

# Technical Bulletin for General Stormwater Permit NCG210000

Technical Bulletin for NCG210000, Volume V

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## What activities are covered by this general permit?

NCG210000 allows stormwater discharges associated with establishments primarily engaged in manufacturing **Timber Products** [standard industrial classification (SIC) 24] and activities deemed by DEMLR to be similar in the process and/or the exposure of raw materials, products, by-products, or waste materials. **In 2011, the general permit was modified to cover discharges from Wood Chip Mills, which were previously excluded.**

*Excluded:* Wood Kitchen Cabinets [SIC 2434], Wood Preserving [SIC 2491], and Logging [SIC 2411].

## 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 and document qualitative monitoring during a measurable storm event (Part II, Section C).
- Perform analytical monitoring twice per year if storing exposed accumulations of sawdust, wood chips, bark, mulch, or like materials on site for more than seven (7) days, and submit the results on the monitoring report forms provided with the permit (Part II, Section B).

## What has changed since the last renewal?

Some of the major changes since the last renewal include:

- Refinements and clarifications to the SPPP requirements; refer to Part II, Section A.
- Provisions to allow permittees to petition the DEMLR Regional Office Supervisor for relief from monitoring.
- It should be easier for monitoring to take place during a *measurable storm event* (new term) rather than a *representative storm event* (old term); refer to Part II, Section B.
- The requirement for twice per year monitoring of pH has been eliminated; refer to Part II, Section B.
- The TSS benchmark has been lowered to 50 mg/L for discharges into some especially sensitive waters; refer to Part II, Section B.
- The tiered response structure has been modified to allow the DEMLR Regional Office Supervisor to grant relief from Tier Two monthly monitoring; refer to Part II, Section B.

## What are BMPs and why are they important?

The SPPP should include “Best Management Practices” (BMPs) to control discharge of pollutants from a facility's stormwater outfalls. BMPs include a variety of things that help minimize the potential for pollutants to get into the stormwater draining from a facility. There are different types of BMPs:

### *Non-structural (practices or activities) BMPs include:*

- Eliminating exposure of materials and equipment wherever 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 & maintenance checks to minimize chance of spills. Clean up spills immediately.
- Establishing bulk storage tank protocols that minimize the risk of spills during loading and unloading.
- Store used pallets and process waste dumpsters inside or under roof so water can't flow on or around them.

### *Structural (equipment or devices) BMPs include:*

- Containment dikes around the loading areas of bulk liquid storage containers.
- Changing painting operations from liquid systems to powdered systems that do not generate solvent waste.
- Roofs and secondary containment around materials stored outside so that stormwater cannot contact them.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Could I be exempted from an NPDES stormwater permit?

Possibly. A facility with industrial activity subject to the NPDES Stormwater regulations that eliminates all potential stormwater exposure may be eligible for a No Exposure Exclusion from a permit. A facility that meets this condition may submit a No Exposure Certification application (see our website below).

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

This change is a minor modification and requires the Director's action to transfer permit coverage. Complete the Name/Ownership Change Form SWU-239, is available on our website:

<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/lr/npdes-stormwater>

### 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 request ROS, submit a ROS Request Form SWU-ROS to the DEMLR Regional Office. The form is available on our website (see above).

### Does a certified lab need to analyze my samples?

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

### How big of a pile triggers monitoring?

The permittee must perform analytical monitoring if the facility stores exposed accumulations of sawdust, wood chips, bark, mulch, or similar materials for longer than seven (7) days. The permit does not specify a size threshold because a large area covered in “small mounds” could impact stormwater as much as one large pile. If reasonable judgment tells you there are piles on site, monitoring is required unless that material is removed within a week. Also, remov-

ing only the top portion of piles and leaving significant amounts of the material on the bottom **does not satisfy** the monitoring exemption. Furthermore, in some cases NCDENR may determine leachate from such piles is a wastewater. The facility should prevent discharge of pile leachate as much as possible.

### Do I have to keep a record of every little piece of sawdust to prove I don't have to monitor?

No. However, if the facility “opts out” of analytical monitoring because it removes piles within a week's time, DWQ expects the facility to keep a record of when the material was generated, and when and how it was removed to demonstrate short periods of storage.

### If I'm sampling my discharge, do I do qualitative monitoring at the same time?

Yes.

### Who can I call with questions?

Please contact Stormwater Permitting Program staff at the office nearest your location. Help is also available from the NCDENR's Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service at 1-877-623-6748.

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) 771-5000
Raleigh Office	(919) 791-4200	Central Office	(919) 807-6300

### Online resources

N.C. Stormwater Permitting Program <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/lr/stormwater>

N.C. Stormwater BMP Manual <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/lr/bmp-manual>

Permit Applications and Forms (downloads) <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/lr/npdes-stormwater>

Interactive Permitting Map [http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/lr/swmaps#Interactive\\_Map](http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/lr/swmaps#Interactive_Map)

Map of Regional Offices <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/home>