

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

**GENERAL PERMIT NO. WQG100000 – Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and  
Accessory Residential Buildings (ARBs)**

PERMITTING ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS AND ACCESSORY RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS TO SHARE A  
COMMON SEWER LINE WITH A PRIMARY RESIDENCE

**15A NCAC 02T.0300**

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §143-215.1 and other regulations promulgated and adopted by the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission, this General Permit is hereby issued to all owners and/or operators, hereafter permittees that have applied for and received a Certificate of Coverage from the N.C. Division of Water Resources to construct and operate:

- a private sewer line that is shared by a primary residence and either an accessory dwelling unit or an accessory residential building up to the point at which the shared private sewer line connects to an existing public or private gravity sewer main, in accordance with the conditions set forth in Parts I, II, and III hereof or
- an existing building sewer that is converted to a shared private sewer line by the addition of an accessory dwelling unit or an accessory residential building; up to the point at which the shared private sewer line connects to an existing public or private gravity sewer main, in accordance with the conditions set forth in Parts I, II, and III hereof.

This permit shall become effective **February 3, 2020**.

This permit shall expire at midnight on **February 2, 2023**.

Signed this day, **February 3, 2020**.



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S. Daniel Smith, Director  
Division of Water Resources  
By Authority of the Environmental Management Commission

**PART I.****SECTION A. Coverage****1. Eligibility for a Certificate of Coverage under this General Permit**

- a. Construction and operation of a private sewer line that is shared by two buildings on the same parcel where one building is an existing primary residence and the other building is either a new accessory dwelling unit (ADU) or new accessory residential unit (ARB);
- b. Construction and operation of a private sewer line that is shared by two buildings on the same parcel where one building is a new primary residence and the second building is either a new ADU or new ARB;
- c. Construction and operation of a private sewer line that is shared by two buildings on the same parcel where one building is an existing primary residence and the second building is an existing building that has been converted to an ADU or ARB by adding a building sewer, as long as the existing building is not already served by a separate building sewer line;
- d. Notwithstanding paragraphs a-c above, to be eligible for a Certificate of Coverage under this General Permit, the parcel containing both the primary residence and the ADU/ARB must have deed restrictions recorded in the county register of deeds office in which the parcel is located that prohibit, in perpetuity, subdivision of the parcel in a way that separates the primary residence from the ADU/ARB.

**2. Limitations on Coverage**

- a. Nothing in this General Permit shall be deemed to apply to or permit disposal systems for which a State National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit or where any other State or local discharge/non-discharge permit is otherwise required.
- b. This permit does not authorize the construction or operation of shared sewer lines in the following configurations:
  - (1) Shared sewer lines that are pressurized;
  - (2) Configurations where a pump station serves both the primary residence and the ADU/ARB;
  - (3) Shared gravity sewer lines with a diameter of less than 4-inches;
  - (4) Sewer lines shared by more than two residential buildings as defined in Part I, Section A(1)(a-c) of this General Permit;
  - (5) Shared sewer lines where either of the two buildings is non-residential (e.g. commercial, industrial, or other); or
  - (6) Shared sewer lines where the ADU is larger than 3-bedrooms, with a calculated flow of 360 gallons per day (GPD) as specified in 15A NCAC 02T.0114.
- c. This General Permit does not authorize shared sewer line extensions that the Division has determined to be or which may reasonably be expected to be contributing to a violation of a

water quality standard (as defined in or NC Administrative Code 15A NCAC 02B .0100, .0200, and .0300).

- d. The Division may modify or revoke this General Permit or coverage under the General Permit per 15A NCAC 02T .0110.
- e. The Division may require an applicant or permittee under this General Permit to apply for an individual permit as set forth in 15A NCAC 02T .0111.
- f. The Division may deny coverage under this General Permit and require submittal of an application for an individual sewer line extension permit based on a review of the Notice of Intent (NOI) or other information.

3. **Coverage of existing sewer systems**

Upon issuance of this General Permit, all existing shared private sewer lines which meet all requirements listed herein shall be considered to be covered under this General Permit. New and currently under construction shared private sewer lines shall not be considered to be covered by this General Permit until a Certificate of Coverage is applied for and obtained.

