

GENERAL PERMIT 3-9016 ---- FAQs

DISCHARGES FROM PETROLEUM RELATED REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES INTO MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES (WWTFs)

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 general permit is designed to provide a simplified process for obtaining authorization to discharge treated contaminated water from petroleum related remediation activities to municipal wastewater treatment facilities (WWTFs) (a.k.a. publicly owned treatment works).

3. Who is eligible to obtain coverage under this general permit?

Applicants (owners/operators) wishing to discharge treated ground or surface water contaminated by gasoline, diesel fuel, kerosene, jet fuel, or heating oil as the result of remediation activities such as excavations, spill cleanup, pumping and/or monitoring of aquifers, etc. to a municipal WWTF.

4. What is the application process?

To apply, obtain a NOI form and copy of the general permit from the VT DEC Wastewater Program webpage. Return the completed and signed form together with an application fee to the Department's Watershed Management Division. The NOI form must be properly completed and the required USGS mapping, site schematics, and a letter from the municipality approving the discharge to its wastewater treatment facility attached. Consultants, contractors, and attorneys cannot sign the Notice of Intent (NOI) form on behalf of an owner/operator unless legally delegated.

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

5. When will coverage begin?

As mandated by 10 V.S.A. Chapter 170, a 14-day public notice period is provided for public comment on a discharge requesting coverage under this permit. An authorization 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.

6. Is my coverage under this general permit transferable?

Yes, see Part IV. Condition K. of the general permit. To transfer coverage under this general permit a properly completed Application For Transfer of Authorization to Discharge form must be submitted to the Department's Watershed Management Division with a transfer fee thirty (30) days prior to transfer.

7. 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 analyses are required at a frequency of once per month for the listed parameters.

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

For discharges that will last for less than two (<2) weeks, sampling is only required twice.

9. What type of reporting is required?

Reporting is required once per month. Reporting forms are required after coverage becomes effective and may be found on the Wastewater Program Discharge Permits webpage. Reports are due on the 15th day of each month beginning with the month following the date of an authorization to discharge. If, in any reporting period, there has been no discharge, the permittee must sign and submit the report by the due date and indicate that no discharge has occurred.

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

To terminate coverage under the general permit, an Application for 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 effluent monitoring and reporting. Failure to report will be considered a violation of the permit. Forms may be found on the Wastewater Program Discharge Permits webpage.

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

If a discharge is temporarily suspended, coverage may be maintained under the general permit. To maintain the coverage, the reporting must continue and the reason for the discharge being suspended specifically noted on the report. Once the discharge restarts, effluent sampling and analysis must also resume.