

# Vermont Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities *Fact Sheet*

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), is proposing to issue National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit Number 3-9003, Vermont Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) for discharges of stormwater associated with industrial activity.

## **What is it?**

The Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) is a five-year permit that covers new and existing discharges of stormwater associated with certain types of industrial activity within the state of Vermont. The permit applies to multiple “sectors” of industrial activity. A facility's sector within the MSGP is dependent upon its Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code or narrative description. A table of applicable MSGP SIC codes is available at the Stormwater Section website: [www.VTwaterquality.org](http://www.VTwaterquality.org)

## **Who will be required to get a MSGP?**

The permit will be required by private and municipal industries identified on the MSGP SIC code list that discharge stormwater to either a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) or to a receiving water. Typical private industrial facilities that will require coverage under the MSGP include saw mills, auto salvage yards, manufacturing plants, and mining operations. Typical municipal industries that will require coverage under the MSGP include landfills and wastewater treatment facilities with greater than 1 MGD design flow. Municipal and highway maintenance garages are not required to seek coverage under the MSGP.

Private and municipal industries that are identified on the MSGP SIC code list must enclose or cover storage piles of salt or piles containing salt used for deicing or other commercial or industrial purposes. Best Management Practices (BMPs) for salt storage are encouraged including locating storage piles on impervious surfaces to minimize contamination of ground water and building berms around storage piles to minimize stormwater run-on.

## **What will I have to do?**

1. Determine if your facility is identified on the MSGP SIC code list located in Appendix D of the permit. If your facility and discharge meet the eligibility requirements of this permit then you must apply for coverage under this general permit.

2. Determine if your facility has a stormwater discharge to either a receiving water or to a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4).
3. Determine if you qualify for the No Exposure conditional exclusion. A No Exposure conditional exclusion will be available for those facilities that keep all of their materials and activities from being exposed to rain, snow, snowmelt, and/or runoff. Industrial materials or activities include, but are not limited to, material handling equipment or activities, industrial machinery, raw materials, intermediate products, by-products, final products, and waste products.
4. If your facility and discharge do not meet the criteria for the No Exposure certification, you will need to prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that evaluates the potential threat of your operations on stormwater quality, develops management procedures to minimize polluting stormwater runoff, performs water quality monitoring of impacts on stormwater, as well as periodically reports on the implementation of the procedures.

### **What should I do?**

Facilities that desire to avoid preparation of a SWPPP, and the associated management, training, reporting, and monitoring requirements of this permit may do so by conducting their activities and handling their materials in a manner that prevents contact with stormwater. The No Exposure certification is the simplest method of compliance with the NPDES stormwater regulations. In general, in order to be eligible for the No Exposure certification you must be able to certify that you:

- Do not use, store, or clean equipment such that residuals are exposed to stormwater
- Do not have material or residuals on the ground from spills, leaks, or past activities
- Do not have inadequately maintained material handling equipment exposed to precipitation
- Do not store materials or products outside that could be mobilized by stormwater
- Do not store materials or wastes in exposed, deteriorating, or leaking containers
- Do not discharge unpermitted wastewater

If criteria for the No Exposure certification can not be met, a facility will need to prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP evaluates the facility's potential threat to stormwater quality, develops management procedures to minimize polluting stormwater runoff, requires monitoring of stormwater discharges, and periodically reports on the implementation of established procedures.

## **Why is it required?**

In 1972, Congress amended the Clean Water Act to prohibit the discharge of any pollutant to the waters of the United States from a point source unless the discharge is authorized by a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Initial efforts to improve water quality under the NPDES program primarily focused on reducing pollutants in industrial process wastewater and municipal sewage. It became increasingly evident that more diffuse sources of water pollution were also significant causes of water quality impairment. In 1987, Congress amended the Clean Water Act and directed EPA to develop a two-phased comprehensive national program for addressing stormwater discharges. EPA issued "Phase I" regulations in 1990 authorizing a NPDES permitting system for stormwater discharges from several categories of private and municipal industrial activities serving populations of 100,000 or more. EPA issued "Phase II" regulations in 1999 that included the same categories of industrial activities but revised Phase I regulations to include all municipalities regardless of their populations.

The MSGP is an EPA NPDES permit. Similar permits are in effect covering stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity throughout the United States. As an EPA-delegated state under the NPDES program, the VT Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has the responsibility to administer the NPDES permit programs and to issue the MSGP.

## **When is the deadline?**

The MSGP is currently on public notice. The public comment period starts on December 30, 2005 and will end on April 3, 2006. Copies of the draft permit can be obtained from the Stormwater Section web site: [www.VTwaterquality.org](http://www.VTwaterquality.org) or by calling the Stormwater Section at (802) 241-4320.

Public hearings on the draft Vermont MSGP were held on Wednesday, February 1, 2006 and Monday March 20, 2006 from 7 to 9 PM at the Pavilion Auditorium located at 109 State Street in Montpelier Vermont. The public hearings provided an opportunity for interested persons and parties to submit their views on the Agency of Natural Resources' proposal to issue the MSGP. The public hearings immediately followed a public informational meeting. **Written public comment will be accepted until April 3, 2006.**

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