

Memorandum

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

TO: Hazardous Waste Cleanup Section Staff
Contractors

FROM: Brent Hartsfield, PE *Brent Hartsfield*

DATE: June 27, 2000

SUBJECT: Surface Water Discharges

Many assessment and remediation activities at our hazardous waste sites generate water that requires treatment and/or disposal. These activities include development and testing of wells, treatment of ground water, and dewatering of soils. One option for disposal of water is discharge to a surface water body. This memo provides guidance for surface water discharges at our sites.

General

Point source discharges of pollutants to surface waters of the State are regulated under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. Surface waters include lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands and other water bodies.

Discharges to ditches, swales and other conveyances that ultimately discharge to surface water bodies are permitted under the NPDES program. Municipalities should always be notified and give approval in advance of any proposed discharges to their storm water management systems. Land application of wastewater (infiltration galleries, recharge ponds, sprayfields, etc.) are not regulated under the NPDES program if it can be demonstrated that the wastewater will not flow off site or into a surface water body.

The NPDES program has been delegated by EPA to DEP. The NPDES program is administered by the DEP Division of Water Resource Management and the DEP district offices. Vince Seibold is the administrator of the Industrial Wastewater Section in the Division of Water Resource Management. A list of the district office contacts is attached. The DEP permitting rules applicable to the NPDES program are as follows:

- 1- Chapter 62-620, Wastewater Facility Permitting.
- 2- Chapter 62-621, Generic Permits.
- 3- Chapter 62-4, Permits.

Non-Contaminated Site Activities

Ground water produced from any non-contaminated site activity can be discharged to surface

MEMORANDUM

Page Two

June 27, 2000

water under the conditions of the NPDES Generic Permit for the Discharge of Produced Ground Water from any Non-Contaminated Site Activity (copy attached). Non-contaminated site activities could include development and testing of injection wells, dewatering for installation of pipelines, and dewatering for construction of access roads.

Some of the key requirements of this Generic Permit are as follows:

1- Before discharge of produced ground water can occur, analytical tests on samples of the proposed untreated discharge water shall be performed to determine if contamination exists. Values for the parameters listed in the Generic Permit shall not be exceeded.

2- If the analytical tests reveal that no contamination exists, discharge can begin immediately and is covered by the Generic Permit.

3- A short summary of the proposed activity and a copy of the analytical tests shall be sent to the applicable DEP district office within one week after discharge begins.

4- The effluent shall be sampled before the commencement of discharge, again within 30 days after commencement of discharge, and then once every six months for the life of the project.

Contaminated Site Activities

Long-term (typically more than 30 days) discharges to surface water from non-petroleum contaminated sites will usually require an individual NPDES permit. Superfund sites are exempt from obtaining permits, but must meet the technical requirements of the NPDES program. Long-term discharges are frequently effluent from ground water pump-and-treat systems. The applicable DEP district office should be contacted to obtain an individual NPDES permit. It typically takes three months or longer to obtain an individual NPDES permit.

Short-term (typically 30 days or less) discharges to surface water from non-petroleum contaminated sites may also require an individual NPDES permit. Short-term discharges are frequently treated water from activities such as development and testing of monitoring and recovery wells, and dewatering for contaminated soils excavation. The applicable DEP district office should be contacted for approval of all short-term discharges before they begin.

BDH/bhh

Attachments

cc: Jim Crane, Technical Review Section
Vince Seibold, Industrial Wastewater Section



Jeb Bush
Governor

Department of Environmental Protection

Twin Towers Building
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400

David B. Struhs
Secretary

June 27, 2000

NPDES PROGRAM

District Office Contacts

<u>District</u>	<u>Industrial Wastewater Section</u>	<u>Suncom Number</u>
Northwest	Bill Evans	693-8300
Northeast	Jim Maher	880-4330
Central	Ali Kazi	325-3308
Southeast	Tim Powell	226-6752
South	Charles Davault	748-6975
Southwest	Henry Dominick	542-6100

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STATE OF FLORIDA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

GENERIC PERMIT

FOR THE

DISCHARGE OF PRODUCED GROUND WATER

FROM ANY NON-CONTAMINATED SITE ACTIVITY

Generic Permit for the Discharge of Produced Ground Water from any Non-Contaminated Site Activity

(1) The facility is authorized to discharge produced ground water from any non-contaminated site activity which discharges by a point source to surface waters of the State, as defined in Chapter 62-620, F.A.C., only if the reported values for the parameters listed in Table 1 do not exceed any of the listed screening values. Before discharge of produced ground water can occur from such sites, analytical tests on samples of the proposed untreated discharge water shall be performed to determine if contamination exists.

