

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING FACT SHEET GENERAL PERMIT TO DISCHARGE FROM SUBSURFACE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS

Permit Overview

This General Permit is issued under the authority of, and is administered by, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance, Water Permitting and Enforcement Division. DEEP uses both individual and general permits to regulate activities. Individual permits are issued directly to an applicant, whereas general permits are issued to authorize similar activities by one or more registrants throughout a prescribed geographic area. General permits are streamlined regulatory control mechanism that authorize specific categories of discharges that involve the same or substantially the same effluent limitations, operating conditions or standards and require the same or similar monitoring that are designed to protect the waters of the state from pollution.

This General Permit authorizes discharges to groundwater from Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems and any other system utilized for the subsurface disposal of Domestic Sewage as defined in Section 2 of this General Permit (“Subsurface Disposal Systems”) and that meet the requirements of this General Permit.

Authority

The Commissioner of DEEP is authorized to issue such general permits pursuant to Section 22a-430b of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Authorized Activities

This General Permit provides coverage for *domestic sewage discharges to* Subsurface Disposal Systems for activities including:

1. Discharges of domestic sewage with cumulative design flows greater than 7,500 gallons per day to any one site, through one or more subsurface disposal systems;
2. Discharges of domestic sewage through a community sewerage system (e.g., a sewerage system serving 2 or more residences in separate structures not connected to a municipal sewerage system) regardless of design flow; and
3. Discharges of domestic sewage from Existing Sites, as defined in the General Permit, to holding tanks located on sites under an approved Wastewater Management Plan or to address a failing or malfunctioning system.

Discharges from an alternative sewage treatment system are not authorized under this General Permit. The use of Large Capacity Cesspools is prohibited in accordance with Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Sections 144.85 and 144.88.

Environmental Benefit

This General Permit provides an efficient mechanism to authorize new and existing domestic sewage discharges, in order to ensure proper design, construction, operation and maintenance of Subsurface Disposal Systems. The registration process under this General Permit also enables a more streamlined administrative review for proposed repairs and system modifications, (i.e., upgrades), and therefore, results in a quicker elimination of potential threats to public health and the environment.

Requirements for All Authorized Activity

All authorized activities must comply with the conditions set forth in the General Permit, which include requirements for proper design, operation, maintenance and monitoring of all Subsurface Disposal Systems for domestic sewage. Noncompliance with the General Permit may subject such discharger to enforcement action. All authorized activities under the General Permit must comply with all applicable local, state and federal requirements.

Registration

Any person or municipality seeking authorization to discharge under this General Permit must first register. An approved registration will be required for any site not previously registered and authorized to discharge under the *General Permit to Discharge from Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems Serving Existing Facilities*, issued on May 9, 2012, or for any site with a system modification or proposed system including any activity that will increase design flow, result in a modification to a Subsurface Disposal System or impact a potential repair area (e.g. system upgrade/repair, bedroom addition, new facility).

A complete and sufficient registration form is required to be filed for each facility for which the registrant seeks authorization under this General Permit. For any previously unregistered site, the effective date of authorization under this General Permit is the date the Commissioner issues a written approval of such registration.

Any person or municipality previously registered and authorized to discharge under the *General Permit to Discharge from Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems Serving Existing Facilities*, issued on May 9, 2012, is authorized to continue to discharge under this General Permit, provided a complete and sufficient Registration is filed with the Commissioner on or before May 9, 2022.

What must I submit to register?

A registrant must submit to DEEP a complete and sufficient registration form with the appropriate fee, all required supporting documents and certifications in accordance with Section 4(c) of the General Permit. A technical plan is required for each proposed system modification, including any proposed expansion, repair, building conversion or change in use and for any proposed system. A facility Wastewater Management Plan (“WMP”) is also required to be submitted with any registration for a system modification or proposed system associated with a design flow increase, building conversion for existing facilities or for any new site. However, for a facility that meets the definition of an Existing Site under the General Permit, a WMP may be submitted after the date of registration if no system modification or proposed system involves a design flow increase (see Table 1 below).

What is a technical plan and when do I have to prepare one?

A technical plan is required for each proposed system modification or new construction of a Subsurface Disposal System, including any proposed repair or expansion. A technical plan is a plan prepared by a CT licensed Professional Engineer that shows the design of the proposed system and includes all minimum requirements for a technical plan described in Section 4(c)(3)(A) of this General Permit. The technical plan must also be consistent with the approved WMP.

What is a Wastewater Management Plan, when do I have to prepare one and when do I have to modify it?

Wastewater Management Plan (WMP) means an evaluation of a site including, but not limited to, a comprehensive inventory and evaluation of all existing Subsurface Disposal Systems and recommendations for short-term and long-term strategies, objectives and actions to be implemented for proper wastewater management, and a schedule for such implementation. An approved WMP is typically required for each site and the minimum requirements for a WMP are described in Section 4(c)(3)(B) of this General Permit. A WMP may also provide for anticipated future repairs and/or expansions of Subsurface Disposal Systems at the site.

A registrant shall amend and resubmit a WMP for DEEP approval if: 1) there is a change that is either not included in an approved WMP or has the potential to cause pollution of the waters of the state; 2) the actions required by the approved WMP fail to ensure or adequately protect against pollution of the waters of the state; or 3) the Commissioner requires modification of the WMP.

Fees

Each registration shall include the appropriate fee in the form of a check or money order payable to the **Department of Energy and Environmental Protection**. The registration fee is non-refundable. Fees vary based on cumulative site flows, system design flows and type of facility; however, they do not fully account for the time and complexity of review necessary for approval of the activities covered by the general permit.

Discharges eligible for coverage under this General Permit shall be required to meet the registration and fee requirements described in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Registration, Plan Submittal and Fee Requirements for Eligible Discharges

TYPE OF REGISTRATION	PROPOSED ACTIVITY	SUBMIT TECHNICAL PLAN [Section 4(c)(3)(A)]	SUBMIT WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN (WMP) [Section 4(c)(3)(B)]	FEE [Section 4(c)(1)]
Registration of an Existing Site with Community Systems \leq 7,500gpd from all Systems	All	Required with Registration that includes a System Modification or Proposed System	Required within 2 years of Approval of Initial Registration if no System Modification or Proposed System	\$250
Registration of a previously authorized Site pursuant to Section 3(b)(1)(C)	No System Modification or Proposed System	Not Required	Required within 1 year of Approval of Initial Registration for System Modification or Proposed System with no Design Flow increase	
Modification of a Registration for any Site	System Modification or Proposed System	Required with Registration that includes a System Modification	Required with Registration for System Modification or Proposed System with Design Flow increase	
Registration of an existing Site > 7,500 gpd from all Systems	No System Modification or Proposed System	Required with Registration	Required within 1 year of Approval of Initial Registration for System Modification or Proposed System with no Design Flow increase	\$3,000
Registration of a New Site	No System Modification or Proposed System	Not Required	Required with Registration	
Registration of a New Site	System Modification or Proposed System	Required with Registration	Required with Registration	\$6,000

Permit Duration

The General Permit for the Discharge from Subsurface Disposal Systems is effective on the date this permit is issued by the Commissioner and expires ten (10) years from Permit Issuance.

Contact Address

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT AND COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE
WATER PERMITTING AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION
79 ELM STREET
HARTFORD, CT 06106-5127
860-424-3018

This overview is designed to answer general questions and provide basic information. You should refer to the appropriate statutes and regulations for the specific regulatory language of the different permit programs. This document should not be relied upon to determine whether or not an environmental permit is required. It is the registrant's responsibility to ensure that all required permits have been obtained.