

# 2011 Compliance Assistance Conference

Wading Through the  
NPDES Permit



# Wading Through the NPDES Permit

Debora Roth  
Ohio EPA  
Division of Surface Water  
Southwest District Office

# Session Overview

- I. What is an NPDES permit
- II. Who needs to apply for an NPDES permit
- III. Types of NPDES permits
- IV. How to apply for an NPDES permit
- V. Steps in the NPDES permit process

# What is an NPDES Permit?

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

Permit to allow discharges to bodies of water

Sets limits on pollutants

Human health and environment





# Authorization

- 1972 – Congress passes the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments
  - Establishes the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program
  - Provided for authorization of state run programs

# Authorization

- 1977- Congress passes the Clean Water Act
  - Identified a list of 129 priority pollutants
  - Identified a list of 21 primary industries for technology based controls
  - Made it unlawful for any person to discharge any pollutant from a point source into navigable waters, unless a permit was obtained under its provisions

# State Authorization

- 6111.03 – Water pollution control powers of the director of environmental protection.

(G)...adopt, amend and rescind rules... governing...the issuance of permits...

# State Authorization

- O.A.C. 3745-33-02 - No person may discharge any pollutant or cause, permit, or allow a discharge of any pollutant without applying for and obtaining an Ohio NPDES permit in accordance with the requirements of the chapter.

## Definitions

Point source – any discernible, confined conveyance, i.e., pipe, ditch, channel

Discharge – discharge of any pollutant or pollutant from a point source.

Pollutant – sewage, industrial waste or other waste.



## II. Who needs to apply for an NPDES Permit

- Anyone discharging or planning to discharge pollutants to waters of the State.
- “Waters of the state” means all streams, lakes, ponds, marshes, watercourses, waterways, wells, springs, irrigation systems, drainage systems, and other bodies or accumulations of water, surface and underground, natural or artificial....



## Examples of questions to ask yourself

Does my business generate any liquid wastes or process wastewaters?

