

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

**DRAFT GENERAL PERMIT NO. NCG240000**

TO DISCHARGE STORMWATER AND PROCESS WASTEWATER UNDER THE  
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM

for

**Compost Facilities**

In compliance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute 143-215.1, other lawful standards and regulations promulgated and adopted by the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, this permit is hereby issued to all owners or operators, hereinafter permittees, which are covered by this permit as evidenced by receipt of a Certificate of Coverage by the Environmental Management Commission to allow the **discharge of stormwater and process wastewater to the surface waters of North Carolina** or to a separate storm sewer system conveying discharges to surface waters in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth herein.

**Coverage under this General Permit is applicable to:**

- ◆ Stormwater point source discharges associated with composting operations (Standard Industrial Classification 2875) classified as: large Type 1, Type 2, and small Type 3 Facilities as described in regulations administered by the Division of Waste Management and found at 15A NCAC 13B .1402(f); and associated vehicle and equipment maintenance activities;
- ◆ Process wastewater discharges associated with the same composting operations;
- ◆ Stormwater point source discharges and process wastewater discharges from like industrial activities deemed by DWQ to be similar to composting operations in the process, or the discharges, or the exposure of raw materials, intermediate products, by-products, products, or waste products.

**Except upon DWQ determination of similarity as provided immediately above, the following activities and associated discharges are excluded from coverage under this General Permit:**

- ◆ Composting operations classified as small Type 1 Facilities as also described in 15A NCAC 13B .1402(g);
- ◆ Backyard composting and on-farm composting as also described in 13B .1402(g);
- ◆ Composting operations classified as Type 4 and large Type 3 Facilities in 13B .1402(f).
- ◆ Composting operations for residuals management as described in regulations administered by the Aquifer Protection Section of DWQ and found at 15A NCAC 2T .1100.
- ◆ Composting operations with discharges to especially protected receiving waters classified as ORW, HQW, trout waters, PNA waters, or zero-flow streams as described at 15A NCAC 2B .0206.

The General Permit shall become effective on May 1, 2011. *(all dates are draft-dummy dates)*  
The General Permit shall expire at midnight on April 30, 2016.

Signed this day April 1, 2011.

*Original to be Signed by Chuck Wakild*  
for Coleen H. Sullins, Director  
Division of Water Quality  
By the Authority of the Environmental Management Commission

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## PART I – INTRODUCTION

### SECTION A: GENERAL PERMIT COVERAGE

All persons desiring to have facilities covered by this General Permit must register with the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) by the filing of a Notice of Intent (NOI) and applicable fees. The NOI shall be submitted and a certificate of coverage issued prior to any point source discharge of stormwater associated with industrial activity or process wastewater.

This General Permit covers composting operations that discharge stormwater that has come in contact with qualifying finished compost, and site stormwater which has not come in contact with any raw materials, intermediate products, final products, by-products, or waste products during the compost manufacturing process; and stormwater runoff from vehicle and equipment maintenance activities.

This General Permit also covers composting operations with discharges of process wastewater arising from raw materials, intermediate products, final products not qualifying as finished compost, by-products, or waste products.

This General Permit also covers the construction and operation of process wastewater treatment facilities.

Any owner or operator not wishing to be covered or limited by this General Permit may make application for an individual NPDES permit in accordance with NPDES procedures in 15A NCAC 2H .0100, stating the reasons supporting the request. Any application for an individual permit should be made at least 180 days prior to commencement of discharge.

This General Permit does not cover activities or discharges covered by an individual NPDES permit until the individual permit has expired or has been revoked. Any person conducting an activity covered by an individual permit but which could be covered by this General Permit may request that the individual permit be revoked and coverage under this General Permit be provided.

Any facility may apply for new or continued coverage under this permit until a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for pollutants for stormwater or wastewater discharges is established. A TMDL sets a pollutant-loading limit that affects a watershed, or portion of a watershed, draining to a specific impaired water. **For discharges to watersheds affected by a TMDL, coverage under this permit may depend on the facility demonstrating it does not have reasonable potential to violate applicable water quality standards for those pollutants as a result of discharges.** If DWQ determines that discharges have reasonable potential to cause water quality standard violations, the facility shall apply for an individual permit 180 days prior to the expiration date of this General Permit. Once that individual permit is effective, the facility will no longer have coverage under this General Permit. Note that the permittee must identify impaired waters (scheduled for TMDL development) and waters already subject to a TMDL in the Site Plan, as outlined in the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, Part II, Section A.

### SECTION B: PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

Until coverage under this permit expires or is modified or revoked, the permittee is authorized to discharge stormwater and process wastewater to the surface waters of North Carolina, or to a separate storm sewer system, which has been adequately treated and managed in accordance with

the terms and conditions of this General Permit. **The types of authorized discharges are dependent upon DWQ approval and are detailed in the permittee's individual Certificate of Coverage (COC); where applicable, the COC also details DWQ's Authorization to Construct (ATC) and authorization to operate process wastewater treatment facilities.**

Any other point source discharge to surface waters of the state is prohibited unless it is an allowable non-stormwater discharge or is covered by another permit, authorization, or approval. If composting operations will expand or change such that the types of discharges are affected, the permittee shall contact DWQ in advance to determine if modifications to the COC are necessary.

Where wetlands are located on, or nearby, composting operations, discharges allowed by this permit, and site operations, must meet applicable wetland standards as outlined in 15A NCAC 2B .0230 and .0231 and water quality certification requirements as outlined in 15A NCAC 2H .0500.

**The discharges allowed by this General Permit shall not cause or contribute to violations of Water Quality Standards.**

This permit does not relieve the permittee's responsibility for compliance with any other applicable federal, state, or local law, rule, standard, ordinance, order, or decree.

## PART II – MONITORING, CONTROLS, AND LIMITATIONS FOR PERMITTED DISCHARGES

### SECTION A: STORMWATER DISCHARGES: STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN

The permittee shall **develop and implement** a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SPPP). The SPPP is public information in accordance with Part IV, Standard Conditions, Section E, paragraph 3 of this General Permit. The SPPP shall include, at a minimum, the following items:

1. **Site Plan.** The site plan shall provide a description of the physical facility and the potential pollutant sources that may be expected to contribute to contamination of stormwater discharges. The site plan shall contain the following:
  - (a) A general location map (USGS quadrangle map or appropriately drafted equivalent map), showing the facility's location in relation to transportation routes and surface waters, the name of the receiving waters to which the stormwater outfalls discharge, or if the discharge is to a municipal separate storm sewer system, the name of the municipality and the ultimate receiving waters, and accurate latitude and longitude of the points of discharge. The general location map (or alternatively the site map) shall identify whether each receiving water is **impaired** (on the state's 303(d) list of impaired waters) or is located in a **watershed for which a TMDL has been established**, and what the parameters of concern are.
  - (b) A narrative description of storage practices, loading and unloading activities, outdoor process areas, dust or particulate generating or control processes, and waste disposal practices. A narrative description of the potential pollutants that could be expected to be present in the stormwater discharge from each outfall.
  - (c) A site map drawn at a scale sufficient to clearly depict: the site property boundary, the stormwater discharge outfalls, all on-site and adjacent surface waters and wetlands, industrial activity areas (including but not limited to scales, receiving, staging, blending, storage, composting, screening, rejects, curing, warehousing, packaging, labeling, loading, and other manufacturing activities), site topography and finished grade, all drainage features and structures, drainage area boundaries and total contributing area for each outfall, direction of flow in each drainage area, industrial activities occurring in each drainage area, buildings, stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) with design capacities, process wastewater treatment facilities, and permanent impervious surfaces, such as roads or process areas that are unlikely to change frequently. The site map shall include a graphic scale indication and north arrow. In addition, the following industrial activity areas must also be identified on the site map: fueling, vehicle and equipment maintenance and repair, washing, painting, welding, and metal fabrication.
  - (d) A list of significant spills or leaks of pollutants that have occurred during the previous three (3) years and any corrective actions taken to mitigate spill impacts.
  - (e) Certification that the stormwater outfalls have been evaluated for the presence of non-stormwater discharges. **The permittee shall re-certify annually that the stormwater outfalls have been evaluated for the presence of non-stormwater**

**discharges.** The certification statement will be signed in accordance with the requirements found in Part IV, Standard Conditions, Section B, paragraph 5.