**SECTION B. Sewer Extension Installation Requirements**

15A NCAC 02T.0300 outlines the rules applying to all sewer extensions. Specific requirements for sewer extensions covered by this General Permit are described below in Part I, Section B(1-3) in accordance with the provisions for alternative sewer designs as outlined in 15A NCAC 02T.0105(n).

**(1) Existing Primary Residence with a New ADU/ARB****a. The Existing Building Sewer Line Serving the Existing Primary Residence**

- i. Existing gravity sewer lines with a diameter of less than 4-inches must be replaced from the point of connection of the ADU/ARB building sewer to the gravity sewer main with a private sewer line of a minimum of 4-inches in diameter.
- ii. The existing line, including pump station and force main as applicable, must be verified by the property owner to be flowing clearly to the main gravity sewer line, prior to application for a Certificate of Coverage under this General Permit. Documentation shall be provided to the local building inspector upon request.
- iii. The existing building sewer, being converted to a shared private sewer line, must meet the separation requirements as outlined in 15A NCAC 02T.0305(f) to the maximum extent possible. These separations shall be achieved, to the maximum extent possible, by locating the tie-in for the new sewer line such that the shared portion of the private sewer line retains the maximum separations possible. In no case shall the tie-in from the building sewer for the ADU/ARB be located closer to the primary residence's foundation/basement, a private well, or swimming pool than the existing building sewer.

**b. The New Sewer Line Serving a New ADU/ARB**

- i. The building sewer may be either a) non-pressurized gravity sewer, with a minimum of 4-inches in diameter in accordance with current NC Plumbing Code or b) a pressurized sewer comprised of a pump station and force main with a diameter of 1.25 to 3 inches.
- ii. If the existing building sewer for the primary residence is comprised of a pump station and force main, the new building sewer for the ADU/ARB must be non-pressurized and tie into the existing pump station or gravity building sewer from the primary residence to the pump station.
- iii. The new building sewer line must be installed to the most current plumbing code requirements.
- iv. All work must be completed by a North Carolina licensed plumber.

**(2) New Primary Residence and New ADU/ARB**

- a. Where both the primary residence and the ADU/ARB are new construction, all separations as outlined in 15A NCAC 02T.0305(f) shall be met. Any deviations from those separations shall negate coverage by this General Permit.

**(3) Miscellaneous**

- a. In no case shall the tie-in from the building sewer for the ADU/ARB be located under the foundation for the primary residence or within the primary residence in any manner.

**SECTION C. Application for Coverage.**

- a. Application for coverage must be made by the property owner or a designated authority to the Division, per Part II, Section B(8) of this General Permit.
- b. Records Retention: The permittee shall retain records of coverage by this General Permit for the lifetime of the shared sewer line extension.

**PART II.  
STANDARD CONDITIONS**

**Section A. Definitions**

**Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)**

A single-family residence comprised of 3-bedrooms or less, constructed on the same parcel as a primary residence.

**Accessory Residential Building (ARB)**

An accessory building to a primary residence, such as a garage or workshop, which may be served by a sewer lateral due to the presence of a sink, shower, toilet, or other fixture.

**Building**

Any structure occupied or intended for supporting or sheltering any occupancy.

**Building Sewer**

That part of the drainage system which conveys the discharge from a single building to a public gravity sewer, private gravity sewer, individual sewage disposal system, or other point of disposal.

**Certificate of Coverage**

A document issued by the Division to a property owner, which states that an eligible primary residence with ADU/ARB, which share a private sewer line at a specific address, are covered under this General Permit.

**Designated Authority**

Any person or corporation authorized by the property owner of the primary residence to sign documents for the purpose of obtaining a Certificate of Coverage under this General Permit.

**DWR or "the Division"**

The Division of Water Resources, N.C. Department of Environmental Quality.

**Gravity Sewer Main**

A sewer located in a dedicated public street, roadway, or right-of-way or easement that is owned or operated by a municipality, county, water and sewer authority, private utility company, Homeowner/Property Owner's Association, or any other public or private entity authorized to construct or operate a sewer system.

**New ADU/ARB**

A new ADU or ARB shall be one where the building sewer serving that building is new, regardless of whether the structure itself was existing previously.

**Permit Issuing Authority**

The Director of the Division of Water Resources.

Permittee

The holder of a Certificate of Coverage as issued by this General Permit.

