

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

**FACT SHEET ON RENEWAL OF ANIMAL WASTE**  
**MANAGEMENT SYSTEM STATE GENERAL PERMITS**

**1. TYPES OF OPERATIONS COVERED**

A. Activities Covered by this General Permit

On the basis of an advisory work group, thorough staff review and application of Article 21 of Chapter 143, General Statutes of North Carolina, North Carolina Administrative Code (NCAC) 15A 2T Section .1300, and other lawful standards and regulations, the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission proposes to renew, with modification, the Non-Discharge General Permits for animal waste operations. It is proposed that these General Permits be revised for the following operations:

General Permit AWG100000 – Swine Operations  
General Permit AWG200000 – Cattle and Dairy Operations  
General Permit AWG300000 – Poultry Operations with Liquid Waste Management Systems

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

Animal waste operations covered by these 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 permits include some type of collection (flush, pit recharge, scraped lots, etc) with transmission ditches or pipes, lagoons or ponds to collect, treat and store the waste, irrigation equipment and sufficient acreage for application of the animal waste at agronomic rates. Animal waste is usually applied by using permanent or mobile pumps and piping to traveling gun reel systems but could also use a solid set irrigation system, a transportation and application vehicle system such as a honey wagon, and other forms of application systems for the animal waste.

## **2. BASIS FOR RENEWAL OF THE GENERAL PERMITS**

The basis of the renewal of the animal waste general permits is that the existing general permits expire on September 30, 2019. NCAC 15A 2T .1300 authorizes 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 .1304 (b)(1). 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 elimination of obsolete conditions, updating general statute and NRCS Standards citations, and technical corrections for clarification. Some of the key differences are as follows:

- Addition of statutory and/or regulatory reference for every permit condition.
- Phosphorus Loss Assessment requirement for fields with soil test P-index above a given threshold value.
- Update mortality management condition, including specifications for use of burial.
- Addition of requirement for rainbreakers.
- Clarify requirement to cease waste application prior to tropical storm/hurricane about 24 hours before onset of storm event.
- Set deadline for removal of hay bales from application fields
- Addition of groundwater monitoring requirement for lagoons/structures in 100-year floodplain.
- Addition of Annual Reporting requirement
- Increase records retention from three years to five years.

The Division held one extensive stakeholder meeting, including a public meeting, that included farmers, representatives of the livestock industry, representatives of environmental protection and natural resources conservation groups, representatives of community-based groups, academia, and other interested parties. These meetings were conducted to provide input into the development of the revised Draft General Permits. The information provided through the stakeholder process was a key factor in the development of the current Draft General Permits.

Individual Permits will be required of facilities when coverage under a General Permit is not appropriate.

## **3. THE ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD**

The administrative record, including draft permits, fact sheet, and additional information is available for review and copying at the Division of Water Resources, Archdale Building – Room 640-X, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh, North Carolina 27604 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Copies of the Draft General Permits and Fact Sheet are at:

**<https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-quality-regional-operations/afo>**

A copy of the draft animal waste General Permits and fact sheets are also available by writing or calling:

**Christine B. Lawson**  
**Animal Feeding Operations Program**  
**NC Division of Water Resources**  
**1636 Mail Service Center**  
**Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1636**  
**Telephone number: (919) 707-3664**

#### **4. PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR ANIMAL WASTE GENERAL PERMITS**

Draft General Permits to public notice: January 30, 2019  
General Permits scheduled issuance date: October 1, 2019

#### **5. EFFECTIVE DATE AND LENGTH OF THE GENERAL PERMIT**

The general permits will have an effective date of October 1, 2019 and remain effective for a period of five years. Each facility will be covered under an animal waste general permit by issuance of a certificate of coverage.

##### Comment Period

The comment period for these draft General Permits will last until March 4, 2019. All comments received prior to that date will be considered in the formulation of final determinations with regard to these General Permits. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed General Permits to the mailing address below or via email. All comments and requests regarding this matter should make reference to permit numbers AWG100000, AWG200000, and/or AWG300000.

**NC Division of Water Resources**  
**Animal Feeding Operations Program**  
**1636 Mail Service Center**  
**Raleigh, NC 27699-1636**

##### **Via email:**

AWG100000 to [SwinePermit.Comments@ncdenr.gov](mailto:SwinePermit.Comments@ncdenr.gov)

AWG200000 to [CattlePermit.Comments@ncdenr.gov](mailto:CattlePermit.Comments@ncdenr.gov)

AWG300000 to [WetPoultryPermit.Comments@ncdenr.gov](mailto:WetPoultryPermit.Comments@ncdenr.gov)