

FACT SHEET

Comprehensive General Permit for Discharges to Surface Water and Groundwater

Introduction

The *Comprehensive General Permit for Discharges to Surface Water and Groundwater* (Comprehensive General Permit) is a new wastewater discharge general permit that authorizes discharges previously authorized by general permits unique to their discharges (*General Permit for the Discharge of Water Treatment Wastewater*, *General Permit for the Discharge of Minor Non-contact Cooling and Heat Pump Water*, *General Permit for the Discharge of Hydrostatic Pressure Testing Water*, and *General Permit for the Discharge of Minor Boiler Blowdown Wastewater*) as well as some common discharges that were previously not included under any general permit (fire suppression testing wastewater, hydrant flushing wastewater, potable water system maintenance wastewater). The general permits listed above being replaced by the Comprehensive General Permit had also authorized discharges of their respective wastewaters to the sanitary sewer. These sanitary sewer discharges are now authorized by the *General Permit for Miscellaneous Discharges of Sewer Compatible Wastewater*.

Development of the Comprehensive General Permit incorporated the following concepts:

- The consolidation of multiple general permits
- Removal of unnecessary permit conditions
- Focus on end-of-pipe permit effluent limits

Changes to the permits include the following requirements:

- Special conditions requiring an evaluation of new discharges to “impaired waters” or waters that have undergone a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) analysis (Section 3(b)(10)).
- Qualified Professional certification to expedite Department processing of registrations and to ensure that the permittee will be able to comply with general permit terms and conditions (Section 3(b)(12)).
- Submission of a monitoring plan with each registration (Section 4(c)(2)(N)).

- Use of NetDMR to electronically report monitoring results for all discharges to surface water that require a registration (Section 5(f)(1)).
- Common effluent limit tables for all surface water discharges covered by this general permit (Tables 5.2 and 5.3)
- Common effluent limit table for all ground water discharges covered by this general permit (Table 5.8)

Specific Changes from the *General Permit for the Discharge of Minor Non-contact Cooling and Heat Pump Water* (Non-contact Cooling Water General Permit)

Past registrants under the Non-contact Cooling Water General Permit will recognize that many of the conditions from that permit have been carried over to the Comprehensive General Permit. Some of the specific changes under the Comprehensive General Permit include:

- **Increase in the maximum daily flow of a discharge to the ground from 50,000 gallons per day (gpd) to 500,000 gpd** (Section 5(a)(2)(I). This change will allow the discharges from some geothermal heat exchange wells across the state that currently require an individual permit to be covered under the Comprehensive General Permit.
- **Maximum temperature limit of 100°F at point of discharge** (Section 5(a)(1)(B)(ii)). This limit will work in conjunction with the requirements at Section 5(a)(1)(B)(i) that prevent the temperature of the receiving water from exceeding 85° F for freshwaters and 83° F for marine waters.
- **Addition of temperature monitoring for discharges to surface water** (Section 5(c)(9)). Registrants will be required to monitor the temperature of the non-contact cooling water at the discharge point weekly and monitor two points monthly within the receiving waterbody (one upstream of the discharge and one at a sufficient distance downstream to allow for mixing).

Specific Changes from the *General Permit for the Discharge of Water Treatment Wastewater* (Water Treatment Wastewater General Permit)

Past registrants under the Water Treatment Wastewater General Permit will recognize that many of the conditions from that permit have been carried over to the Comprehensive General Permit. Some of the specific changes under the Comprehensive General Permit include:

- **The addition of “Potable water system maintenance of tanks and pipelines” as a discharge category in the Water Treatment Wastewater category section** (Sections 5(a)(3)(O) & (P)) These discharges previously required registration under the Hydrostatic

Pressure Testing general permit or were not covered by any general permit. Maintenance draining of tanks and pipelines was not specifically covered under the Water Treatment Wastewater general permit.

- **Requirement of an Aluminum Effluent Compliance Plan for registrants who cannot meet the aluminum effluent limits in Table 5.3** (Section 5(a)(3)(R)). The aluminum limit has changed from a concentration limit previously independent of the discharge flow to a limit dependent on the ratio of the discharge flow to the 7Q10 low flow of the receiving water body. Registrants who cannot meet this new EPA recommended effluent limit will be required to submit a compliance plan detailing steps their facility will take to meet the aluminum effluent limit within three years of the effective date of the Comprehensive General Permit.