Primary Residence

A residential building governed by the North Carolina Residential Building Code. May be a single-family residence or a duplex, multi-family residence. Triplex and larger multi-family residential structures, including townhome structures with three or more single family residences, are excluded from this definition and from coverage by this General Permit.

Private Sewer

Any part of a sewer system which collects wastewater from more than one building and is located on private property.

Property Owner

The owner of a parcel on which a primary residence and an ADU/ARB are physically located.

Shared/Common Sewer Line

A gravity sewer line with a diameter of 4-inches or greater, or a pump station with force main; that is shared between two residential buildings.

Single Family Residence

A single, residential building intended to house a single family/family unit.

**Section B. General Conditions**

1. Duty to Comply

The Permittee must comply with all conditions of this permit, including construction of any new private sewer lines. Any permit noncompliance constitutes a violation and is grounds for enforcement action; for permit termination, revocation and reissuance, or modification; or denial of a permit renewal application. The issuance of this permit shall not exempt the Permittee from complying with any and all statutes, rules, regulations, or ordinances that may be imposed by the Division any other Federal, State, or Local government agencies which have jurisdiction or obtaining other permits which may be required by the Division or any other Federal, State, of Local government agencies. [G.S.143-215.1(b); 15A NCAC 02T.0110; 15A NCAC 02T.0111]

2. Duty to Mitigate

In the event that the wastewater collection facilities fail to perform satisfactorily, including the creation of nuisance conditions, the Permittee shall take immediate corrective action, including those as may be required by this Division, such as the construction of additional or replacement facilities. [15A NCAC 02T .0110; 15A NCAC 02T .0108(b)]

3. Permit Transferability

This permit shall not be transferable. In the event there is a desire for the wastewater collection facilities to change ownership, or there is a name change of the Permittee, a formal permit request shall be submitted to the Division accompanied by documentation from the parties involved, and

other supporting materials as may be appropriate. The approval of this request shall be considered on its merits and may or may not be approved. [G.S. 143-215.1(d3)]

4. Operation and Maintenance

The sewer system shall be effectively maintained and operated at all times to prevent discharge to land or surface waters, and to prevent any contravention of groundwater standards or surface water standards. [15A NCAC 02T.0403]

5. Property Rights

The issuance of this permit does not convey any property rights in either real or personal property, or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights, nor any infringement of Federal, State or local laws or regulations.

6. Duty to Provide Information

The Permittee shall furnish to the Permit Issuing Authority, within a reasonable time, any information which the Permit Issuing Authority may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, or terminating this permit or to determine compliance with this permit. The Permittee shall also furnish to the Permit Issuing Authority upon request, copies of records required by this permit. [15A NCAC 02T.0111]

7. Expiration of Permit

The Permittee is hereby authorized to operate the shared sewer line as covered by this permit, in perpetuity, for as long as this General Permit is effective. [15A NCAC 02T.0111]

8. Signatory Requirements

All applications, reports, or information submitted to the Permit Issuing Authority shall be signed and certified [15A NCAC 02T.0106]. All permit applications shall be signed as follows:

- a. For a primary residence as defined in Part II, Section A above, by all owners of that property or by an owner documented as being the designated signature authority by all other property owners.
- b. For a primary residence as defined in Part II, Section A above, by an appropriately designated signatory authority.

9. Certificate of Coverage Actions

Coverage under this General Permit may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for reasons as outlined in 15A NCAC 02T.0111(h) The filing of a request by the Permittee for a modification, revocation and reissuance, or rescission of their Certification of Coverage, or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not stay any permit condition outlined herein [15A NCAC 02T.0111]

10. General Permit Modification, Revocation and Reissuance, or Termination

The issuance of this General Permit does not prohibit the permit issuing authority from reopening and modifying the permit, revoking and reissuing the permit, or terminating the permit as allowed by the laws, rules, and regulations contained in Title 15A of the North Carolina Administrative Code, Subchapter 02T; and North Carolina General Statute 143.215.1 et. al.

**PART III.  
OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

**Section A. Facility Closure Requirements**

The Permittee must notify the Division prior to the closure of any sewer system covered by this permit. The Division may require specific measures during deactivation of the system to prevent adverse impacts to waters of the State. A Certificate of Coverage cannot be rescinded while any activities requiring this permit continue at the permitted facility.

