



**National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System  
General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater Associated with  
Commercial Activity**

Permit No: GSC000000

**Issuance Date: September 29, 2023**

**Effective Date: October 1, 2023**

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**GENERAL PERMIT FOR THE DISCHARGE OF STORMWATER  
ASSOCIATED WITH COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY**

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## **SECTION 1. AUTHORITY**

This general permit is issued under the authority of Section 22a-430b of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Public Act 91-263.

## **SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS**

The definitions of terms used in this general permit shall be the same as the definitions contained in Section 22a-423 of the Connecticut General Statutes and Section 22a-430-3(a) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. The definition of the term "coastal area" shall be the same as the definition contained in section 22a-94. The definition of the term "coastal jurisdiction line" shall be the same as that contained in section 22a-359 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The definition of the term "coastal tidal waters" shall be the same as the definition contained in section 22a-29 of the Connecticut General Statutes. In addition, the following definitions shall apply:

"Commercial activity" means any activity or facility under Standard Industrial Classifications (SIC) (as defined in "Standard Industrial Classification Manual, Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget 1987") 50-59 and 70-79, with five (5) acres or more of contiguous impervious surface. Impervious surface means roof area, paved walk, paved parking area, paved driveway, paved roadway and any other paved surface. An activity or facility with an SIC code already covered by the General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater Associated with Industrial Activity is not included in this definition. See Appendix A for SIC code descriptions.

"Fresh-tidal wetland" means a tidal wetland with an average salinity of less than 0.5 parts per thousand.

"Inland wetland" means a wetland as that term is defined in section 22a-38 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

"Municipal separate storm sewer" means conveyances for stormwater (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels or storm drains) owned or operated by any municipality and discharging directly to surface waters of the state.

"Permittee" means any person who or municipality which initiates, creates, originates or maintains a discharge to the waters of the state, which discharge is covered under this general permit in accordance with Section 3 of this general permit.

"Point Source" means any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to, any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation, landfill leachate collection system, vessel or other floating craft from which pollutants are or may be discharged.

"Registrant" means a person who or municipality that submits a complete registration in accordance with Section 4 of this general permit.

"Site" means on the same or geographically contiguous property that may be divided by public or private right(s)-of-way.

"Stormwater" means waters consisting of precipitation runoff.

"Stormwater discharge associated with commercial activity" means the stormwater discharge from a point source, which discharge is directly related to the commercial activity, access thereto or parking therefor, including but not limited to stormwater discharged from: ground surfaces within or immediately adjacent to said activity and its access and parking areas; material handling areas; refuse storage or disposal areas; areas used for the storage and maintenance of material handling equipment; shipping and receiving areas; manufacturing buildings; storage areas for raw materials, intermediate products and finished products; and areas where industrial or commercial activity has taken place in the past and where materials remain and are exposed to stormwater.

"Tidal wetland" means a wetland as that term is defined in section 22a-29 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

### SECTION 3. AUTHORIZATION UNDER THIS GENERAL PERMIT

- A. REQUIREMENTS FOR AUTHORIZATION.** This general permit authorizes only discharges comprised solely of stormwater associated with commercial activity, provided that the following conditions are met prior to coverage under this general permit.
1. The discharge is not covered by a permit issued under Section 22a-430 or 22a-430b of the Connecticut General Statutes;
  2. The stormwater is not discharged to a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) unless such discharge consists only of runoff from areas associated with gardening or nursery materials and such discharge has been approved by the POTW. Portions of the site associated with commercial activity discharging to surface waters or a municipal separate storm sewer are still covered by this general permit.
  3. The stormwater is not discharged to ground water. Portions of the site associated with commercial activity discharging to surface waters or a municipal separate storm sewer are still covered by this general permit.
- B. GEOGRAPHIC AREA.** This general permit covers all areas of the State of Connecticut.
- C. EFFECTIVE DATE AND EXPIRATION DATE.** This general permit is effective on the date of issuance by the Commissioner and expires on September 30, 2025.
- D. EFFECTIVE DATE OF AUTHORIZATION.** The effective date of coverage under this general permit is the effective date of this general permit listed in Section 3 Paragraph C above, or the date the commercial activity is initiated, whichever is later.
- E. ISSUANCE OF AN INDIVIDUAL PERMIT.** Under Section 22a-430b of the General Statutes, when an individual permit is issued to a person or municipality for stormwater discharges at the site otherwise covered by this permit, the applicability of this general permit to the individual permittee is automatically terminated on the effective date of the individual permit.