Specific Changes from the *General Permit for the Discharge of Hydrostatic Pressure Testing Wastewater* (Hydrostatic Pressure Testing General Permit)

- **Hydrostatic Pressure Testing of Petroleum Tanks and Pipelines** has been added as a discharge category whereas previously only natural gas pipelines were covered.

New Authorizations under the Comprehensive General Permit

- **Fire Suppression System Testing Wastewater and Hydrant Flushing Wastewater** will be authorized with conditions listed in Section 5(a)(5) & (6)
- **Discharges of Boiler Blowdown Wastewater to the ground** will be authorized with conditions listed in Section 5(a)(7).
- **Discharges of Low Flow Water Treatment Wastewater in Section 5(a)(3)(M & N) which is defined as follows:**

“*Low Flow Water Treatment Wastewater*” or “*LFWTW*” for the purpose of this general permit means:

- 1) a maximum of 500 gallons per day of wastewater generated by a point of entry water treatment device for the treatment of well water used to supply potable water to a residential building or institution or a non-residential building and
- 2) where the treated water is not purchased by another party and
- 3) does not include discharges from treatment system components for the removal of radionuclides and
- 4) the discharge does not fall under the jurisdiction of the CT Department of Public Health.

Registration Information

Table 4-1 (found on page 16 of 65 of the Comprehensive General Permit) provides registration requirements for all discharges authorized by this general permit.

Table 4.1—Registration and Fee Requirements

| Discharge Category | Discharge Location | Maximum Daily Flow (gpd) | Registration Only | Registration with Approval | Fee ¹ | Registration Exemptions | Monitoring Exemptions |
|--|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Noncontact Cooling Water | Surface Water | All Flows | Yes | No | \$625 | See Section 4(a)(2)(A)(i) & (ii) | See Section 5(c)(2)(A) |
| | Groundwater | <5000 ≥5000 | No Yes | No | \$625 | | |
| Water Treatment Wastewater | Surface Water | All Flows | Yes | No | \$625 | See Section 4(a)(2)(B) | See Section 5(c)(2)(B) |
| | Groundwater | <500 ≥500 | No Yes | No ² | \$625 | | |
| Hydrostatic Pressure Testing of Natural Gas/Petroleum Tanks and/or Pipelines Wastewater | Surface Water | All Flows | No | Yes | \$1250 | None | None |
| | Groundwater | | | | | None | None |
| Potable Water System Maintenance of Tanks/Pipelines Wastewater | Surface Water | All Flows | No | No | NA | NA | None |
| | Groundwater | | | | | | |
| Fire Suppression System Testing Wastewater | Groundwater | <5000 | No | No | \$625 | See Section 4(a)(2)(C)(ii) | See Section 5(c)(2)(C)(i) |
| | | ≥5000 | Yes | No | | | |
| | Surface Water | <5000 | No | No | | | |
| | | ≥5000 | Yes | No | \$625 | | |
| Hydrant Flushing Wastewater | Surface or Groundwater | All Flows | No | No | NA | See Section 4(a)(2)(C)(i) | See Section 5(c)(2)(C)(ii) |
| Boiler Blowdown to Ground (to which no chemicals are added) | Groundwater | <5,000 | No | No | NA | NA | None |
| Geothermal Heat Pump Water, Residential Building | Groundwater | <50,000 | No | No | NA | See Section 4(a)(2)(A)(ii) | See Section 5(c)(2)(A) |
| | | ≥50,000— <500,000 | Yes | No | \$625 | | |
| Geothermal Heat Pump Water, Residential Institution or Nonresidential Building | Surface or Groundwater | <500,000 | Yes | No | \$625 | See Section 4(a)(2)(A)(iii) | |

¹Municipalities will receive a 50% discount on fees.

²New discharges of water treatment wastewater generated from the backwash of filtration, reverse osmosis, oxidation/filtration, or ion exchange units greater than 500 gallons per day and directed to the groundwater of the state will require approval

Renewal Registration Timeline

Facilities with an existing authorization under the following general permits, which expire on March 29, 2018, that wish to seek authorization under the Comprehensive General Permit, must file a registration for authorization by June 28, 2018.

- General Permit for the Discharge of Non-contact Cooling Water;
- General Permit for the Discharge of Hydrostatic Pressure Testing Wastewaters;
- General Permit for the Discharge of Water Treatment Wastewater.

For enforcement purposes, failure to submit a registration within 90 days of the effective date of this general permit will be considered to be discharging without a permit.