2. **Stormwater Management Plan.** The stormwater management plan shall contain a narrative description of the materials management practices employed which control or minimize the stormwater exposure of significant materials, including finished compost as well as materials that may be present on site but not intentionally within the manufacturing process (i.e., wind-blown, tracked-out, dragged-out, or otherwise accidentally dispersed on-site materials). The stormwater management plan, at a minimum, shall incorporate the following:
  - (a) **Feasibility Study.** A review of the technical and economic feasibility of changing the methods of operations and/or storage practices to eliminate or reduce exposure of materials and processes to rainfall and run on flows. Wherever practical, the permittee shall prevent exposure of all storage areas, material handling operations, and manufacturing or fueling operations. In areas where elimination of exposure is not practical, the stormwater management plan shall document the feasibility of diverting stormwater run on away from areas of potential contamination.
  - (b) **Secondary Containment Requirements and Records.** Secondary containment is required for: bulk storage of liquid materials; storage in any amount of Section 313 of Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) water priority chemicals; and storage in any amount of hazardous substances, in order to prevent leaks and spills from contaminating stormwater runoff. A table or summary of all such tanks and stored materials and their associated secondary containment areas shall be maintained. If the secondary containment devices are connected to stormwater conveyance systems, the connection shall be controlled by manually activated valves or other similar devices (which shall be secured closed with a locking mechanism), and any stormwater that accumulates in the containment area shall be at a minimum visually observed for color, foam, outfall staining, visible sheens and dry weather flow, prior to release of the accumulated stormwater. Accumulated stormwater shall be released if found to be uncontaminated by any material. Records documenting the individual making the observation, the description of the accumulated stormwater, and the date and time of the release shall be kept for a period of five years.
  - (c) **BMP Summary.** A listing of site structural and non-structural Best Management Practices (BMP) shall be provided. The installation and implementation of BMPs shall be based on the assessment of the potential for sources to contribute significant quantities of pollutants to stormwaters discharges and data collected through monitoring of stormwater discharges. The BMP Summary shall include a written record of the specific rationale for installation and implementation of the selected site BMPs. The BMP Summary shall be reviewed and updated annually.
  - (d) **Rain gauge.** The permittee shall maintain a rain gauge and daily rainfall amount records on site.
3. **Spill Prevention and Response Plan.** The Spill Prevention and Response Plan (SPRP) shall incorporate an assessment of potential pollutant sources based on a materials inventory of the facility. Facility personnel responsible for implementing the SPRP shall be identified in a written list incorporated into the SPRP and signed and dated by each individual acknowledging their responsibilities for the plan. A responsible person shall be on-site at all times during facility operations that have the potential to contaminate

stormwater runoff through spills or exposure of materials associated with the facility operations. The SPRP must be site stormwater specific. Therefore, an oil Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure plan (SPCC) may be a component of the SPRP, but may not be sufficient to completely address the stormwater aspects of the SPRP. The common elements of the SPCC with the SPRP may be incorporated by reference into the SPRP.

4. **Preventative Maintenance and Good Housekeeping Program.** A preventative maintenance and good housekeeping program shall be developed and implemented. The program shall ensure that equipment present on the site must be operated and maintained to prevent potential pollution of the surface water or groundwaters of the state. Fuels, lubricants, coolants, hydraulic fluids, or any other petroleum products shall not be discharged on the ground or into surface waters. Spent lubricants and fuels shall be disposed of properly and in accordance with applicable federal disposal regulations. Spilled fluids shall be cleaned up to the maximum extent practicable and properly disposed of to prevent entry to surface waters or groundwaters of the state. The program shall establish schedules of inspections, maintenance, and housekeeping measures for vehicle and equipment maintenance and industrial activity areas (including material storage and handling areas, disposal areas, process areas, loading and unloading areas, and haul roads), where not already addressed under another element of the SPPP. Schedules for inspections, maintenance, and housekeeping, and documentation that these program elements are being implemented, shall be recorded and maintained in the SPPP.
5. **Employee Training.** Training programs shall be developed and training provided at a minimum on an annual basis for facility personnel with responsibilities for: spill response and cleanup, preventative maintenance activities, and for any of the facility's operations that have the potential to contaminate stormwater runoff. Where the materials or activities are present, specific training is required for: used oil management, spent solvent management, spent abrasives management, fueling, sanding, painting, and used battery management. The facility personnel responsible for implementing the training shall be identified, and their annual training shall be documented by the signature of each employee trained.
6. **Responsible Party.** The SPPP shall identify a specific position responsible for the overall coordination, development, implementation, and revision to the SPPP. Responsibilities for all components of the SPPP shall be documented and position assignments provided.
7. **SPPP Amendment.** The permittee shall amend the SPPP whenever there is a change in design, construction, operation, waste receipts, site drainage, maintenance, or configuration of the physical features, which may have a significant effect on the potential for the discharge of pollutants to surface waters. All aspects of the SPPP shall be reviewed and updated on an annual basis. The annual update shall include:
  - (a) an updated list of significant spills or leaks of pollutants for the previous three (3) years, or the notation that no spills have occurred;
  - (b) a written re-certification that the stormwater outfalls have been evaluated for the presence of non-stormwater discharges;
  - (c) a documented re-evaluation of the effectiveness of the on-site stormwater BMPs.

The Director may notify the permittee when the SPPP does not meet one or more of the minimum requirements of the permit. Within 30 days of such notice, the permittee shall submit a time schedule to the Director for modifying the SPPP to meet minimum requirements. The permittee shall provide certification in writing (in accordance with Part

IV, Standard Conditions, Section B, paragraph 5) to the Director that the changes have been made.

8. **Facility Inspections.** Inspections of the facility and all stormwater systems shall occur as part of the Preventative Maintenance and Good Housekeeping Program at a minimum on a quarterly schedule. These facility inspections are different from, and in addition to, the stormwater discharge characteristic qualitative monitoring required in Part II Section D of this permit.
9. **SPPP Implementation.** The permittee shall implement the SPPP and all appropriate BMPs to ensure that contaminants do not enter surface waters via stormwater. Implementation of the SPPP shall include documentation of all monitoring, measurements, inspections, maintenance activities, and training provided to employees, including the log of the sampling data and of actions taken to implement BMPs associated with the industrial activities, including vehicle and equipment maintenance activities. Such documentation shall be kept on-site for a period of five years and made available to the Director or the Director’s authorized representative immediately upon request.

**SECTION B: STORMWATER DISCHARGES: ANALYTICAL MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

Analytical monitoring for stormwater discharges shall be performed as specified in **Tables 1 through 3**. All analytical monitoring shall be performed during a representative storm event. This Section B does not apply to process wastewater discharges which may originate as precipitation on materials during the manufacturing process.

