

### 3.03 GENERAL DISCHARGE PERMIT FOR STORMWATER ASSOCIATED WITH INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES

- ❑ *Question: Will I discharge any storm water to the State’s surface waters AND Do I operate an “ industrial facility, as defined below” ? AND Is there any potential for any pollutants from this activity to come in contact with storm water?*

**What defines “State surface waters?”**

The list consists of ponds, lakes, streams, tidal waters, wetlands, floodplains, and man-made conveyances leading to them, such as municipal storm drains and public ditches.

**What defines an “Industrial Facility?”**

For the purpose of this requirement, the list consists of any facility where the principal activity is manufacturing, mining operations, hazardous waste treatment or disposal facilities, landfills that have received any industrial waste, recycling facilities, steam electric power generating facilities, transportation facilities (but only those who do vehicle maintenance), sewage treatment works designed for over 1.0 mgd, and construction activity that disturbs over an acre.

**What do I do?**

If the answer is yes to all three questions, then you need a permit for the discharge of storm water from your operation. If the answer is yes to the first two questions only, then you must submit a formal statement to that effect called a “No Exposure Certification.” The certification consists of a series of questions, the consideration of which would assure that you have considered all possible sources of potential pollution. If the answer is yes to all three questions, you will need a discharge permit. If you are under any of the industrial categories other than construction, you will mostly likely be able to fulfill your permitting obligations by obtaining coverage under the general permit for storm water associated with industrial activity or a few other industry specific general permits. But some will need to obtain an individual permit. The general permit is appropriate for facilities that can prevent the release of pollutants by good housekeeping practices. The individual permit is appropriate for facilities that cannot prevent pollutants from being picked up by storm water and thus need to treat the water to remove the pollutants, and for facilities that also have non-storm water discharges that require an individual permit.

**What laws or regulations give MDE the legal authority to issue this approval?**

FEDERAL: Federal Clean Water Act

STATE: Environment Article, Title 9, Subtitle 3; COMAR 26.08.01 through 26.08.04.

**What is the process to get this approval?**

- 1) For general permits, complete a Notice of Intent (NOI) form and include a facility map, if required. To request a form, call (410) 537-3323 or download the form from the Web site: [http://www/mde.state.md.us/Permits/WaterManagement/Permits/water\\_permits/index.asp](http://www/mde.state.md.us/Permits/WaterManagement/Permits/water_permits/index.asp).
- 2) Mail the completed form and payment to:  
MDE  
Water Management Administration  
P.O. Box 2057  
Baltimore MD 21203-2057
- 3) The Department reviews the submitted NOI to ensure that the proposed discharge can be covered by a general permit.

**How long should I expect it to take to get this approval once I submit a complete application?**

Type of Approval	Turnaround Time
Individual permit	180 days
GP for stormwater associated with industrial activities	60 days
All other general permits	90 days

**Once I get this approval, how long will it last?**

For general permits, the approval coverage lasts until the established expiration date of the general permit or as specified in the general permit, a maximum of five years. For individual permits, it is five years.

**How much will this approval cost?**

Type of Fee	Fee
Application fee	\$0 to \$1,000 depending on the volume of discharge, the type of industry, and how the water is used.
Annual permit fee	\$0 to \$5,000 depending on the volume of discharge.

**Who do I contact with additional questions?**

Patsy Allen or Ed Gertler  
General Permits and Technical Support  
[pallen@mde.state.md.us](mailto:pallen@mde.state.md.us) or  
[egertler@mde.state.md.us](mailto:egertler@mde.state.md.us)  
(410) 537-3634