

Technical Bulletin for N.C. General Stormwater Permit NCG190000

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Revised 6/04/2015

What activities are covered by this general permit?

NCG190000 allows stormwater discharges associated with activities classified as establishments primarily engaged in: Operating **Marinas** [standard industrial classification (SIC) 4493] **that provide vehicle maintenance activities**, and **Ship and Boat Building and Repairing** [SIC 373]; and like activities deemed by the Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources (DEMLR) to be similar in the process and/or the exposure of raw materials, products, by-products, or waste materials.

- *This general permit does not authorize discharges at the facility containing waste streams including, but not limited to, bilge and ballast water, cooling water, sanitary wastes, power and hand washing, blasting, sanding, and fish cleaning stations. A separate wastewater permit may be required for these and other similar wastewater discharges.*

What are the key permit requirements?

- Implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SPPP) (Part II, Section A).
- Provide secondary containment for all bulk storage of liquid materials (Part II, Section A, 2.(b)).
- Perform, document, and report analytical and qualitative monitoring during a **measurable** storm event twice each year. At the same time perform and document visual monitoring twice each year (Part II, Section B & C).

What has changed since the last renewal?

- Made it easier to sample during a *measureable storm event* (new term), rather than a *representative storm event* (previous permit) (Part IV Definitions).
- Replaced Oil and Grease with a more specific **Non-polar Oil & Grease** test with a lower benchmark of 15 mg/L.
- ***Twice-per-year monitoring of pH is no longer required.***
- Refinements and clarifications to the SPPP requirements (refer to Part II, Section A).
- The permit allows forgoing sampling if *adverse weather* conditions prevent collection (Part IV Definitions).
- Permittee is *not required* to obtain runoff samples outside of normal operating hours.
- **A lower TSS benchmark of 50 mg/L for stormwater discharges into especially protected waters.**
- New provisions for e-reporting (eDMR), once DEMLR capabilities for eDMR are established.

What are BMPs and why are they important?

A facility's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan should include Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control the discharge of pollutants from all stormwater outfalls. BMPs include a variety of measures that help minimize the potential for pollutants to enter stormwater that drains from a facility. There are different types of BMPs:

Non-structural (practices or activities) BMPs include:

- Eliminating exposure of materials and equipment whenever possible by moving them to indoor locations.
- Practicing good housekeeping on-site. Handle and store materials at the facility in an orderly fashion.
- Exchanging hazardous materials for non-hazardous ones wherever possible.
- Establishing routine leak and maintenance checks to minimize any chance of spills occurring. Clean up all spills immediately.
- Establishing bulk storage tank protocols that minimize the risk of spills during loading and unloading.
- Maintaining wash pads and keeping them clear of paint chips, debris, and particles.

Structural (equipment or devices) BMPs include:

- Containment dikes around the loading areas of bulk liquid storage containers.
- Roofs and secondary containment around materials so that they are not exposed to stormwater.
- Collection systems around boat wash areas to direct wash water to a holding tank or sanitary sewer.
- Converting from a liquid operation to a dry operation for hull maintenance and cleaning.
- Collection of debris from paint chips in boat maintenance areas to minimize contamination of stormwater.
- Hull maintenance practices that are performed on dry land as far away from the water as possible.

Frequently Asked Questions

Could I be exempt from a NPDES stormwater permit?

Possibly. Facilities with industrial activities subject to NPDES stormwater regulations that eliminate all potential stormwater exposure may be eligible for a No Exposure Exclusion from a permit. Facilities that meet this condition may apply by submitting a *No Exposure Certification* application (see link below). Facilities **must re-certify** "No Exposure" status every five years.

What if I sell my business, or the name changes?

This is a minor modification that requires approval of DEMLR's director before a permittee is absolved of responsibility for the permit. To request this change, complete and submit a *Name/Ownership Change Form SWU-239*.

Do I have to monitor all the outfalls?

Yes. However, you may request Representative Outfall Status (ROS). If approved, this status allows analytical monitoring at fewer outfalls. To make this request, submit a *ROS Request Form*.

Who inspects my site, and for what?

DEMLR regional office staff may visit the site to see if you have the permit, an acceptable **SPPP**, and that you are following your **SPPP**. These inspections may be routine or they may be the result of public complaints. *Please take compliance seriously!* Facilities that violate stormwater permit conditions may be subject to fines. Civil penalties of up to **\$25,000 per day** may be assessed for each violation.

Other resources

In addition to the DEMLR Stormwater Permitting Program's website below, the DEACS (Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service) is a valuable resource. The DEACS has specific information about how to minimize pollutants at various industries. Call (877) 623-6748 or visit: <http://ncdenr.org/web/deao/>

Does a certified lab need to analyze my samples?

Monitoring under NPDES permits must be conducted in accordance with test procedures approved in federal regulations in 40 CFR §136. All labs certified by North Carolina perform analysis in accordance with those procedures. While N.C. certification requirements do not apply to testing *stormwater-only* discharges, data gathered under an NPDES permit **must still conform to federal requirements**. Using a North Carolina certified lab is one way to ensure compliance. A list of certified labs is available from: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/lab/cert/cerlablists>

Can my boat wash water be discharged to or with my stormwater?

No. Boat wash water, whether from hand washing or power washing, is considered **wastewater**. This stormwater permit does not authorize wastewater discharges. Wastewater is not allowed to mix,

or be "diluted", with stormwater for discharge at a stormwater outlet unless permitted by a separate wastewater permit. Once stormwater commingles with wastewater, it is all considered wastewater and must be handled as such.

A separate wastewater permit is required in order to discharge wastewater. Some possible alternatives (which may require an additional separate permit) for minimizing wastewater discharge to surface waters include: discharge to a municipal wastewater treatment plant, water recycling, conversion of activities to dry processes which allow for easy clean-up and maintenance and proper disposal of waste generated from industrial activities.

The NCG190000 permit is applicable to a marina that offers vehicle maintenance service, which includes boat cleaning. It is not applicable for an individual washing their own boat at a marina. However, it is highly encouraged that facilities educate and monitor the use of appropriate BMPs by boat owners when washing their boats to minimize potential impacts to surface water.

Who can help me with questions?

Your questions about stormwater permit requirements can be addressed to the DEMLR Offices:

Asheville Office.....	(828) 296-4500	Washington Office.....	(252) 946-6481
Fayetteville Office.....	(910) 433-3300	Wilmington Office.....	(910) 796-7215
Mooresville Office.....	(704) 663-1699	Winston-Salem Office....	(336) 776-9800
Raleigh Office.....	(919) 791-4200	Central Office.....	(919) 707-9200



Helpful Links:

DEMLR Stormwater Permitting Program:
<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/lr/stormwater>
 Or <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/lr/npdes-stormwater>