

# National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Electronic Reporting for Conventional Wastewater Individual *(includes municipal and industrial WWTPs)* and General Permitted Facilities

## What is changing with NPDES reporting?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently published the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Electronic Reporting Rule. The rule **requires** NPDES regulated facilities to report information **electronically, instead of filing written paper reports**. The rule does not change what information is required from facilities. It only changes the method by which information is provided (i.e., electronic rather than paper-based).

## Why is EPA requiring electronic reporting?

Electronic reporting will save you time and money by eliminating paper reports. EPA also expects electronic reporting to save time and resources for the government, increase data accuracy, improve compliance, and support the goal of providing better protection of the nation's waters.

## What information must I submit electronically and by when?

If you are currently required to submit **Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs)**, you must submit them electronically **starting on December 21, 2016**, unless your permit directs otherwise or you receive a waiver.

If you are currently required to submit **Biosolids/Sewage Sludge Annual Program Reports**, you must also submit them electronically **starting on December 21, 2016**, unless your permit directs otherwise or you receive a waiver.

The rule also requires electronic reporting of certain other NPDES reports, including:

- Notices of Intent to discharge (NOIs) under a general permit
- Notices of Termination (NOTs) of coverage under a general permit
- Pretreatment Program Annual Reports
- Sewer Overflow/Bypass Event Reports
- Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 316(b) Annual Reports

If you are required to submit these reports, the deadline to begin submitting them electronically is December 21, 2020, unless your permit directs otherwise or you receive a waiver.

For more details on what information must be submitted electronically and when, visit [\[web link\]](#)<sup>[MV1]</sup> or contact Vanessa Manuel at 919/807-6392 or via email at [Vanessa.Manuel@ncdenr.gov](mailto:Vanessa.Manuel@ncdenr.gov).

## How do I submit NPDES information electronically?

Electronic submission for DMRs uses a web-based tool developed to capture discharge monitoring information. You will only need a computer, an Internet browser (e.g., Microsoft Internet Explorer), and high-speed access to the Internet (i.e., DSL, fiber optic). The tool to submit DMRs is called eDMR and it communicates securely, requiring passwords and known responses to security questions. At this time, eDMR is not compliant with the electronic signature component of EPA's electronic reporting requirements. As a result, eDMR users are required to complete their eDMR submission by printing, signing, and submitting signed copies of the eDMR to NC DWR. The state will update eDMR participants when full compliance with EPA's electronic reporting requirements has been achieved. For additional information on eDMR, visit <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/edmr>.

At this time, NC DWR is in the process of determining the specific method that will be employed to electronically report the other NPDES reports. Electronic reporting tools being investigated include using EPA's tools directly, installing and hosting a version of EPA's tools, or developing a custom-built system. The tools that are used will communicate securely and provide the electronic submittals with the same level of legal dependability as paper submittals.

## Are waivers from electronic reporting available?

Yes. The rule provides flexibility to grant temporary waivers from electronic reporting. To obtain an electronic reporting waiver, you must first submit an electronic reporting waiver request to NC DWR. For more information on waivers, visit [\[web link\]](#)<sup>[MV2]</sup> or contact Vanessa Manuel at 919/807-6392 or via email at [Vanessa.Manuel@ncdenr.gov](mailto:Vanessa.Manuel@ncdenr.gov).

## I am already submitting DMRs electronically. What do I need to do?

Continue reporting your DMR data electronically in the same way as you are now. The key change is that, starting **December 21, 2016**, electronic reporting of DMRs will be required, instead of voluntary. Although there could be minor changes in the details (e.g., additional forms used or required), the overall electronic reporting process is likely to change very little.

## Where can I find more information?

- For more details on what information must be submitted electronically and when, visit [\[web link\]](#)<sup>[MV3]</sup> or contact Vanessa Manuel at 919/807-6392 or via email at [Vanessa.Manuel@ncdenr.gov](mailto:Vanessa.Manuel@ncdenr.gov).
- For additional information on NC DWR's electronic reporting tool, eDMR, visit <http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/edmr>.
- For more information on waivers from electronic reporting, visit [\[web link\]](#)<sup>[MV4]</sup> or contact Vanessa Manuel at 919/807-6392 or via email at [Vanessa.Manuel@ncdenr.gov](mailto:Vanessa.Manuel@ncdenr.gov).
- For general information on EPA's NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule, visit <http://www2.epa.gov/compliance/final-national-pollutant-discharge-elimination-system-npdes-electronic-reporting-rule>.