### SECTION 4. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

- A. WHO MUST SUBMIT A REGISTRATION.** Any person who or municipality which initiates, creates, originates or maintains a discharge described in Section 3.A. of this general permit that is not already registered before the date of issuance of this permit shall submit to the Commissioner a registration which satisfies the requirements of this section no later than the date the commercial activity is initiated. For any commercial activity already registered before the date of issuance of this permit, no reregistration is required. If an individual facility or activity for which a registration is submitted under this permit is owned by one person or municipality but is leased or, in some other way, the legal responsibility of another person or municipality (the operator), the operator is responsible for submitting the registration required by this general permit. If the facility or activity for which a registration is submitted under this permit is owned by one person or municipality but is leased or, in some other way, the legal responsibility of more than one other person or municipality, the owner is responsible for submitting the registration required by this general permit. The permittee is responsible for compliance with all conditions of this general permit.
- B. SCOPE OF REGISTRATION.** A registrant may only include on a registration those discharges that are operated by such registrant on one site. A registrant may not submit more than one registration per site under this permit.

## C. CONTENTS OF REGISTRATION.

### 1. Fees

- a. For permittees already registered before the date of issuance of this permit, no fee is required. A prorated fee of \$300.00 shall be paid with any new registration submitted pursuant to Section 4.A. of this general permit. A registration shall not be deemed complete and no activity shall be authorized by this general permit unless the registration fee has been paid in full.
- b. The registration fee shall be paid by check or money order payable to the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection.
- c. The registration fee is nonrefundable.

**2. Registration Form:** The registration shall be submitted on forms prescribed by the Commissioner and shall include but need not be limited to the following information:

#### a. Facility Information

- i. Name, address of owner and operator of the commercial facility;
- ii. Site address if different from i. above;
- iii. Site contact person and phone number at the site;
- iv. Primary activity; up to four four-digit Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes;
- v. A list of other permits issued by the DEEP currently in force for the site, including discharges other than stormwater to the stormwater outlets;
- vi. An 8-1/2 x 11" copy of the applicable section of a United States Geological Survey Quadrangle Map or other location map showing the location of site boundaries, stormwater conveyances, outfalls or channelized flows and latitude and longitude, if known.

#### b. Stormwater Discharge Information

- i. Number, type (e.g., swale or pipe), material (e.g., concrete or metal pipe, grass swale) and size of conveyances, outfalls or channelized flows that conduct runoff from the site;
- ii. Location of the conveyances, outfalls, channelized stormwater flows discharging from the site shall be shown on the map required in paragraph C.2.a.vi. above;
- iii. If stormwater quality data associated with the site has been collected, a summary of such data;
- iv. The name of the immediate receiving water(s), or if the discharge is through a municipal separate storm sewer, the name of the operator of the storm sewer, and the ultimate receiving water(s);
- v. The name of the watershed in which the site is located or the nearest waterbody to which it discharges.

**c. Signature of Registrant.** Any person who or municipality that submits a registration under this general permit shall sign the registration and shall make the following certification:

"I certify under penalty of law that I have read and understand all conditions of the General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater Associated with Commercial Activity and that all conditions for eligibility for authorization under this general permit are met. This document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to ensure that the information submitted has been properly gathered and evaluated. The Stormwater Management Plan has been prepared and implemented in accordance with the requirements of this general permit. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information contained in this registration is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate and complete. I am aware that there are penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowingly making false statements."

The registration shall be signed as follows: for a corporation, by a responsible corporate officer or a duly authorized representative thereof, as those terms are defined in RCSA 22a-430-3(b)(2); for a municipality,

state, Federal, or other public agency, by either a principal executive officer or a ranking elected official, as those terms are defined in RCSA 22a-430-3(b)(2); for a partnership or a sole proprietorship, by a general partner or the proprietor, respectively.

**d. Any additional information requested by the Commissioner**

- D. WHERE TO SUBMIT A REGISTRATION.** Persons who or municipalities that submit a registration under this general permit shall submit such registration to the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection at the following address:

Central Permits Processing Unit  
Department of Energy & Environmental Protection  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