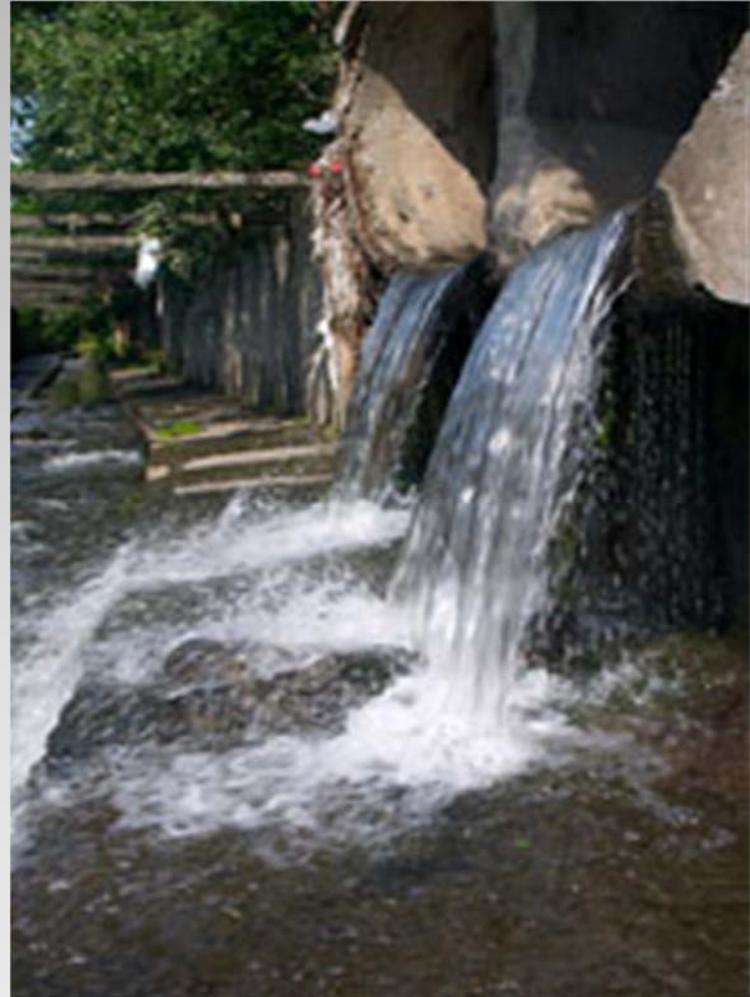
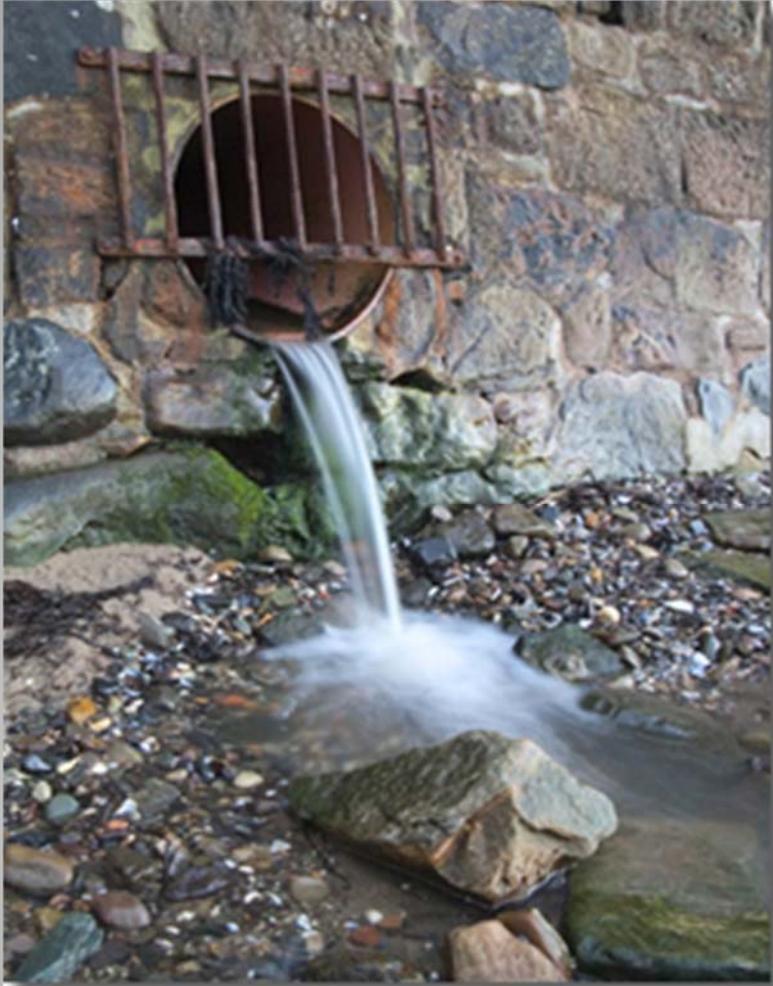
Where do these wastes go? This includes things like cooling waters, blowdown waters, rinse waters.

- If these are discharged from your site (via sewers or directly to a creek) you need a NPDES permit.

## Examples of questions to ask yourself

Do I have storm water that discharges from my site?

- Depending on your operations you may need to apply for NPDES permit coverage for your storm water discharge.



## Examples of questions to ask yourself

Where does my sewage go?

- If you have your own sewage treatment plant you need an NPDES permit for the discharge.



# III. Types of NPDES permits

- Individual NPDES permits
  - Individual permits are site specific
  - Monitoring of pollutant and limits developed just for that facility
- General NPDES permits
  - Issued for a geographic area or group of related discharges with uniform pollutant monitoring

# Individual NPDES permits

- Municipal wastewater treatment plants
- Industrial facilities that have wastewater treatment
- Industrial facilities that discharge storm water that has potential to affect water quality in receiving stream

# General NPDES permits

- Non-contact Cooling Water
- Geothermal Systems
- Hydrostatic Test Water
- Water Treatment Plants
- Small Sanitary Discharges
- Petroleum Bulk Storage Facilities
- Petroleum-related Corrective Actions
- Temporary Wastewater Discharges
- Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)
- Household Sewage Treatment Systems
- Small Sanitary Discharges That Cannot Meet BADCT Standards
- Coal Surface Mining Activities

# General NPDES permits

- Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity from Marinas
- Construction Site Storm Water
- Construction Site Storm Water in the Big Darby Creek Watershed or Olentangy River Watershed
- Small MS4 Storm Water
- Industrial Storm Water \*

## Pending:

Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity – (Multi-sector)  
Pesticide Application

## IV. How to apply for an NPDES permit

- Application and fee
- Overview of forms and pre-work
- Antidegradation Addendum

# Application and Fee

- Permit applications should be submitted 180 days prior to start of discharge.
- Submit the required application forms and \$200 application fee to the appropriate district office.