**Table 1 Analytical Monitoring Requirements for Stormwater Discharges**

Discharge Characteristics	Units	Measurement Frequency <sup>1</sup>	Sample Type <sup>2</sup>	Sample Location <sup>3</sup>
Total suspended solids	mg/L	Quarterly	Grab	SDO
Chemical oxygen demand	mg/L	Quarterly	Grab	SDO
Fecal coliform	colonies/100 mL	Quarterly	Grab	SDO
Total nitrogen	mg/L	Quarterly	Grab	SDO
Total phosphorus	mg/L	Quarterly	Grab	SDO
Total copper	mg/L	Quarterly	Grab	SDO
Total lead	mg/L	Quarterly	Grab	SDO
Total zinc	mg/L	Quarterly	Grab	SDO
pH	standard units	Quarterly	Grab	SDO
Total rainfall <sup>4</sup>	inches	Quarterly	--	--

Footnotes:

1. Measurement Frequency: Four times per year during a representative storm event. *The permittee may petition DWQ to reduce the monitoring frequency for any parameter after four consecutive quarters of analytical results below the benchmark values in Table 3.*
2. Grab samples shall be collected within the first 30 minutes of discharge.

3. Sample Location: Samples shall be collected at each stormwater discharge outfall (SDO) unless representative outfall status (ROS) has been granted in writing by DWQ. A copy of the letter granting ROS shall be kept on site in the SPPP.
4. For each sampled representative storm event the total precipitation must be reported. An on-site rain gauge or local rain gauge reading must be recorded. *The permittee is not required to sample stormwater discharges resulting from a rainfall greater than the 25-yr, 24-hr event for the site location.*

**A representative storm event** for the purposes of this General Permit is a storm event that measures greater than 0.1 inches of rainfall. The time between this storm event and the previous storm event measuring greater than 0.1 inches must be **at least 48 hours**. One storm event may have a time period within it that has no precipitation. This time period may last up to 10 hours. For example, if it rains but stops before producing any collectable discharge, a sample may be collected if the next rain producing a discharge begins within 10 hours.

The permittee shall complete the analytical samplings in accordance with the schedule specified in **Table 2**. A minimum of 30 days must separate each sample event unless monthly monitoring has been instituted under a Tier 2 response. Failure to comply with quarterly monitoring is a violation of the terms and conditions of this permit, unless adverse weather conditions (e.g., lightning storms, or no rain and/or no discharge) prevent sample collection during the sample collection period. Inability to sample due to adverse weather conditions must be documented in the SPPP with date, time, and written narrative and reported on the quarterly Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR).

**Table 2 Stormwater Annual Monitoring Schedule**

Quarterly Monitoring Events <sup>1,2</sup>	Start Date <sup>3</sup>	End Date <sup>3</sup>
1	January 1	March 31
2	April 1	June 30
3	July 1	September 30
4	October 1	December 31

Footnotes:

1. The permittee is required to maintain quarterly monitoring during the permit renewal process (unless tiers prompt monthly monitoring).
2. *If no discharge occurs during the sampling period, the permittee must record “No Flow” or “No Discharge” within 30 days of the end of the quarterly sampling period in the SPPP. “No Flow” or “No Discharge” shall be reported on the individual quarterly DMRs.*
3. Annual monitoring periods remain constant throughout the five-year permit term (from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2015).

In all cases, the permittee shall report (as required in Part IV, Section E) the analytical results from each sample within the monitoring period. The permittee shall compare those results to the benchmark values in **Table 3**.

**Table 3 Benchmark Values for Stormwater Discharges**

Discharge Characteristics	Benchmark Values
Total suspended solids	100 mg/L
Chemical oxygen demand	120 mg/L
Fecal coliform	1000 colonies/100 mL
Total nitrogen	30 mg/L
Total phosphorus	2 mg/L
Total copper	0.007 mg/L
Total lead	0.03 mg/L
Total zinc	0.067 mg/L
pH	6 – 9 standard units

<b>Tier One</b>
<p><b>If:</b> The first valid sampling results are above a benchmark value, or outside of the benchmark range, for any parameter at any outfall;</p>
<p><b>Then:</b> The permittee shall</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct a stormwater management inspection of the facility <b>within two weeks of receiving sampling results.</b></li> <li>2. Identify and evaluate possible causes of the benchmark value exceedence.</li> <li>3. Identify potential and select the specific: source controls, operational controls, or physical improvements to reduce concentrations of the parameters of concern, or to bring concentrations within the benchmark range.</li> <li>4. Implement the selected actions <b>within two months of the inspection.</b></li> <li>5. Record each instance of a Tier One response in the SPPP. Include the date and value of the benchmark exceedence, the inspection date, the personnel conducting the inspection, the selected actions, and the date the selected actions were implemented.</li> </ol>

<b>Tier Two</b>
<p><b>If:</b> During the term of this permit, the first valid sampling results from <b>two (2) consecutive</b> monitoring periods are above the benchmark values, or outside of the benchmark range, for any specific parameter at a specific discharge outfall;</p>
<p><b>Then:</b> The permittee shall</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Repeat all the required actions outlined above in Tier One.</li> <li>2. Immediately institute monthly monitoring for <u>all parameters</u> at <u>every outfall where a sampling result exceeded the benchmark value for two (2) consecutive samples.</u> Monthly (analytical and qualitative) monitoring shall continue until three (3) consecutive samples are below the benchmark values or within the benchmark range for all parameters at that outfall.</li> <li>3. If no discharge occurs during the sampling period, the permittee is required to record “No Flow” or “No Discharge” in the SPPP for the sampling the period to comply with monthly monitoring requirements and must submit reports in accordance with this permit.</li> <li>4. Maintain a record of Tier Two responses in the SPPP.</li> </ol>

<b>Tier Three</b>
<p>During the term of this permit, if the valid sampling results required for the permit monitoring periods exceed the benchmark value, or are outside the benchmark range, for any specific parameter at any specific outfall on <b>four (4) occasions</b>, the permittee shall notify the DWQ Regional Office Supervisor in writing <b>within 30 days of receipt of the fourth analytical result.</b> DWQ may but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require that the permittee revise, increase, or decrease the monitoring frequency for the remainder of the permit;</li> <li>• Rescind coverage under the General Permit, and require the permittee to apply for an individual stormwater discharge permit;</li> <li>• Require the permittee to install or modify structural stormwater controls; or</li> <li>• Require the permittee to implement other stormwater control measures;</li> <li>• Require the permittee to install process wastewater treatment facilities for the flow, or portions of the flow, not successfully treated by the stormwater control measures.</li> </ul>

**SECTION C: STORMWATER DISCHARGES: ON-SITE VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

Facilities which have any on-site vehicle and equipment maintenance activity that uses more than 55 gallons per month total of new motor oil and/or new hydraulic oil when averaged over the calendar year shall perform analytical monitoring as specified below in **Table 4**.

The permittee shall complete the analytical samplings in accordance with the schedule specified in **Table 2**. Failure to comply with quarterly monitoring is a violation of the terms and conditions of the permit, unless adverse weather conditions (e.g., lightning storms, or no rain and/or no discharge) prevent sample collection during the sample collection period. Inability to sample due to adverse weather conditions must be documented in the SPPP with date, time, and written narrative and reported on the quarterly Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR). This monitoring shall be performed at all outfalls discharging stormwater runoff from vehicle and equipment maintenance activities.

