

## National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Non-Storm Water, Surface Water Discharges

Are you discharging wastewater to a separate storm sewer, river, lake or stream without a necessary wastewater discharge permit?

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is undertaking an initiative to assist dischargers who may be releasing wastewater or storm water to the ground or surface waters of the state without necessary permit coverage. The goal of this initiative is to help facilities comply with our water quality laws, especially Section 324.3112 of the Natural Resources Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. Facilities that have never had a permit and are discharging wastewater or storm water without necessary permit coverage may apply for a permit without being subject to the fines and penalties associated with discharging without the permit, so long as they voluntarily submit a Certificate of Entry of the General Administrative Consent Order for Unpermitted Discharges by September 30, 2006. Enrollment in this program will require the submission of the following: a Certificate of Entry of the General Administrative Consent Order that resolves the past violations for discharging without a permit, a permit fee for fiscal year 2006, and a complete permit application to be submitted within sixty days of submission of the Certificate of Entry.

There are two usual ways that facilities obtain coverage under the NPDES permit program for industrial wastewaters, specifically an individual permit or a general permit. An individual NPDES permit is site specific. The limitations and requirements in an individual permit are based on the permittee's discharge type, the amount of discharge, facility operations (if applicable), and receiving stream characteristics.

A general permit is available to permittees with certain similar operations and/or types of discharge. Coverage under a general permit will only be granted when the general permit provides the needed level of protection for the receiving water. Wastewater discharges at certain locations may require an individual permit based upon site-specific concerns. Facilities that are determined to be eligible for coverage under a general permit receive a Certificate of Coverage (COC) from the Water Bureau (WB) usually within four to six weeks of submitting a complete application. Some general permits include: Public Swimming Pool Wastewater, Sand and Gravel Mining Wastewater, Wastewater from Cleanup of Water Contaminated by Gasoline and Related Petroleum Products, Noncontact Cooling Water, and Hydrostatic Pressure Test Water.

To apply under this special initiative, the following must be submitted in accordance with the instructions provided therein:

- A notarized [Certificate of Entry form](#), which states you agree to the terms of the [General Administrative Consent Order](#) (ACO), (found at: [www.michigan.gov/deqwater](http://www.michigan.gov/deqwater), under "Spotlight.")
- Annual [permit fee](#), which is determined based upon wastewater characteristics. The Appendix provides the applicable permit fee information.

The Certificate of Entry form will require a permit application to be filed within 6 months of entry. In addition to the permit application, an application fee will need to be sent with the application. [Applications](#) for discharge permits are available from the WB Lansing office (517) 241-1300 or your local WB district office. You can get help filling out your application by contacting either of these offices. Additional information is also available on the Internet at [www.michigan.gov/deqwater](http://www.michigan.gov/deqwater) (select "Surface Water" then "NPDES Permits). If you need assistance finding a staff contact, then you can also contact our Environmental Assistance Center at 1-800-662-9278.



Appendix

SUMMARY OF NPDES FEES FOR DISCHARGES OTHER THAN STORM WATER

**SB 252 OF 2004**

**Permit Application Fees**

EPA major facility, individual permit .....	\$750.00
EPA minor facility individual permit, CSO permit, or .....	\$400.00
wastewater stabilization lagoon individual permit	
EPA minor facility, general permit .....	\$75.00

**Annual Permit Fees**

**EPA Major Facility Fees**

Industrial-Commercial facilities.....	\$8,700.00
Municipal 500 MGD or greater .....	\$213,000.00
Municipal 50 MGD to less than 500 MGD .....	\$20,000.00
Municipal 10 MGD to less than 50 MGD .....	\$13,000.00
Municipal less than 10 MGD.....	\$5,500.00

**EPA Minor Facility Fees**

Industrial-Commercial General Permit, high-flow .....	\$400.00
Industrial-Commercial General Permit, low-flow.....	\$150.00
Industrial-Commercial Individual Permit, high-flow.....	\$3,650.00
Industrial-Commercial Individual Permit, low-flow .....	\$1,650.00
Municipal, 10 MGD or greater .....	\$3,775.00
Municipal, 1 MGD to less than 10 MGD .....	\$3,000.00
Municipal, less than 1 MGD.....	\$1,950.00
Municipal, General Permit, high-flow.....	\$600.00
Municipal, General Permit, low-flow .....	\$400.00
Municipal CSO .....	\$6,000.00
Wastewater Stabilization Lagoon .....	\$1,525.00

**Agricultural Purpose Fees**

Individual or General Permits .....	\$600.00
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**Unless the facility is an:**

EPA Major Facility (excluding Farmers' Cooperative Corporations).....	\$8,700.00
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**Or an**

EPA Minor Facility (must qualify for a low-flow general permit).....	\$150.00
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**Definitions**

MGD = 1,000,000 gallons per day  
 High Flow = 1 MGD or greater  
 Low Flow = Less than 1 MGD

This document was produced by the MDEQ Water Bureau in conjunction with the Environmental Science and Service Division and is intended for guidance only. Reliance on information from this document is not usable as a defense in any enforcement action or litigation.