Spanish), Fact Sheet, Press Releases, Public Notice, Stakeholder summaries and information for the Public Meetings can be found at:

deq.nc.gov/animalpermits2024

A copy of the draft animal waste General Permits and fact sheets are also available by writing or calling:

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1636 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1636
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4. PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR ANIMAL WASTE GENERAL PERMITS

- August 4, 2023 – Draft General Permits to public notice
- October 5, 2023 – Public Meeting – James Sprunt Community College, Kenansville
- October 10, 2023 – Public Meeting – Wayne Community College, Goldsboro
- October 24, 2023 – Public Meeting – Statesville Civic Center, Statesville
- October 26, 2023 – Online Public Meeting – WEBEX – deq.nc.gov/animalpermits2024 for link
- *October 19, 2023 – Back-up Public Meeting (in event of severe weather conditions preventing public meetings on Oct 5 or 10) – James Sprunt Community College, Kenansville
- October 1, 2024 – General Permits scheduled issuance date

5. EFFECTIVE DATE AND LENGTH OF THE GENERAL PERMIT

The general permits will have an effective date of October 1, 2024 and remain effective until September 30, 2029. Each facility will be covered under an animal waste general permit by issuance of a certificate of coverage for the respective permit.

6. COMMENT PERIOD

The comment period for these draft General Permits will last until November 3, 2023. All comments received prior to that date will be considered in the formulation of final determinations with regard to these General Permits. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed General Permits to the mailing address below or via email. All comments and requests regarding this matter should make reference to permit numbers AWG100000, AWG200000, AWG300000, AWG400000, AWG500000, and/or AWG600000.

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By voicemail: 919.707-3705

By email: PublicCommentsDWR@deq.nc.gov