**Table 4 Analytical Monitoring Requirements from On-Site Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance Activities**

Discharge Characteristics	Units	Measurement Frequency <sup>1</sup>	Sample Type <sup>2</sup>	Sample Location <sup>3</sup>
pH	standard	Quarterly	Grab	SDO
Total petroleum hydrocarbons <i>EPA Method 1664 (SGT-HEM)</i>	mg/L	Quarterly	Grab	SDO
Total suspended solids	mg/L	Quarterly	Grab	SDO
Total rainfall <sup>4</sup>	inches	Quarterly	Grab	--
New oil usage	gallons/month	Quarterly	Estimate	--

**Footnotes:**

1. Measurement Frequency: Four times per year during a representative storm event. A minimum of 30 days must separate each sampling event. *The permittee may petition DWQ to reduce the monitoring frequency for any parameter after four consecutive quarters of analytical results below the benchmark values in Table 5.*
2. Grab samples shall be collected within the first 30 minutes of discharge.
3. Sample Location: Samples shall be collected at each stormwater discharge outfall (SDO) that discharges stormwater runoff from vehicle and equipment maintenance activities.
4. For each sampled representative storm event the total precipitation must be recorded. An on-site or local rain gauge reading must be recorded. *The permittee is not required to sample stormwater discharges resulting from a rainfall greater than the 25-yr, 24-hr event for the site location.*

In all cases, the permittee shall report (as required in Part IV, Section E) the analytical results from each sample within the monitoring period. The permittee shall compare those results to the benchmark values in **Table 5**. Exceedences of benchmark values require the permittee to comply with the tiered response actions identified above in Section B.

**Table 5 Benchmark Values for On-Site Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance Activities**

Discharge Characteristics	Benchmark Values
pH	6 – 9 standard units
Total petroleum hydrocarbons	15 mg/L
Total suspended solids	100 mg/L

**SECTION D: STORMWATER DISCHARGES: QUALITATIVE MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

Qualitative monitoring requires a visual inspection of each stormwater outfall regardless of representative outfall status and shall be performed as specified below in **Table 6**.

Qualitative monitoring of stormwater outfalls must be performed during a representative storm event, unless adverse weather conditions prevent monitoring during the monitoring period. Inability to monitor due to adverse weather conditions must be documented in the SPPP with date, time and written narrative. Qualitative monitoring will be performed four times per year, in accordance with the schedule in **Table 2**.

**Table 6 Qualitative Monitoring Requirements**

Discharge Characteristics	Frequency <sup>1</sup>	Monitoring Location
Color	Quarterly	SDO
Odor	Quarterly	SDO
Clarity	Quarterly	SDO
Floating Solids	Quarterly	SDO
Suspended Solids	Quarterly	SDO
Foam	Quarterly	SDO
Oil Sheen	Quarterly	SDO
Deposition at or immediately below the outfall	Quarterly	SDO
Erosion at or immediately below the outfall	Quarterly	SDO
Other obvious indicators of stormwater pollution	Quarterly	SDO

**Footnotes:**

1. A minimum of 30 days must separate each monitoring event.
2. Monitoring Location: Qualitative monitoring shall be performed at each stormwater discharge outfall (SDO) regardless of representative outfall status. *The quarterly monitoring frequency for qualitative monitoring is not eligible for a reduced monitoring frequency.*
3. *The permittee is not required to monitor stormwater discharges resulting from a rainfall greater than the 25-yr, 24-hr event for the site location.*

Qualitative monitoring records shall be on facsimiles of the forms supplied by DWQ, and shall be maintained on site as part of the SPPP. Qualitative monitoring records shall not be submitted to DWQ except upon request.

If the permittee’s qualitative monitoring indicates either that existing stormwater BMPs are ineffective, or that significant stormwater contamination is present, the permittee shall investigate

potential causes, evaluate the feasibility of corrective actions, and implement those corrective actions appropriate. **A written record of the permittee’s investigation, evaluation, and response actions shall be kept in the SPPP.**

Qualitative monitoring is for the purposes of evaluating the effectiveness of the SPPP, assessing new sources of stormwater pollution, and prompting the permittee’s response actions to pollution. If the permittee repeatedly fails to respond effectively to correct problems identified by qualitative monitoring, or if the discharge causes or contributes to a water quality standard violation, DWQ may but is not limited to:

- Require that the permittee revise, increase, or decrease the monitoring frequency for the remainder of the permit;
- Rescind coverage under the General Permit, and require the permittee to apply for an individual stormwater discharge permit;
- Require the permittee to install or modify structural stormwater controls; or
- Require the permittee to implement other stormwater control measures.

**SECTION E: PROCESS WASTEWATER DISCHARGES: EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

Process wastewater discharges are discharges that have contacted any raw materials, intermediate products, final products not qualifying as finished compost, by-products, or waste products during compost manufacturing. Discharges of leachates, wash waters, and rinse waters are considered process wastewater discharges.

**Finished Compost**

‘Finished compost’ is a specific level of compost maturity, or degree of completion of the compost degradation process. Not all final products produced at composting operations are necessarily ‘finished compost’ as the term is used in this permit. DWQ relies on the Division of Waste Management to determine whether the final product from a composting operation is ‘finished compost’, or not. Discharges arising from qualifying ‘finished compost’ may be permitted as stormwater discharges. Other discharges from final products will be permitted as process wastewater discharges under this Section E.

Analytical monitoring for process wastewater discharges shall be performed as specified below in **Table 7**. For each parameter, the process wastewater effluent limitation is contained in **Table 8**. An exceedence of a process wastewater effluent limitation is a violation of the permit conditions and may be subject to enforcement action as specified in Part IV, Section A.2 of this permit.

**Table 7 Monitoring Requirements for Process Wastewater Discharges**

Discharge Characteristics	Units	Measurement Frequency <sup>1</sup>	Sample Type	Sample Location <sup>2</sup>
Biochemical oxygen demand, 5-day	mg/L	Quarterly	Grab	E
Total suspended solids	mg/L	Quarterly	Grab	E
Fecal coliform	colonies/100mL	Quarterly	Grab	E
pH	standard units	Quarterly	Grab	E
Total flow <sup>3</sup>	MG	Quarterly	-	E

Footnotes:

1. Measurement frequency: Four times per year, in accordance with the periods identified in **Table 9**. *The quarterly monitoring frequency for process wastewater discharges is not eligible for a reduced monitoring frequency.*
2. Sample Location: E – Effluent
3. Total Flow volume shall be recorded by a continuous flow measurement instrument. Alternatively, pump curves and pump logs may be used as a means to calculate flow volume.

**Table 8 Effluent Limitations for Process Wastewater Discharges**

Discharge Characteristics	Effluent Limitations	
	Quarterly Average	Daily Maximum
Biochemical oxygen demand, 5-day	30 mg/L	45 mg/L
Total suspended solids	30 mg/L	45 mg/L
Fecal coliform	200 colonies/100mL	400 colonies/100 mL
pH <sup>1</sup>	--	--
Total flow	--	--

Footnote:

1. The pH for freshwater classifications shall be within the range of 6.0 to 9.0 standard units. The pH for saltwater classifications shall be within the range of 6.8 to 8.5 standard units.

The permittee shall complete the analytical samplings of process wastewater discharges in accordance with the schedule in **Table 9**. Failure to comply with quarterly monitoring is a violation of the terms and conditions of the permit.

**Table 9 Process Wastewater Discharge Monitoring Schedule**

Quarterly Monitoring Events <sup>1,2</sup>	Start Date <sup>3</sup>	End Date <sup>3</sup>
1	January 1	March 31
2	April 1	June 30
3	July 1	September 30
4	October 1	December 31

Footnotes:

1. The permittee is required to maintain quarterly monitoring during the permit renewal process.
2. *If no discharge occurs during the sampling period, the permittee must record “No Flow” or “No Discharge” within 30 days of the end of the quarterly sampling period in the SPPP. “No Flow” or “No Discharge” shall be reported on the individual quarterly DMR.*
3. Annual monitoring periods remain constant throughout the five-year permit term (from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2015).