- E. CORRECTION OF INACCURACIES.** Within fifteen days after the date the registrant or permittee becomes aware of a change in any information submitted to the Commissioner in a registration or pursuant to this general permit, or that any such information was inaccurate or misleading or that any relevant information was omitted, the registrant or permittee shall submit the correct or omitted information in writing to the Commissioner.
- F. FALSE STATEMENTS.** Any false statement in any information submitted pursuant to this general permit may be punishable as a criminal offense under Section 22a-438 of the Connecticut General Statutes or, in accordance with Section 22a-6, under Section 53a-157 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
- G. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.** The Commissioner may require a registrant to submit additional information that the Commissioner deems necessary to evaluate the consistency of the commercial activity with the requirements for authorization under this general permit.
- H. DISAPPROVAL AND REJECTION OF A REGISTRATION.** The Commissioner may disapprove a registration (a) for the same reasons for which he may, under section 22a-430 of the General Statutes, require an individual permit, including without limitation, if he finds that the commercial activity is inconsistent with the requirements for authorization under this general permit, (b) if he finds that the commercial activity is inconsistent with any of the applicable standards and criteria of section 22a-430 of the General Statutes, or (c) for any other reason provided by law.
- I. TRANSFER OF AUTHORIZATION.** Authorization under this general permit shall be non-transferable. However, any person registering a discharge that has previously been registered under this permit may use as part of such registration any pertinent information including the Stormwater Management Plan prepared by the previous permittee. The new registrant shall amend the Plan as required by Section 5. B. 3. prior to submitting a registration.

## **SECTION 5. PERMIT CONDITIONS**

### **A. CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO CERTAIN DISCHARGES**

1. Any person who or municipality which initiates, creates, or originates a discharge of stormwater associated with commercial activity after September 27, 2000, which discharge is located less than 100 feet from a tidal wetland which is not a fresh-tidal wetland, shall discharge such stormwater through a system designed to store the volume of stormwater runoff generated by 1 inch of rainfall on the site.
2. Any person who or municipality which discharges stormwater into coastal tidal waters for which a permit is required under either the Structures and Dredging Act in accordance with Section 22a-361 of the Connecticut General Statutes or the Tidal Wetlands Act in accordance with Section 22a-32 of the Connecticut General Statutes, shall obtain such permit(s) from the Commissioner.

**B. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN.** The permittee shall prepare, implement and maintain a Stormwater Management Plan (the “Plan”) which shall consist of all records, schedules, narrative, instructions or other materials kept on file at the registrant’s facility in accordance with the Stormwater Management Measures and other provisions of Section 5 of this general permit.

**1. Deadlines for Plan Preparation and Implementation.**

**a.** For a stormwater discharge associated with commercial activity that is initiated, created, originated or maintained on or before the date of issuance of this general permit and is authorized under a previous version of this general permit, the permittee shall continue to implement the Stormwater Management Measures as defined below in Section 5.B.2. and shall maintain this Plan thereafter.

**b.** For stormwater discharges associated with commercial activity which activity is initiated after the date of issuance of this general permit, the Stormwater Management Measures as defined below in Section 5.B.2. shall be implemented on or before the date such activity is initiated and shall be maintained thereafter.

**2. Stormwater Management Measures**

The Stormwater Management Plan shall be maintained on a form prescribed and provided by the Commissioner and shall, at a minimum, contain the following:

**a. Pollution Prevention Team**

The permittee shall designate a Pollution Prevention Team consisting of personnel, at least one of who must be working at the site, to carry out the provisions of these Stormwater Management Measures.

**b. Sweeping**

All parking areas, sidewalks, driveways and other impervious surfaces (except roofs) shall be swept clean of sand, litter and any other possible pollutants at least twice a year, once between November 15 and December 15 (after leaf fall) and once during the month of April (after snow melt) and at other times as may be necessary.

**c. Outside Storage**

Any raw materials, intermediate products, by-products, final products, waste materials, accessories or equipment stored outside shall be covered or moved inside, if possible, or maintained in such a manner as to avoid, if at all possible, the risk of any of these materials or their residue passing to a stormwater discharge.

**d. Washing**

No water resulting from washing of any raw materials, intermediate products, by-products, final products, waste materials, accessories, equipment, storage areas, outside sales/garden areas, loading docks, parking areas or vehicles shall be discharged to a stormwater collection system or waters of the state (including, but not limited to, surface waters or wetlands) except in accordance with a permit issued by the DEEP pursuant to Section 22a-430 or 22a-430b of the Connecticut General Statutes.

**e. Spill Control**

The permittee shall prepare and implement a Spill Control and Response Plan (“Spill Plan”) for any raw materials, intermediate products, by-products, final products, waste materials, accessories or equipment present at the facility which could possibly discharge to the stormwater collection system or waters of the state. The Spill Plan shall include measures to avoid spills in areas exposed to rainfall or from reaching areas exposed to rainfall. The Spill Plan shall also include response measures to best prevent a spill from

being exposed to stormwater or entering a stormwater collection system or waters of the state once it has occurred.

