**The NPDES permitting program's objective is to reduce the pollutant load entering the waters of the state by:**

1. Educating the permitted community about wastewater and stormwater pollutants,
2. Encouraging the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize the entry of pollutants into the waters of the state via wastewater and stormwater discharges, and
3. Using collected analytical data to assess these discharges contribution to water pollution to help prioritize controls in problem areas.

**Changes in Reissued General Permit**

Several important changes from the previous version of this permit are:

* Effluent limitations and monitoring requirements for air compressor condensate and similar wastewaters have been removed from Part I, Section B. (1.) and included in a new table, found in Part I, Section B. (2.).
* Part I, Section C. has been added to further clarify reporting requirements.
* Part I, Section D. has been added to further clarify the role of ORCs for non-classified facilities covered under this general permit.
* Additional language has been added to Part I, Section E:4 to further clarify sampling requirements.
* Additional language has been added to Part I, Section A. to specify which dischargers are ineligible for coverage.

**Key Permit Requirements**

* Semi-annual or quarterly effluent monitoring of parameters specified in Part I, Section B.
* All samples should be collected before the effluent joins or is diluted by any other wastestream, water or substance. (Part I, Section B.1, 2, & 3, Part II, Section D:1)
* The permittee shall give notice to the Division of any planned physical alterations or additions to the system that could significantly increase the quantity of pollutants discharged or introduce new pollutants to the discharge. (Part II, Section E:3)
* Any exceedances of the permit limits must be reported to the Division within 24 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances. (Part II, Section E:6)

**Coverage Under This Permit**

This permit covers the following types of discharges:

* Non-contact cooling water and water used in industrial processes for the sole purpose of cooling machinery and other equipment. Contact cooling water discharges require an individual NPDES permit. Non-contact cooling water is defined as water used for cooling which does not come into direct contact with any raw material, intermediate product, waste product or finished product.
* Condensate wastewater from atmospheric cooling systems (air conditioners, etc.)
* Blowdown wastewaters. Blowdown is defined as the minimum discharge of recirculating water for the purpose of discharging materials contained in the water, the further buildup of which would cause concentration in amounts exceeding limits established by best engineering practice.
* Exempt stormwater, which is defined as discharges of stormwater which do not require permits under the state or Federal NPDES programs. Exempt stormwater includes stormwater which accumulates in outdoor basins or ponds designed for cooling water or other waters covered by this permit.
* Water associated with hydroelectric power facilities, including cooling waters, waters from sumps and drains, dam seepage and exempt stormwater.
* Other similar wastewaters which may qualify for coverage under this General Permit.

Facilities that qualify as a Major discharger, as classified by the EPA, are ineligible for coverage under this General Permit.

**Other sources of information on North Carolina's NPDES General Permits Program**

The Division of Water Resources website is can be found at <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources>.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

1. **Do I need to submit the monitoring results annually?**

No. The submission of monitoring reports for this permit is not required. There are no standardized Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) associated with this permit. All monitoring results should be kept on site for three years. The Division may request these reports for review at any time. (Part II, Section E:1)

1. **Do I need to employ a certified wastewater treatment plant operator to manage and run the system?**

Not at this time. The Division’s Operator Training and Certification Unit does not currently plan to classify these types of facilities for the purposes of needing a certified operator. The requirement was left in the permit at this time with clarification, in the event that classification was assigned in the future. (Part II, Section C:1)

1. **Where do I find my stream classification?**

The stream classification, i.e. WS-IV, C, Tr, etc. can usually be found in the Certificate of Coverage or the Division’s Website at: <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/planning/classification-standards/classifications>

1. **Does a certified lab need to be used to analyze samples?**

Yes, a North Carolina certified lab must be used to perform analytical monitoring. The only exception to this rule is when measuring the value of pH. pH values should be measured in the field because they may change considerably between when the sample is taken, and it is analyzed at the laboratory. A list of certified labs is available from the Division.

1. **What if I sell my business or the name of my business changes?**

The Division views changes of name or ownership as a minor modification and requires the Director's approval. Name and ownership changes require you to complete a Name/Ownership Change Form. The forms are available on our web site: <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-quality-permitting/npdes-wastewater/npdes-compliance-and-0>

1. **When does my permit expire and how do I renew it?**

The expiration date of the permit is on the first page of the General Permit. This General Permit expires on November 30, 2025.