**PART III – AUTHORIZATION TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE A PROCESS  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY**

Where an ATC is included on the permittee's COC, the construction and operation of a **process wastewater treatment facility** is subject to the requirements in Sections A and B below.

**SECTION A: REQUIREMENTS TO CONSTRUCT A NEW OR EXPANDED PROCESS  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY**

1. The permittee shall cause the authorized process wastewater treatment facility to be constructed in accordance with the conditions of this permit, approved plans and specifications, and other supporting data.
2. The process wastewater treatment facility shall be constructed to meet the effluent limitations in Part II, Section E of this General Permit.
3. Upon completion of construction and prior to operation of the process wastewater treatment facility, the permittee shall submit a certification by a professional engineer in accordance with G.S. 89-25, certifying that the permitted facility has been installed in accordance with this permit, the approved plans and specifications, and other supporting materials. The permittee shall deliver the engineer's certification to the Division of Water Quality, Stormwater Permitting Unit, 1617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1617.
4. The permittee shall notify the DWQ Regional Office at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of operation of the installed facility so that an in-place inspection can be made if the Regional Office so desires. Such notification to the Regional Supervisor shall be made during normal business hours from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday, excluding state holidays.
5. The permittee shall retain the approved plans and specifications on site for the life of the process wastewater treatment facility.
6. This permit does not authorize the construction or operation of any subsequent additions to the process wastewater treatment facility identified in the COC. The permittee must apply separately for another ATC for any subsequent additions, modifications, or expansions to the process wastewater treatment facility.

**SECTION B: REQUIREMENTS FOR OPERATION OF A PROCESS WASTEWATER  
TREATMENT FACILITY**

1. The permittee shall operate and maintain the process wastewater treatment facility in accordance with the requirements of this General Permit.
2. The diversion or bypass of untreated process wastewater from the process wastewater treatment facility is prohibited except under provisions of this permit in Part IV, Section C.4 and Part IV, Section E.7.
3. In the event that the process wastewater treatment facility fails to perform satisfactorily, including the creation of nuisance conditions, the permittee shall take immediate corrective

action, including those actions that may be required by DWQ, such as the construction of additional or replacement treatment or disposal facilities.

4. The issuance of this permit does not relieve the permittee of the responsibility for damages to surface waters of the State resulting from the operation of the process wastewater treatment facility.

**PART IV – STANDARD CONDITIONS****SECTION A: COMPLIANCE AND LIABILITY**1. Compliance Schedule

The permittee shall comply with Limitations and Controls specified for stormwater discharges in accordance with the following schedule:

Existing facilities already operating, but applying for coverage under this General Permit for the first time: The Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan shall be developed and implemented within 12 months of the effective date of the initial Certificate of Coverage issued pursuant to this General Permit and updated thereafter on an annual basis. Secondary containment, as specified in Part II, Section A, paragraph 2(d) of this permit, shall be accomplished within 12 months of the effective date of the initial Certificate of Coverage.

New facilities applying for permit coverage for the first time and existing facilities previously permitted and applying for renewal under this General Permit: All requirements, conditions, limitations, and controls contained in this permit become effective immediately upon issuance of the Certificate of Coverage. The Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan shall be developed and implemented prior to the beginning of discharges from the operation of the industrial activity and be updated thereafter on an annual basis. Secondary containment, as specified in Part II, Section A, paragraph 3(c) of this permit shall be accomplished prior to the beginning of discharges from the operation of the industrial activity.

2. Duty to Comply

The permittee must comply with all conditions of this General Permit. Any permit noncompliance constitutes a violation of the Clean Water Act and is grounds for enforcement action; for certificate of coverage termination, revocation and reissuance, or modification; or denial of a certificate of coverage upon renewal application.

- a. The permittee shall comply with standards or prohibitions established under section 307(a) of the Clean Water Act for toxic pollutants within the time provided in the regulations that establish these standards or prohibitions, even if the permit has not yet been modified to incorporate the requirement.
- b. The Clean Water Act provides that any person who violates a permit condition is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$25,000 per day for each violation. Any person who negligently violates any permit condition is subject to criminal penalties of \$2,500 to \$25,000 per day of violation, or imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or both. Any person who knowingly violates permit conditions is subject to criminal penalties of \$5,000 to \$50,000 per day of violation, or imprisonment for not more than 3 years, or both. Also, any person who violates a permit condition may be assessed an administrative penalty not to exceed \$10,000 per violation with the maximum amount not to exceed \$125,000. [Ref: Section 309 of the Federal Act 33 USC 1319 and 40 CFR 122.41(a).]
- c. Under state law, a daily civil penalty of not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per violation may be assessed against any person who violates or fails to act in accordance with the terms, conditions, or requirements of a permit. [Ref: North Carolina General Statutes 143-215.6A]
- d. Any person may be assessed an administrative penalty by the Director for violating section 301, 302, 306, 307, 308, 318, or 405 of the Act, or any permit condition or limitation implementing any of such sections in a permit issued under section 402 of the Act. Administrative penalties for Class I violations are not to exceed \$10,000 per violation, with the maximum amount of any Class I penalty assessed not to exceed \$25,000. Penalties for Class II violations are not to exceed \$10,000 per day for

each day during which the violation continues, with the maximum amount of any Class II penalty not to exceed \$125,000.

3. Duty to Mitigate

The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge in violation of this General Permit which has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment.

4. Civil and Criminal Liability

Except as provided in Section D of this permit regarding bypassing of stormwater control facilities, nothing in this General Permit shall be construed to relieve the permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties for noncompliance pursuant to NCGS 143-215.3, 143-215.6A, 143-215.6B, 143-215.6C or Section 309 of the Federal Act, 33 USC 1319. Furthermore, the permittee is responsible for consequential damages, such as fish kills, even though the responsibility for effective compliance may be temporarily suspended.

5. Oil and Hazardous Substance Liability

Nothing in this General Permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve the permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties to which the permittee is or may be subject to under NCGS 143-215.75 et seq. or Section 311 of the Federal Act, 33 USC 1321.

6. Property Rights

The issuance of this General Permit does not convey any property rights in either real or personal property, or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights, nor any infringement of federal, state or local laws or regulations.

7. Severability

The provisions of this General Permit are severable, and if any provision of this General Permit, or the application of any provision of this General Permit to any circumstances, is held invalid, the application of such provision to other circumstances, and the remainder of this General Permit, shall not be affected thereby.

8. Duty to Provide Information

The permittee shall furnish to the Director, within a reasonable time, any information which the Director may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, or terminating the certificate of coverage issued pursuant to this General Permit or to determine compliance with this General Permit. The permittee shall also furnish to the Director upon request, copies of records required to be kept by this General Permit.

9. Penalties for Tampering

The Clean Water Act provides that any person who falsifies, tampers with, or knowingly renders inaccurate, any monitoring device or method required to be maintained under this General Permit shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 per violation, or by imprisonment for not more than two years per violation, or by both. If a conviction of a person is for a violation committed after a first conviction of such person under this paragraph, punishment is a fine of not more than \$20,000 per day of violation, or by imprisonment of not more than 4 years, or both.

10. Penalties for Falsification of Reports

The Clean Water Act provides that any person who knowingly makes any false statement, representation, or certification in any record or other document submitted or required to be maintained under this General Permit, including monitoring reports or reports of compliance or noncompliance shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 per violation, or by imprisonment for not more than two years per violation, or by both.

