

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

**FACT SHEET**  
**ANIMAL WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS**  
**NPDES GENERAL PERMITS**

Date: June 13, 2022

**1. TYPES OF OPERATIONS COVERED**

A. Activities Covered by NPDES General Permits

On the basis of preliminary staff review and application of Article 21 Part 1A of Chapter 143, General Statutes of North Carolina, North Carolina Administrative Code (NCAC) 15A 02T Section .1300, and other lawful standards and regulations, the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission proposes to renew, with modifications, the NPDES General Permits for animal operations. It is proposed that these NPDES General Permits be issued for the following types of operations;

NPDES General Permit NCA200000 - Swine Operations  
NPDES General Permit NCA300000 - Cattle and Dairy Operations  
NPDES General Permit NCA400000 - Poultry Operations with a liquid animal waste management system

Each of the three (3) Draft Permits contain the same Draft conditions except as follows:

NPDES General Permit NCA200000 - Swine Operations

Contains an additional language in condition I.7 related to new and expanding swine operations.

These three (3) NPDES General Permits are proposed to replace current NPDES General Permits NCA200000, NCA300000, and NCA400000 that expire on June 30, 2022.

Facilities that discharge waste to surface waters are proposed to be issued coverage under NPDES general or individual permits. These NPDES permits must be written to comply with both state and federal requirements.

The Division has determined that NPDES general permits are the appropriate mechanism to address the majority of the animal operations that are subject to the requirements of the NPDES program and the Clean Water Act. General permits may be written to regulate categories of facilities that involve the same or substantially similar operations; have similar discharge

characteristics; require the same effluent limitations or operating conditions; require the same or similar monitoring; and the opinion of the Director of the Division are more appropriately controlled by a general permit. The Director may however determine that providing coverage under a NPDES general permit is inappropriate for a particular operation and may require such a facility to apply for an individual NPDES permit.

Pursuant to 15A NCAC 02T .0111(h), the Director may require any person, otherwise eligible for coverage under a general permit, to apply for an individual permit by notifying that person that an application is required. Notification shall consist of a written description of the reason(s) for the decision, appropriate permit application forms and application instructions, a statement establishing the required date for submission of the application, and a statement informing the person that coverage by the general permit shall automatically terminate upon issuance of the individual permit.

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

Animal operations covered by these NPDES 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 general permits normally include some type of collection system (flush, pit recharge, scraped lots, etc); pipes or ditches for transmission of the waste; lagoons or ponds to collect, treat and store the waste; irrigation or land application equipment; and sufficient acreage for application of the animal waste at agronomic rates.

Animal waste is usually applied to the land by using permanent or mobile pumps and piping to send the waste to traveling gun reel systems, solid set irrigation system, honey wagons, or center pivot irrigation systems. The waste can also be land applied using a transportation and application vehicle system such as manure spreaders or honey wagons.

**2. BASIS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GENERAL PERMITS**

The basis for the renewal of the animal waste general permits is that the existing general permits expire on June 30, 2022. These permits apply to animal waste management systems subject to regulation under 40 CFR 122.23, G.S. 143-215.10C, and NCAC 15A 2T Section .1300. These laws and regulations authorize the operation of the animal waste management systems in this State. 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 .1305 (b)(1). Updates to the draft permits include but are not limited to implementation of EPA electronic

reporting requirements, updating general statute and NRCS Standards citations, and technical corrections for clarification.

The basis of the animal waste NPDES general permits can be found in General Statute 143-215.1 and 143-215.10C. As a result of lawsuits and directives from the Environmental Protection Agency, draft NPDES general permits have been developed for animal operations meeting certain criteria. 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 incorporation of federal requirements, additional operational requirements, additional monitoring requirements and additional reporting requirements.

Individual permits will be required of facilities when coverage under a general permit is not appropriate.

### **3. THE ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD**

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

Copies of the draft permits and fact sheets are available at <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-quality-permitting/animal-feeding-operations> or by contacting:

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Paper copies of the administrative record will be provided at a charge of 10 cents per page.

### **4. EFFECTIVE DATE AND LENGTH OF THE GENERAL PERMITS**

The general permits are schedule for issuance in July 2022 and will be effective on July 1, 2022 for a period of five years. Each facility will be covered under an animal waste general permit by issuance of a certificate of coverage (COC).

### **5. PROCEDURES FOR THE FORMULATION OF FINAL DETERMINATIONS**

The Division of Water Resources pursuant to NCGS 143-215. 4(b) (1) and (2) and 15A NCAC 2T .0111 has determined that it is the public interest to receive pertinent public comment on whether to issue, not issue or modify the Draft General Permits. All information received prior to 5:00 PM, July 15, 2022 will be taken into consideration in finalizing the permit decision.

Comment Period

The comment period for these draft general permits will last until 5:00 PM on July 15, 2022. All comments received prior to that date will be considered in the formulation of final determinations with regard to these permits. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed general permits to the address below.

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