The Spill Plan shall identify areas where potential spills can occur and the location of associated collection and discharge points. The Spill Plan shall include procedures for cleaning up spills including, without limitation, procedures for ensuring that appropriate personnel are trained or otherwise notified of measures to take in the event of a spill. The necessary equipment to implement a cleanup shall be listed in the Spill Plan and locations designated such that this equipment shall be available to personnel in all areas where spills may occur.

The Spill Plan shall provide that all areas in which a spill could potentially discharge to stormwater and where liquid chemicals are stored are provided with impermeable containment which will hold at least the volume of the largest chemical container, or 10% of the total volume of all containers in the area, whichever is larger, without overflow from the containment area. For commercial activities initiated after the date of this general permit, the Spill Plan shall provide that all chemicals in containers of 100 gallons or less shall be stored under a roof that minimizes stormwater entry to the containment area.

The Spill Plan shall also provide that all dumpsters used to store waste or recyclable materials are supplied with attached covers and have drain plugs intact, or are in roofed areas that will keep rain out of the dumpster and will not allow dumpster leakage to enter any stormwater drainage system.

**f. Maintenance and Inspection**

The permittee shall prepare and implement a facility maintenance plan. The facility maintenance plan shall include good housekeeping measures to ensure that all areas exposed to stormwater are kept in such a condition as to minimize the possibility of discharging pollutants into a stormwater collection system or waters of the state. The plan shall include provisions for a monthly inspection by a member of the Pollution Prevention Team of all areas covered by the plan, a weekly inspection of the site for surface debris and the monthly inspection of all stormwater structures and outfalls on the site for floating or surface debris and sediment. Structures and outfalls shall be cleaned of sediment and debris at least once a year during the month of April and at other times as necessary to prevent the discharge of pollutants from structures or outfalls.

**g. Employee Training**

The permittee shall ensure that all employees whose activities may affect stormwater quality receive training upon employment and at least once a year thereafter to make them familiar with these stormwater management measures. Training shall be conducted by a member of the Pollution Prevention Team.

**h. Comprehensive Annual Stormwater Evaluation and Inspection**

Once a year, a member of the Pollution Prevention Team shall conduct a Comprehensive Annual Stormwater Evaluation and Inspection. All aspects of the stormwater collection and/or treatment system shall be inspected for consistency with the Stormwater Management Plan. A report of the results of this inspection shall be prepared and a copy maintained on site. This report shall also be reviewed and signed by the permittee as specified in Section 4.C.2.c. above. Based on this report, the permittee shall revise the Plan as necessary to maintain consistency with this general permit.

**i. Record Keeping**

The permittee shall keep at the site a record of all weekly and monthly inspections, the facility spill control and response plan, sweeping schedule, stormwater structure cleaning schedule, employee training schedule, annual stormwater evaluation and inspection reports and a list of designated Pollution Prevention Team members. This record shall be made available to the Commissioner for inspection immediately upon request.



**j. Future Construction**

The permittee shall ensure that oil and sediment control structures or devices are used within the drainage system for all construction which i) may impact the drainage system and ii) occurs on site on or after the effective date of this general permit. Note that any construction activity that disturbs greater than 5 acres must be registered and conducted in accordance with the General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters from Construction Activities, as amended. In addition, the permittee shall avoid, wherever possible, the use of copper or galvanized roofing or building materials for any new construction where these materials will be exposed to stormwater.

**3. Keeping Plan Current**

The permittee shall update the Plan annually and shall amend the Plan whenever; (1) there is a change at the site which may affect the potential of stormwater discharges from the site to cause pollution of the waters of the state; (2) there is a change in the Pollution Prevention Team; (3) the actions required by the Stormwater Management Measures fail to ensure or adequately protect against pollution of the waters of the state; or (4) the Commissioner requests modification of the Plan. The permittee shall amend the Plan as necessary to address any sources or potential sources of pollution identified as a result of a Comprehensive Annual Stormwater Evaluation and Inspection conducted pursuant to Section 5.B.2.h. of this general permit. The amended Plan and all actions required by the Plan shall be completed within 60 days of the date the permittee becomes aware or should have become aware that any condition identified in this paragraph has occurred.