**SECTION B: GENERAL CONDITIONS**

1. General Permit Expiration

The permittee is not authorized to discharge after the expiration date. In order to discharge beyond the expiration date, the permittee shall submit forms and fees as are required by the agency authorized to issue permits no later than 180 days prior to the expiration date. Any permittee that has not requested renewal at least 180 days prior to expiration, or any permittee that does not have a permit after the expiration and has not requested renewal at least 180 days prior to expiration, will be subjected to enforcement procedures as provided in NCGS §143-2153.6 and 33 USC 1251 et. seq.

2. Transfers

The certificate of coverage issued pursuant to this General Permit is not transferable to any person except after notice to and approval by the Director. The Director may require modification or revocation and reissuance of the certificate of coverage to change the name and incorporate such other requirements as may be necessary under the Clean Water Act. **Permittee is required to notify DWQ within 90 days in the event the permitted facility is sold or closed.**

3. When an Individual Permit May be Required

The Director may require any owner/operator authorized to discharge under a certificate of coverage issued pursuant to this General Permit to apply for and obtain an individual permit or an alternative General Permit. Any interested person may petition the Director to take action under this paragraph. Cases where an individual permit may be required include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. The discharger is a significant contributor of pollutants;
- b. Conditions at the permitted site change, altering the constituents and/or characteristics of the discharge such that the discharge no longer qualifies for a General Permit;
- c. The discharge violates the terms or conditions of this General Permit;
- d. A change has occurred in the availability of demonstrated technology or practices for the control or abatement of pollutants applicable to the point source;
- e. Effluent limitations are promulgated for the point sources covered by this General Permit;
- f. A water quality management plan containing requirements applicable to such point sources is approved after the issuance of this General Permit.
- g. The Director determines at his or her own discretion that an individual permit is required.

4. When an Individual Permit May be Requested

Any permittee operating under this General Permit may request to be excluded from the coverage of this General Permit by applying for an individual permit. When an individual permit is issued to an owner/operator the applicability of this General Permit is automatically terminated on the effective date of the individual permit.

5. Signatory Requirements

All applications, reports, or information submitted to the Director shall be signed and certified.

a. All notices of intent to be covered under this General Permit shall be signed as follows:

- (1) For a corporation: by a responsible corporate officer. For the purpose of this Section, a responsible corporate officer means: (a) a president, secretary, treasurer or vice president of the corporation in charge of a principal business function, or any other person who performs similar policy or decision making functions for the corporation, or (b) the manager of one or more manufacturing production or operating facilities employing more than 250 persons or having gross annual sales or expenditures exceeding 25 million (in second quarter 1980 dollars), if authority to sign documents has been assigned or delegated to the manager in accordance with corporate procedures.
- (2) For a partnership or sole proprietorship: by a general partner or the proprietor, respectively; or
- (3) For a municipality, state, federal, or other public agency: by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official.

b. All reports required by the General Permit and other information requested by the Director shall be signed by a person described above or by a duly authorized representative of that person. A person is a duly authorized representative only if:

- (1) The authorization is made in writing by a person described above;
- (2) The authorization specified either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated facility or activity, such as the position of plant manager, operator of a well or well field, superintendent, a position of equivalent responsibility, or an individual or position having overall responsibility for environmental matters for the company. (A duly authorized representative may thus be either a named individual or any individual occupying a named position.); and
- (3) The written authorization is submitted to the Director.

c. Any person signing a document under paragraphs a. or b. of this section shall make the following certification; which shall not be modified in any way:

"I certify, under penalty of law, that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and

belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fines and imprisonment for knowing violations."

6. General Permit Modification, Revocation and Reissuance, or Termination

The issuance of this General Permit does not prohibit the Director from reopening and modifying the General Permit, revoking and reissuing the General Permit, or terminating the General Permit as allowed by the laws, rules, and regulations contained in Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 122 and 123; Title 15A of the North Carolina Administrative Code, Subchapter 2H .0100; and North Carolina General Statute 143-215.1 et. al.

After public notice and opportunity for a hearing, the General Permit may be terminated for cause. The filing of a request for a General Permit modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination does not stay any General Permit condition. The certificate of coverage shall expire when the General Permit is terminated.

7. Certificate of Coverage Actions

The certificate of coverage issued in accordance with this General Permit may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause. The notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not stay any General Permit condition.

**SECTION C: OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF POLLUTION CONTROLS**

1. Proper Operation and Maintenance

The permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) which are installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with this General Permit. Proper operation and maintenance also includes adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of back-up or auxiliary facilities or similar systems which are installed by a permittee only when the operation is necessary to achieve compliance with the General Permit.

2. Need to Halt or Reduce not a Defense

It shall not be a defense for a permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the condition of this General Permit.

3. Bypassing of Stormwater Control Facilities

Bypass is prohibited and the Director may take enforcement action against a permittee for bypass unless:

- a. Bypass was unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury or severe property damage; and
- b. There were no feasible alternatives to the bypass, such as the use of auxiliary control facilities, retention of stormwater or maintenance during normal periods of equipment downtime or dry weather. This condition is not satisfied if adequate backup controls should have been installed in the exercise of reasonable engineering judgment to prevent a bypass which occurred during normal periods of equipment downtime or preventive maintenance; and

- c. The permittee submitted notices as required under Section E of this Part.

If the Director determines that it will meet the three conditions listed above, the Director may approve an anticipated bypass after considering its adverse effects.

4. Bypassing of Wastewater Treatment Facilities

The permittee may allow any bypass to occur which does not cause effluent limitations to be exceeded, but only if it also is for essential maintenance to assure efficient operation. These bypasses are not subject to the provisions of Part IV, Section C.4.a and Part IV, Section C.4.b.

a. Notices

- (1) Anticipated bypass. If the permittees knows in advance of the need for a bypass, it shall submit prior notice, if possible at least ten days before the date of the bypass, including an evaluation of the anticipated quality and affect of the bypass.
- (2) Unanticipated bypass. The permittees shall submit notice within 24 hours of becoming aware of an unanticipated bypass as required in Part IV, Section E.7.

b. Prohibition of Bypass

- (1) Bypass is prohibited and the Director may take enforcement action against the permittees for bypass, unless:
  - (a) Bypass was unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury or severe property damage; and
  - (b) There were no feasible alternatives to the bypass, such as the use of auxiliary control facilities, retention of untreated waste or maintenance during normal periods of equipment downtime. This condition is not satisfied if adequate backup should have been installed in the exercise of reasonable engineering judgment to prevent a bypass which occurred during normal periods of equipment downtime or preventive maintenance; and
  - (c) The permittees submitted notices as required under Part IV, Section C.4.a of this permit.
- (2) The Director may approve an anticipated bypass, after considering its adverse affects, if the Director determines that it will meet the three conditions listed in Part IV, Section C.4.b.(1) of this permit.

**SECTION D: MONITORING AND RECORDS**

1. Representative Sampling

Samples collected and measurements taken, as required herein, shall be characteristic of the volume and nature of the permitted discharge. Analytical sampling shall be performed during a representative storm event. Samples shall be taken on a day and time that is characteristic of the discharge. All samples shall be taken before the discharge joins or is diluted by any other waste stream, body of water, or substance.

2. Recording Results

For each measurement, sample, inspection or maintenance activity performed or collected pursuant to the requirements of this General Permit, the permittee shall record the following information:

- a. The date, exact place, and time of sampling, measurements, inspection or maintenance activity;
- b. The individual(s) who performed the sampling, measurements, inspection or maintenance activity;
- c. The date(s) analyses were performed;
- d. The individual(s) who performed the analyses;
- e. The analytical techniques or methods used; and
- f. The results of such analyses.

