



Technical Bulletin

General Permit NCG550000

Single Family Residences

and other 100% Domestic Discharges

with Similar Characteristics

Revised

October 30, 2020

Who Is Covered Under This Permit?

This permit covers discharges of treated domestic wastewater from single family residences and other 100% domestic discharges with similar characteristics at flows not to exceed 1,000 gallons per day. Other types of facilities discharging less than 1,000 gallons per day of treated domestic wastewater may be covered under this permit with the approval of the Division.

Changes in Reissued General Permit

The previous General Permit expired October 31, 2020. The permit has been reissued for an additional five years. The new permit contains the following significant changes from the previous version:

- The following exclusions from coverage were removed from Part I, Section A. (1.):
 - a. Waters classified as HQW (High Quality Waters) (excluding WS-II)
 - b. Waters located in the Falls Lake Watershed
- The previous general permit included one effluent table. For this renewal monitoring requirements will be separated into the following effluent tables in Part I, Section C:
 - C. (1.) Discharges to Freshwater (Class B and C waters only)
 - C. (2.) Discharges to Saltwater (Class SB and SC waters only)
 - C. (3.) Discharges to High Quality Waters (HQW) and Nutrient Sensitive Waters (NSW) [including Water Supply Waters (WS-II, WS-III, WS-IV, and WS-V)].

Notice of Intent (NOI)

The NOI requires updated buffer requirements aligning with 15A NCAC 02T .0506, and the sign-off of a professional engineer for all new systems. There were also changes and updates made to the Notice of Intent (NOI) which is filed to gain coverage under this permit, which can be downloaded at: <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-quality-permitting/npdes-wastewater/npdes-permitting-process-1>.

Key Permit Requirements

- Annual sampling of the effluent from the system is required. The parameters to be sampled can be found in Part I, Section A. A North Carolina certified laboratory should be contacted to perform the analytical monitoring. A list of certified laboratories can be obtained by contacting the Division.
- All samples should be collected before the effluent joins or is diluted by any other wastestream, water, or substance. [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.

These alterations include any types of residence/facility expansions. [Part II, Section E. (3)]

- Submission of monitoring reports is not required. All monitoring information must be retained on site for a period of 3 years. [Part II, Section E. (1)]

Minimum Treatment System Requirements

- Dechlorination is now required for all facilities installing chlorination after the effective date of the final permit.
- Risers will be required on all new septic tanks making them easier to locate.
- System requirements for existing (previously constructed) systems are a septic tank, sand filter and disinfection apparatus. All existing facilities adding chlorination after August 1, 2007 will also be required to add dechlorination. System requirements for a new (not yet constructed) system are a septic tank, primary and secondary (or recirculating) sand filters, chlorination/dechlorination (or equivalent means of disinfection) and post-aeration apparatus.

Operation and Maintenance

In order to protect water quality and to ensure proper operation of domestic wastewater systems, the following measures should be taken:

- Check the septic tank every year to see if solids should be removed.
- Have the septic tank pumped out every three to five years. Contact a local septic service/repair company for this service.
- Inspect disinfection and dechlorination equipment (if applicable) weekly to confirm proper operation.
- If a chlorinator and/or dechlorinator is installed, replace tablets whenever necessary.
- Unless the ultraviolet disinfection unit is monitored by telemetry, the unit shall be checked weekly. The lamp(s) and quartz sleeve(s) shall be cleaned or replaced as needed to ensure proper disinfection.
- Accessible sand filter surfaces shall be raked and leveled every six months and any vegetative growth shall be removed manually.
- All pump and alarm systems shall be inspected monthly.

Tips for Maintaining Your Septic Tank

The septic tank is usually a watertight concrete box buried in the ground outside the house. Wastewaters from the house, including the toilets, shower, bathtub, washing machine and dishwasher flow into the tank. Heavier solid materials settle to the bottom and the liquid flows out of the tank into a soil drainfield. Both the septic tank and drainfield must be properly

maintained for the system to work correctly for any years. Some tips for maintaining your septic system are:

- Do not put too much water into the septic system. Try to conserve water wherever possible.
- Do not add materials such as chemicals, sanitary napkins, or other foreign objects.
- Restrict the use of your garbage disposal.
- Do not pour grease or cooking oils down the drain.
- Have the solids pumped out of the septic tank every 3-5 years.
- Keep automobiles and heavy equipment off of the septic tank and drain field.

Chlorination and Dechlorination Tablets

If the treatment system has a chlorinator or dechlorinator, it is important that there is an adequate supply of tablets to ensure proper operation. There will usually be a white PVC pipe sticking up from the chlorinator/dechlorinator where the tablets should be inserted. Tablets can be obtained from most plumbing supply stores. Make sure that the tablets are certified for wastewater use. Chlorine tablets are NOT the same type of chlorine used for swimming pools.

Signs of Septic System Problems

Some of the signs that your septic system may be having problems are:

- Sewage backing up into your toilets, tubs or sinks.
- Slowly draining fixtures; particularly after it has rained.
- The smell of raw sewage accompanied by soggy soil over the drainfield.
- Sewage discharging over the ground or in nearby ditches or woods.

If you see any of these signs, contact a septic repair company.

Right-of-Way

Issuance of this general permit does not relieve the permittee from obtaining all necessary right-of-way or easement rights to discharge wastewater on or across another property.

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)]
- 2) 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)]
- 3) 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 map that accompanies the COC. If you are unsure of your

stream classification, you can contact the NPDES Permitting Program.

4) 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 pulled and it is analyzed at the laboratory. A list of certified labs is available from the Division.

5) What If I Sell My Property?

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 by contacting the NPDES Permitting Program at (919) 707-9000 or online at <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-quality-permitting/npdes-wastewater/npdes-compliance-and-0>.

6) When does my permit expire and how do I renew it?

CoCs under NCG550000 will be automatically renewed so long as the CoC holder [permittee] pays all the annual fees for the CoC. No renewal application is required, unless the Division specifically requests one.

Contact Us

For additional information on NPDES wastewater permitting and compliance, please contact us at:

N.C. Division of Water Resources
Water Quality Permitting Section
1617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1617
Phone: (919) 707-9000

You may also contact the local DWR Regional Office at:

- Asheville: (828) 296-4500
- Fayetteville: (910) 433-3300
- Mooresville: (704) 663-1699
- Raleigh: (919) 791-4200
- Washington: (252) 946-6481
- Wilmington: (910) 796-7215
- Winston-Salem: (336) 776-9800

The DWR Water Quality Permitting Section can be accessed on the internet at: <http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-permits>. Copies of the General Wastewater Permits, technical bulletins, application fees, guidance documents, and miscellaneous forms may be downloaded from this web site.

Another source of information on regulatory requirements for all media is the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Environmental Assistance & Customer Service, which can be reached at 1-877-623-6748.