

Water

Authorization to Construct (ATC)

What Activities Require This Permit? An Authorization to Construct (ATC) is required for the construction activities for a domestic wastewater treatment facility where a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Permit (NPDES) has been issued by the N.C. Division of Water Resources. No facility can begin construction and no construction contracts can be awarded until final plans and specifications have been submitted and an Authorization to Construct has been issued to the permittee.

What Is The Purpose of This Permit? To make sure that construction of wastewater treatment systems meet minimum design criteria such that they are engineered to function for their intended purpose and be protective of the environment.

Who Issues This Permit? N.C. Division of Water Resources, NPDES Permitting

How Much Will This Permit Cost? \$1000; Authorization to construct application fees are for a wastewater treatment plant expansion, upgrade, replacement, or repair.

What Are My Payment Options for Permit Application Fees? Not applicable

If Paying by Check, Who do I Make the Check Payable to and Where Do I Send the Check? Not applicable

Where Can I Get The Application For This Permit? An application form and instructions may be obtained from the web site at <http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-permits/wastewater-branch/npdes-wastewater/authorization-to-construct>. The applicant should also review the document titled "Minimum Design Criteria for NPDES Wastewater Treatment Facilities" also at <http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-permits/wastewater-branch/npdes-wastewater/authorization-to-construct>.

How Long Will It Take To Review My Application? Where a new or expanding treatment system is proposed with a discharge to the waters of the state, an NPDES Permit must be issued prior to an ATC. Assuming the applicants have submitted complete packages and all other regulatory approvals obtained, the standard review process for Authorizations to Construct is 90 days. Where construction to an existing NPDES permitted treatment system does not involve expansion or meeting stricter effluent limits, the standard review process for Authorization to Construct is 30 days.

Where Do I Submit My Application? Division of Water Resources, NPDES Permitting, 1617 Mail Service, Raleigh, NC 27699-1617.

How Long Is My Permit or License or Certificate Valid? Once issued, ATCs are valid if they are applied for in accordance with the requirements of the NPDES Permit for the engineering and construction activities during the term of the permit.

Notes/Comments: Forms may be obtained by contacting the DWR – NPDES Permitting staff and web page. Rules governing "Authorizations to Construct (ATC)" are found in 15A NCAC 02H .0138.

For a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW), submittals must be made prior to exceeding 90 percent of the systems permitted hydraulic capacity. Note that no submission will be accepted if it is made before the establishment of effluent limits or not before a draft NPDES permit has been sent to public notice.

Legal Authority/Statute Reference: GS 105-275.8; GS 133-3; GS 143-215.1; GS 143-215.3(a); GS 143-215.6A; and GS 143-215.6B

Link: <http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-permits/wastewater-branch/npdes-wastewater/authorization-to-construct>

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Continued

Statewide Contact Information:

NC Division of Water Resources
NPDES Permitting
1617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1617
Telephone: (919) 807-6396
Fax: (919) 807-6489