3. Flow Measurements

Where required, appropriate flow measurement devices and methods consistent with accepted scientific practices shall be selected and used to ensure the accuracy and reliability of measurements of the volume of monitored discharges.

4. Test Procedures

Test procedures for the analysis of pollutants shall conform to the EMC regulations published pursuant to NCGS 143-215.63 et. seq, the Water and Air Quality Reporting Acts, and to regulations published pursuant to Section 304(g), 33 USC 1314, of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as Amended, and Regulation 40 CFR 136.

To meet the intent of the monitoring required by this General Permit, all test procedures must produce minimum detection and reporting levels and all data generated must be reported down to the minimum detection or lower reporting level of the procedure.

5. Representative Outfall

If a facility has multiple discharge locations with substantially identical stormwater discharges that are required to be sampled, the permittee may petition the Director for representative outfall status. If it is established that the stormwater discharges are substantially identical and the permittee is granted representative outfall status, then analytical sampling requirements may be performed at a reduced number of outfalls.

6. Records Retention

Qualitative monitoring shall be documented and records maintained at the facility along with the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan. Copies of analytical monitoring results shall also be maintained on-site. The permittee shall retain records of all monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation, and copies of all reports required by this General Permit for a period of at least 5 years from the date of the sample, measurement, report or application. This period may be extended by request of the Director at any time. If this volume of records cannot be maintained on-site, the documents must be made available to an inspector upon request as immediately as possible.

7. Inspection and Entry

The permittee shall allow the Director, or an authorized representative (including an authorized contractor acting as a representative of the Director), or in the case of a facility which discharges through a municipal separate storm sewer system, an authorized representative of a municipal operator or the separate storm sewer system receiving the discharge, upon the presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to;

- a. Enter upon the permittee's premises where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted, or where records must be kept under the conditions of this General Permit;
- b. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that must be kept under the conditions of this General Permit;
- c. Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this General Permit; and
- d. Sample or monitor at reasonable times, for the purposes of assuring General Permit compliance or as otherwise authorized by the Clean Water Act, any substances or parameters at any location.

## SECTION E: REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

### 1. Discharge Monitoring Reports

Samples analyzed in accordance with the terms of this permit shall be recorded on Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) forms provided by the Director, and delivered to the Division **no later than 30 days from the date the facility receives the sampling results from the laboratory.**

When no discharge has occurred from one or more outfalls during the report period, the permittee is required to submit a DMR indicating "NO FLOW" or "NO DISCHARGE" within 30 days of the end of the sampling period.

The permittee shall record the required qualitative monitoring observations on the SDO Qualitative Monitoring Report form provided by DWQ, and shall retain the completed forms on site. Qualitative monitoring results should not be submitted to DWQ, except upon DWQ's specific direction to do so.

The permittee shall include the signed certification statement described in Part IV, Section B.5.c.

### 2. Submitting Reports

A signed original and a copy of the Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) shall be submitted to:

Central Files  
Division of Water Quality  
1617 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1617

Qualitative monitoring results should **not** be submitted to the DWQ Central Files unless specifically directed by DWQ.

### 3. Availability of Reports

Except for data determined to be confidential under NCGS 143-215.3(a)(2) or Section 308 of the Federal Act, 33 USC 1318, all reports prepared in accordance with the terms shall be available for public inspection at the offices of DWQ. As required by the Act, analytical data shall not be considered confidential. Knowingly making any false statement on any such report may result in the imposition of criminal penalties as provided for in NCGS 143-215.6B or in Section 309 of the Federal Act.

### 4. Non-Stormwater Discharges

If the storm event monitored in accordance with this General Permit coincides with a non-stormwater discharge, the permittee shall separately monitor all parameters as required under the

non-stormwater discharge permit and provide this information with the stormwater discharge monitoring report.

5. Planned Changes

The permittee shall give notice to the Director as soon as possible of any planned changes at the permitted facility which could significantly alter the nature or quantity of pollutants discharged. This notification requirement includes pollutants which are not specifically listed in the General Permit or subject to notification requirements under 40 CFR Part 122.42 (a).

6. Anticipated Noncompliance

The permittee shall give notice to the Director as soon as possible of any planned changes at the permitted facility which may result in noncompliance with the General Permit requirements.

7. Bypass

- a. Anticipated bypass. If the permittee knows in advance of the need for a bypass, it shall submit prior notice, if possible at least ten days before the date of the bypass; including an evaluation of the anticipated quality and affect of the bypass.
- b. Unanticipated bypass. The permittee shall submit notice within 24 hours of becoming aware of an unanticipated bypass.

8. Twenty-four Hour Reporting

The permittee shall report to the central office or the appropriate regional office any noncompliance which may endanger health or the environment. Any information shall be provided orally within 24 hours from the time the permittee became aware of the circumstances. A written submission shall also be provided within 5 days of the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances.

The written submission shall contain a description of the noncompliance, and its causes; the period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times, and if the noncompliance has not been corrected, the anticipated time compliance is expected to continue; and steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent reoccurrence of the noncompliance.

The Director may waive the written report on a case-by-case basis if the oral report has been received within 24 hours.

9. Spills

The permittee shall report to the local DWQ Regional Office, within 24 hours, all significant spills as defined in Part VII of this permit. Additionally, the permittee shall report spills including: any oil spill of 25 gallons or more, any spill regardless of amount that causes a sheen on surface waters, any oil spill regardless of amount occurring within 100 feet of surface waters, and any oil spill less than 25 gallons that cannot be cleaned up within 24 hours.

10. Other Noncompliance

The permittee shall report all instances of noncompliance not reported under 24 hour reporting at the time monitoring reports are submitted.

11. Other Information

Where the permittee becomes aware that it failed to submit any relevant facts in a Notice of Intent to be covered under this General Permit or in any report to the Director, it shall promptly submit such facts or information.

**PART V – LIMITATIONS REOPENER**

This General Permit shall be modified or alternatively, revoked and reissued, to comply with any applicable effluent guideline or water quality standard issued or approved under Sections 302(b) (2) (c), and (d), 304(b) (2) and 307(a) of the Clean Water Act, if the effluent guideline or water quality standard so issued or approved:

- a. Contains different conditions or is otherwise more stringent than any effluent limitation in the General Permit; or
- b. Controls any pollutant not limited in the General Permit.

The General Permit as modified or reissued under this paragraph shall also contain any other requirements in the Act then applicable.

**PART VI – ADMINISTERING AND COMPLIANCE MONITORING FEE REQUIREMENTS**

The permittee must pay the administering and compliance monitoring fee within 30 (thirty) days after being billed by DWQ. Failure to pay the fee in timely manner in accordance with 15A NCAC 2H .0105(b)(4) may cause DWQ to initiate action to revoke the Certificate of Coverage.

**PART VII – DEFINITIONS**1. Act

See Clean Water Act.

2. Adverse Weather

Adverse conditions are those that are dangerous or create inaccessibility for personnel, such as local flooding, high winds, or electrical storms, or situations that otherwise make sampling impractical, such as a drought. When adverse weather conditions prevent the collection of samples during the sample period, the permittee must take a substitute sample or perform a visual assessment during the next qualifying storm event. Documentation of an adverse event and the rationale must be included with your SPPP records. Adverse weather does not exempt the permittee from having to file a monitoring report in accordance with the sampling schedule. Adverse events and failures to monitor must be explained on the DMR and recorded and explained in the SPPP records.

3. Arithmetic Mean

The arithmetic mean of any set of values is the summation of the individual values divided by the number of individual values.

