

GENERAL PERMIT INFORMATION PACKAGE 2015
GENERAL PERMIT 3-9004
DISCHARGES FROM PETROLEUM RELATED REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES

1. What is a general permit?

A "general permit" means a permit authorizing a state-wide class of discharges that share the same or similar qualities such that the discharges can be regulated by the same or similar permit conditions.

2. What is the purpose of this general permit?

The purpose of this general permit is to provide a simplified process for obtaining authorization to discharge treated contaminated water from petroleum related remediation activities.

3. What is the application process?

To apply, obtain a Notice of Intent (NOI) form and copy of the general permit from our website at dec.vermont.gov/watershed/wastewater/discharge-permits#General Permits. Return the completed and signed form together with a fee of \$240.00 to the Watershed Management Division. The NOI form must be properly completed and the required USGS mapping and site schematics attached. The applicant must also provide a copy of the form to the municipal clerk of the municipality in which the discharge is located. A ten business day public notice period is provided for public comment on a project covered under this permit.

Please note that incomplete forms will be returned to the applicant for further information and will need to be reposted for public notice purposes.

4. When will coverage begin?

As mandated by 10 V.S.A. Section 1263 (b), a ten business day public notice period is provided for public comment on a discharge requesting coverage under this permit. An authorization (refer to the bottom of the NOI form) will be mailed to the applicant following the close of the public notice period provided that all eligibility requirements are met and no significant public comment has been received.

5. Is my coverage under this general permit transferable?

Yes, see Part VI. Condition K. To transfer coverage under this general permit a properly completed "Application For Transfer of Authorization to Discharge" form must be submitted 30 days prior to transfer.

6. What type of monitoring is required?

Effluent sampling and analyses are required twice per month. For sites that contain only gasoline contamination, BTEX (Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, and Xylene) and MTBE monitoring is required. For sites that contain diesel fuel, heating oil, kerosene, and/or jet fuel, Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon (TPH) monitoring must also be conducted.

Influent sampling and analysis are required of the same constituents at a frequency of once per month.

7. Do I need to monitor if my discharge is only going to last a few days?

For discharges that will last for less than 15 days, sampling is required twice as per Part III.A.(1).

8. What type of reporting is required?

Reporting is required once per month. Reporting forms are available on the Department's website at dec.vermont.gov/watershed/wastewater/discharge-permits#GeneralPermits. Reports are due on the 15th day of each month beginning with the month following the date of authorization to discharge under this permit. If, in any reporting period, there has been no discharge, the permittee must submit that the report by the due date and declare that no discharge has occurred.

9. How do I terminate my coverage under the general permit?

To terminate coverage under the general permit, a "Request for Termination of Coverage" form must be completed and sent to the Watershed Management Division. The permittee will receive written confirmation that coverage is terminated. Please note, until coverage under the general permit is terminated, the permittee is responsible for influent and effluent monitoring and reporting. Failure to report will be considered a violation of the permit.

10. What should I do if my discharge is suspended due to winter conditions, low water table, etc?

If a discharge is temporarily suspended due to winter or a low water table, coverage may be maintained under the general permit. To maintain the coverage, the reporting must continue and "no discharge due to winter, low water table, etc." specifically noted on the report. Once the discharge restarts, influent and effluent sampling and analysis must also resume.

11. Can authorization to discharge be obtained in less than 10 days?

There are provisions in the Vermont Water Pollution Control Act which enables written authorization to discharge to be granted in less than 10 days. However those provisions will only be invoked for discharges from petroleum related remediation activities when there is direct threat to public health or a severe threat to the environment.