(2) Minimum reporting requirements for all produced ground water dischargers. The effluent shall be sampled

before the commencement of discharge, again within thirty

(30) days after commencement of discharge, and then once

every six (6) months for the life of the project to maintain continued coverage under this generic permit. Samples taken in compliance with the provisions of this permit shall be taken prior to actual discharge or mixing with the receiving waters. The effluent shall be sampled for the parameters listed in Table 1.

Table 1

Parameter	Screening Values for Discharges into:	
	Fresh Waters	Coastal Waters
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	10.0 mg/l	10.0 mg/l
pH, standard units	6.0-8.5	6.5-8.5
Total Recoverable Mercury	0.012 µg/l	0.025 µg/l
Total Recoverable Cadmium	9.3 µg/l	9.3 µg/l
Total Recoverable Copper	2.9 µg/l	2.9 µg/l
Total Recoverable Lead	0.03 mg/l	5.6 µg/l
Total Recoverable Zinc	86.0 µg/l	86.0 µg/l
Total Recoverable Chromium (Hex.)	11.0 µg/l	50.0 µg/l
Benzene	1.0 µg/l	1.0 µg/l
Naphthalene	100.0 µg/l	100.0 µg/l

(3) If any of the analytical test results exceed the screening values listed in Table 1, except TOC, the discharge is not authorized by this permit.

(a) For initial TOC values that exceed the screening values listed in Table 1, which may be caused by naturally-occurring, high molecular weight organic compounds, the permittee may request to be exempted from the TOC requirement. To request this exemption, the permittee shall submit additional information with a Notice of Intent (NOI),

described below, which describes the method used to determine that these compounds are naturally occurring. The Department shall grant the exemption if the permittee affirmatively demonstrates that the TOC values are caused by naturally-occurring, high molecular weight organic compounds.

(b) The NOI shall be submitted to the appropriate Department district office thirty (30) days prior to discharge, and contain the following information:

1. the name and address of the person that the permit coverage will be issued to;
2. the name and address of the facility, including county location;
3. any applicable individual wastewater permit number(s);
4. a map showing the facility and discharge location (including latitude and longitude);
5. the name of the receiving water; and
6. the additional information required by paragraph (3)(a) of this permit.

(c) Discharge shall not commence until notification of coverage is received from the Department.

(4) For fresh waters and coastal waters, the pH of the effluent shall not be lowered to less than 6.0 units for fresh waters, or less than 6.5 units for coastal waters, or raised above 8.5 units, unless the permittee submits natural background data confirming a natural background pH outside of this range. If natural background of the receiving water is determined to be less than 6.0 units for fresh waters, or less than 6.5 units in coastal waters, the pH shall not vary below natural background or vary more than one (1) unit above natural background for fresh and coastal waters. If natural background of the receiving water is determined to be higher than 8.5 units, the pH shall not vary above natural background or vary more than one (1) unit below natural background of fresh and coastal waters. The permittee shall include the natural background pH of the receiving waters with the results of the analyses required under paragraph (2) of this permit. For purposes of this section only, fresh waters are those having a chloride concentration of less than 1500 mg/l, and coastal waters are those having a chloride concentration equal to or greater than 1500 mg/l.

(5) In accordance with Rule 62-302.500(1)(a-c), F.A.C., the discharge shall at all times be free from floating solids, visible foam, turbidity, or visible oil in such amounts as to form nuisances on surface waters.

(6) If contamination exists, as indicated by the results of the analytical tests required by paragraph (2),

the discharge cannot be covered by this generic permit. The facility shall apply for an individual wastewater permit at least ninety (90) days prior to the date discharge to surface waters of the State is expected, or, if applicable, the facility may seek coverage under any other applicable Department generic permit. No discharge is permissible without an effective permit.

(7) If the analytical tests required by paragraph (2) reveal that no contamination exists from any source, the facility can begin discharge immediately and is covered by this permit without having to submit an NOI request for coverage to the Department. A short summary of the proposed activity and copy of the analytical tests shall be sent to the applicable Department district office within one (1) week after discharge begins. These analytical tests shall be kept on site during discharge and made available to the Department if requested. Additionally, no Discharge Monitoring Report forms are required to be submitted to the Department.

(8) All of the general conditions listed in Rule 62-621.250, F.A.C., are applicable to this generic permit.

(9) There are no annual fees associated with the use of this generic permit.