4. Allowable Non-Stormwater Discharges

- a. Non-stormwater discharges which shall be allowed in the stormwater conveyance system are:

- (a) All other discharges that are authorized by a non-stormwater NPDES permit.
- (b) Uncontaminated groundwater, foundation drains, air-conditioner condensate without added chemicals, springs, discharges of uncontaminated potable water, waterline and fire hydrant flushings, water from footing drains, flows from riparian habitats and wetlands.
- (c) Discharges resulting from fire-fighting or fire-fighting training.

5. Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Measures or practices used to reduce the amount of pollution entering surface waters. BMPs may take the form of a process, activity, or physical structure. More information on BMPs can be found at: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/menuofbmps/index.cfm>.

6. Bypass

A bypass is the known diversion of stormwater or wastewater from any portion of a stormwater or wastewater control facility including the collection system, which is not a designed or established operating mode for the facility.

7. Bulk Storage of Liquid Products

Liquid raw materials, manufactured products, waste products or by-products with a single above ground storage container having a capacity of greater than 660 gallons or with multiple above ground storage containers located in close proximity to each other having a total combined storage capacity of greater than 1,320 gallons.

8. Certificate of Coverage

The Certificate of Coverage (COC) is the cover sheet which accompanies the General Permit upon issuance and lists the facility name, location, receiving stream, river basin, effective date of coverage under the permit and is signed by the Director.

9. Clean Water Act

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act, also known as the Clean Water Act (CWA), as amended, 33 USC 1251, et. seq.

10. Division or DWQ

The Division of Water Quality, Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

11. Director

The Director of the Division of Water Quality, the permit issuing authority.

12. EMC

The North Carolina Environmental Management Commission.

13. Grab Sample

An individual sample collected instantaneously. Grab samples that will be analyzed (quantitatively or qualitatively) must be taken within the first 30 minutes of discharge.

14. Hazardous Substance

Any substance designated under 40 CFR Part 116 pursuant to Section 311 of the Clean Water Act.

15. Landfill

A disposal facility or part of a disposal facility where waste is placed in or on land and which is not a land treatment facility, a surface impoundment, an injection well, a hazardous waste long-term storage facility or a surface storage facility.

16. Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

A stormwater collection system within an incorporated area of local self-government such as a city or town.

17. No Exposure

A condition of no exposure means that all industrial materials and activities are protected by a storm resistant shelter or acceptable storage containers to prevent exposure to rain, snow, snowmelt, 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, or waste products. DWQ may grant a No Exposure Exclusion from NPDES Stormwater Permitting requirements only if a facility complies with the terms and conditions described in 40 CFR §122.26(g)

18. Notice of Intent

The state application form which, when submitted to DWQ, officially indicates the facility's notice of intent to seek coverage under a General Permit.

19. Permittee

The owner or operator issued a certificate of coverage pursuant to this General Permit.

20. Point Source Discharge of Stormwater

Any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance including, but not specifically limited to, any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, or discrete fissure from which stormwater is or may be discharged to waters of the state.

21. Process Wastewater

Process wastewater is defined in 40CFR122.2 as, "*Process wastewater* means any water which, during manufacturing or processing, comes into direct contact with or results from the production or use of any raw material, intermediate product, finished product, byproduct, or waste product."

22. Representative Storm Event

A representative storm event for the purposes of this General Permit (which includes quarterly sampling) is a storm event that measures greater than 0.1 inches of rainfall. The time between this storm event and the previous storm event measuring greater than 0.1 inches must be at least 48 hours. One storm event may have a time period with no precipitation. This time period may last up to 10 hours. For example, if it rains but stops before producing any collectable discharge, a sample may be collected if the next rain producing a discharge begins within 10 hours.

23. Representative Outfall Status

When it is established that the discharge of stormwater runoff from a single outfall is representative of the discharges at multiple outfalls, the DWQ may grant representative outfall status. Representative outfall status allows the permittee to perform analytical monitoring at a reduced number of outfalls.

24. Rinse Water Discharge

The discharge of rinse water from equipment cleaning areas associated with industrial activity. Rinse waters from vehicle and equipment cleaning activities are process wastewaters.

25. Secondary Containment

Spill containment for the contents of the single largest tank within the containment structure plus sufficient freeboard to allow for the 25-year, 24-hour storm event.

26. Section 313 Water Priority Chemical

A chemical or chemical category which:

- a. Is listed in 40 CFR 372.65 pursuant to Section 313 of Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986, also titled the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986;

- b. Is present at or above threshold levels at a facility subject to SARA title III, Section 313 reporting requirements; and
- c. Meets at least one of the following criteria:
  - (1) Is listed in appendix D of 40 CFR Part 122 on Table II (organic priority pollutants), Table III (certain metals, cyanides, and phenols) or Table IV (certain toxic pollutants and hazardous substances);
  - (2) Is listed as a hazardous substance pursuant to section 311(b)(2)(A) of the CWA at 40 CFR 116.4; or
  - (3) Is a pollutant for which EPA has published acute or chronic water quality criteria.

27. Severe Property Damage

Means substantial physical damage to property, damage to the control facilities which causes them to become inoperable, or substantial and permanent loss of natural resources which can reasonably be expected to occur in the absence of a bypass. Severe property damage does not mean economic loss caused by delays in production.

28. Significant Materials

Includes, but is not limited to: raw materials; fuels; materials such as solvents, detergents, and plastic pellets; finished materials such as metallic products; raw materials used in food processing or production; hazardous substances designated under section 101(14) of CERCLA; any chemical the facility is required to report pursuant to section 313 of Title III of SARA; fertilizers; pesticides; and waste products such as ashes, slag and sludge that have the potential to be released with stormwater discharges.

29. Significant Spills

Includes, but is not limited to: releases of oil or hazardous substances in excess of reportable quantities under section 311 of the Clean Water Act (Ref: 40 CFR 110.10 and CFR 117.21) or section 102 of CERCLA (Ref: 40 CFR 302.4).

30. Stormwater Discharge Outfall (SDO)

The point of departure of stormwater from a discernible, confined, or discrete conveyance, including but not limited to, storm sewer pipes, drainage ditches, channels, spillways, or channelized collection areas, from which stormwater flows directly or indirectly into waters of the State of North Carolina.

31. Stormwater Runoff

The flow of water which results from precipitation and which occurs immediately following rainfall or as a result of snowmelt.

32. Stormwater Associated with Industrial Activity

The discharge from any point source which is used for collecting and conveying stormwater and which is directly related to manufacturing, processing or raw material storage areas at an industrial site. Facilities considered to be engaged in "industrial activities" include those activities defined in 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14). The term does not include discharges from facilities or activities excluded from the NPDES program.

33. Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SPPP)

A comprehensive site-specific plan which details measures and practices to reduce stormwater pollution and is based on an evaluation of the pollution potential of the site.

34. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

TMDLs are written plans for attaining and maintaining water quality standards, in all seasons, for a specific water body and pollutant.

35. Toxic Pollutant

Any pollutant listed as toxic under Section 307(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

36. Treatment Facilities

Treatment facilities include any pit, pond, lagoon, basin, or containment structure used to treat or contain process wastewater. They must be used to meet Effluent Limitations and are not Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs).

37. Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance Activity

Vehicle or vessel or equipment rehabilitation, mechanical repairs, painting, fueling, lubrication, cleaning operations, or airport deicing operations.

38. Visible Sedimentation

Solid particulate matter, both mineral and organic, that has been or is being transported by water, air, gravity, or ice from its site of origin which can be seen with the unaided eye.

39. 25-year, 24 hour storm event

The maximum 24-hour precipitation event expected to be equaled or exceeded, on the average, once in 25 years.