

## Guidance for Monitoring and Reporting at Mineral Mining Facilities

Purpose: The purpose of this guidance is to provide permittees with clarification of reporting requirements when the facility is permitted under both a Wastewater and Stormwater permit for Industrial Activities.

A **mineral mining facility is considered to be temporarily inactive** for both stormwater and direct discharge NPDES permits if non-metallic mineral mining and/or milling occurred at the site or portion of the site but are no longer being undertaken, no process water is discharged, and the facility is covered by an active mining permit issued by the applicable state or federal agency (based on [40 CFR 127 Appendix A](#)).

**If a facility is temporarily inactive, reporting requirements remain in force but differ by permit program. All annual operating fees remain applicable.**

### **Wastewater: Individual Direct Discharge NPDES Permits**

#### Monitoring and Inspection Requirements

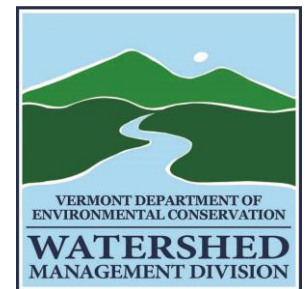
These are specified in the active permit and are specific to the facility. Monitoring is dependent on discharge status. **If process water is not being discharged, monitoring (sampling) is not required, but reporting that there is no discharge is required.**

#### Reporting Requirements:

**When discharge did not occur in a reporting period**, you must log in to ANR Online and report that your facility did not discharge. Reports are due the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month following the end of the month, or quarter, for which data is reported. (For example, monitoring done in March is due by April 15<sup>th</sup>.)

**If there was a discharge in the reporting period**, you must monitor the discharge and report data as specified in the permit conditions specific to your facility. The data must then be reported via ANR Online. If you monitor compliance parameters more frequently than required by the permit, that must also be included in the data reported via ANR Online. The results of all monitoring conducted must be reported.

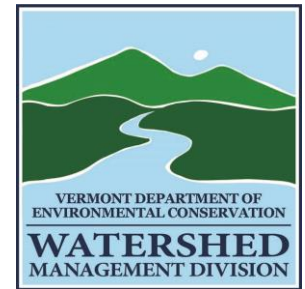
You **MUST** continue to report and attach results each reporting period (monthly or quarterly depending on what your permit requires) regardless if no discharges occurred during that reporting period. **Failure to do so may result in a [significant non-compliance \(SNC\) designation](#) for your facility and follow up by the Department of Environmental Conservation.**



## Stormwater: Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP 3-9003)

### Monitoring and Inspection Requirements:

- **Routine inspections of entire facility and discharge points**
  - Quarterly, unless specified as monthly in the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).
  - Keep the results in the SWPPP and summarize in the Annual Report.
- **Quarterly Visual Assessment of Stormwater Discharges**
  - Collect a sample of stormwater at each outfall within the first 30 minutes of a stormwater discharge. Inspect the sample for color, odor, clarity, floating solids, settled solids, suspended solids, foam, oil sheen, or other indicators of stormwater pollution.
  - Keep the results in the SWPPP and summarize in the Annual Report.
- **Quarterly Benchmark monitoring during rain or snowmelt**
  - Sand & Gravel – Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and Nitrate plus Nitrite Nitrogen (An average value of 0.68 mg/L or less is the goal (“benchmark”) for the four quarterly samples)
  - Dimension and Crushed Stone – Total Suspended Solids (TSS) (An average value of 100 mg/L or less is the goal (“benchmark”) for the four quarterly samples)
  - Report the results to the Agency on a Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) form within 30 days of receiving the lab results.
  - If the facility is unable to collect a sample during a quarterly reporting period the facility is required to complete and submit the DMR report indicating why they were unable to sample (i.e. no discharge, insufficient flow).
  - After collection of 4 quarterly samples, if the average of the 4 monitoring values for any parameter does not exceed the benchmark, you have fulfilled your monitoring requirements for that parameter for the permit term.
- **Exemptions for inactive facilities**
  - Facilities that are inactive (there are no industrial materials or activities exposed to stormwater) and unstaffed are required to notify the Secretary in your next benchmark monitoring report. The facility may discontinue benchmark monitoring once they have notified the Secretary.
  - In addition to notifying the Secretary, facilities must maintain a statement with your SWPPP stating that the site is inactive and unstaffed, and that there are no industrial materials or activities exposed to stormwater.
  - If circumstances change and industrial materials or activities become exposed to stormwater or your facility becomes active and/or staffed, this exception no longer applies and you must immediately begin complying with applicable benchmark monitoring requirements under Part 6.2 of the General Permit as if you were in your first year of permit coverage. You must indicate in your first benchmark monitoring report that your facility has materials or activities exposed to stormwater or has become active and/or staffed.



- **Annual Effluent monitoring, if applicable**
  - Mine dewatering discharges – pH (Effluent Limit 6.0 – 9.0 pH)
  - Mine dewatering discharges at industrial sand mining facilities – pH and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) (Effluent Limits 6.0 – 9.0 pH and 45 mg/L TSS)
  - Report the results to the Agency on a DMR form.
  
- **Annual Impaired Water monitoring, if applicable**
  - Stormwater discharges to an impaired water listed on the State’s 303(d) list (waters that do not have a TMDL) need to be monitored and reported annually.
  - Parameters specified in permit authorization.
  - Report the results to the Agency on a DMR form.
  
- **Earth-Disturbing Activities Conducted Prior to Active Mining Activities and Reclamation Activities, if applicable**
  - Inspection requirements are set as part of the Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Plan (EPSC) developed for the site but are generally 1x per week.
  - Conditions are specified in permit authorization.

### Reporting Requirements:

- **Annual Report**
  - Summary of routine inspections, quarterly visual assessments, benchmarking monitoring, effluent limits, and corrective actions.
  - Facilities administratively continued under the 2011 issued Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) must also include a summary of comprehensive site inspections until the general permit is reissued.