**C. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

1. The permittee shall keep a copy of the Stormwater Management Plan onsite at all times. The permittee shall make a copy of the Plan available to the Commissioner immediately upon request, and, in the case of a stormwater discharge associated with commercial activity that discharges through a municipal separate storm sewer system, to the operator of the municipal system upon request. In the case of a stormwater discharge associated with commercial activity that discharges to a water supply watershed, copies of the Plan shall be made available upon request to the public water supply company.
2. The Commissioner may notify the permittee at any time that the Plan does not meet one or more of the requirements of this Section. Unless otherwise notified by the Commissioner in writing, within 30 days of the date of such notification from the Commissioner, the permittee shall revise the Plan, perform all actions required by the revised Plan, and shall submit to the Commissioner, in writing, certification that the requested changes have been made and implemented and such other information as the Commissioner may require.

**D. OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

1. The stormwater discharge shall contain no distinctly visible floating scum, oil or other matter except naturally occurring substances such as leaves and twigs provided no person has placed such substances in or near the discharge.
2. The stormwater discharge shall not impair the biological integrity of aquatic or marine ecosystems or result in an unacceptable risk to human health.

## SECTION 6. GENERAL CONDITIONS

- A. The permittee shall comply with the following Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies which are hereby incorporated into this general permit, as if fully set forth herein:

1. Section 22a-430-3:

Subsection (b) General - subparagraph (1)(D) and subdivision (2), (3), (4) and (5)  
Subsection (c) Inspection and Entry  
Subsection (d) Effect of a Permit - subdivisions (1) and (4)  
Subsection (e) Duty to Comply  
Subsection (f) Proper Operation and Maintenance  
Subsection (g) Sludge Disposal  
Subsection (h) Duty to Mitigate  
Subsection (i) Facility Modifications, Notification - subdivisions (1) and (4)  
Subsection (k) Bypass  
Subsection (n) Enforcement  
Subsection (p) Spill Prevention and Control  
Subsection (q) Instrumentation, Alarms, Flow Recorders  
Subsection (r) Equalization

2. Section 22a-430-4

Subsection (t) Prohibitions  
Subsection (p) Revocation, Denial, Modification  
Appendices

- B. The permittee shall comply with the following additional terms and conditions:

Discharge of any substance that is not from the activities described in this general permit shall be considered a violation of this general permit unless it is authorized by an individual permit issued under Section 22a-430 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

- C. The permittee shall at all times continue to meet the conditions for eligibility set forth in Section 3 of this general permit.
- D. Nothing in this general permit shall relieve the registrant or permittee of other obligations under applicable federal, state and local law.
- E. Any document, including but not limited to any notice, which is required to be submitted to the Commissioner under this general permit by the permittee shall be signed by the permittee and by the individual or individuals responsible for actually preparing such document, each of who shall certify in writing as follows: "I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and certify that based on reasonable investigation, including my inquiry of those individuals responsible for obtaining the information, the submitted information is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I understand that any false statement made in this document or its attachments may be punishable as a criminal offense."

**SECTION 7. UNAUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES**

Any person or municipality who fails to submit a registration, and who initiates, creates, originates or maintains a discharge to the waters of the State without coverage under a general permit issued under Section 22a-430b of the Connecticut General Statutes or an individual permit issued under Section 22a-430 of the Connecticut General Statutes, is in violation of the Connecticut General Statutes, and is subject to injunction and penalties of up to \$25,000 per day per violation under Chapter 446k of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Issued: September 29, 2023  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy Babbidge  
Acting Deputy Commissioner

## APPENDIX A

### LIST OF STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION (SIC) CODE GROUPS COVERED BY THE GENERAL PERMIT FOR THE DISCHARGE OF STORMWATER ASSOCIATED WITH COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY

*If you are unsure of which SIC group you may fall under or require a more detailed description of specific SIC codes within these groups, please contact the Stormwater Group at 860-424-3025. Descriptions are as indicated in the Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1987, Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget.*

- Group 50: Wholesale Trade - Durable Goods
- Group 51: Wholesale Trade - Nondurable Goods
- Group 52: Building Materials, Hardware, Garden Supply, and Mobile Home Dealers
- Group 53: General Merchandise Stores
- Group 54: Food Stores
- Group 55: Automotive Dealers and Gasoline Service Stations
- Group 56: Apparel and Accessory Stores
- Group 57: Home Furniture, Furnishings, and Equipment Stores
- Group 58: Eating and Drinking Establishments
- Group 59: Miscellaneous Retail
  
- Group 70: Hotels, Rooming Houses, Camps, and Other Lodging Places
- Group 71: *Not assigned*
- Group 72: Personal Services
- Group 73: Business Services
- Group 74: *Not assigned*
- Group 75: Automotive Repair, Services, and Parking
- Group 76: Miscellaneous Repair Services
- Group 77: *Not assigned*
- Group 78: Motion Pictures
- Group 79: Amusement and Recreation Services