# Select Applicable Forms

- The application forms
  - All applications require Form 1, appropriate Form 2, and a completed antidegradation addendum
- Form 2
  - 2A – Application for discharge from a POTW
  - 2B – CAFO and aquaculture
  - 2C – Existing manufacturing, commercial
  - 2D – New discharges of process wastewater
  - 2E – Facilities that do not discharge process wastewaters
  - 2F – Discharge of storm water associated with industrial activities

# Information needed

## Form 1

- Requires basic information, only 2 pages!!
    - Company name, address, and location
    - Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code
    - Nature of business
    - Original ink signature by appropriate persons
- OAC 3745-33-03



# Existing Manufacturing and Commercial Discharges – Form 2C

- Requires information specific to each discharge
- Outfall descriptions, Production information, etc.
- Chemical analysis of discharge

# Existing Manufacturing and Commercial Discharges – Form 2C

- Chemical analysis
  - conventional pollutants –all applicants
  - Parameters that have federal limitation guidelines established and other known pollutants in your discharge

# Existing Manufacturing and Commercial Discharges – Form 2C

- Chemical analysis
  - Required if your discharge is from one of the 34 primary industries included in the instructions
  - Small business exemption
  - List any of the toxic or hazardous pollutants on the instruction forms that may be present in your discharge

# New Dischargers - Form 2D

- New sources or new discharges
- Requires information specific to each discharge
- Includes Outfall descriptions and Production information
- Includes information on pollutants to be discharged
- No analysis or sampling required...estimated quantities!!!!

# Storm Water Associated with Industrial Activity – Form 2F

US EPA definition: the discharge from any conveyance which is used for collecting and conveying storm water and which is directly related to manufacturing, processing or raw materials storage areas at an industrial plant.



# Storm Water Associated with Industrial Activity – Form 2F

11 categories of storm water required to obtain NPDES permit coverage defined in 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14)(i)-(xi)

- Facilities with effluent limitations
- Manufacturing
- Mineral, Metal, Oil and Gas
- Hazardous Waste, Treatment, or Disposal Facilities

- Landfills
- Recycling Facilities
- Steam Electric Plants
- Transportation Facilities
- Treatment Works
- Construction Activity
- Light Industrial Activity

# Storm Water Associated with Industrial Activity – Form 2F

## Sample data needed

- BOD, COD, Oil and grease, Total suspended solids, Nitrogen, Phosphorus, pH
- pollutants that have a effluent guideline for your facility, or are included in an existing NPDES permit
- any other pollutant you have reason to believe to be present
- Samples must be collected during a rain event

# Antidegradation Addendum

- The antidegradation rule is required by the Clean Water Act
- OAC 3745-1-05 is Ohio's Antidegradation rule
- All NPDES applications must include a completed antidegradation addendum

## V. Steps in the NPDES permit process

- Receipt of application
- Public notice of application
- Detailed technical review
- Draft permit written
- Public notice and 30 day comment
- Response to comments
- District office makes recommendation to director
- Director action

# Receipt of Application

- Check for completeness
- Fee included

# Public Notice of Application

- On-line
- Newspaper
- Includes information for public

# If Antidegradation is triggered

- Public notice of receipt of application
- Mandatory public hearing in limited cases
- Optional public hearing if one is requested

# Technical review

- complies with industry treatment standards
- employs best available treatment technologies
- will maintain all applicable water quality standards with the discharge
- complies with all regulation necessary to protect human health and environment

## If Antidegradation is triggered

- Agency will review whether alternatives have been considered
- Agency will review social and economic justice issues unless excluded from that requirement

# Antidegradation considerations

- Provides allowance where water quality may be lowered
- Existing beneficial uses must be maintained and protected
- Applies when there would be resulting net increase in the discharge of any regulated pollutant falls under the rule
- Applies mostly to new or increased discharges

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# Possible Director Final Actions

- Issue a final permit
- Issue a permit modification
- Deny final permit
- Deny a modification
- Request additional info from applicant

# Tips

- If you have questions, contact your district office.
- The more complete the application the quicker the turn around time will be.
- Requests for missing or additional information take time.

# Are you done? Not necessarily.

- Operator of record
- Renewal application 180 days from expiration
- Operate in compliance with permit conditions and limits
- Modifications
- Transfer of ownership

## Other types of approvals/permits

- 401 - wetlands
- Permit-to-install
- Biosolids
- Sludge application
- Construction Storm Water
- Indirect Discharge Permits

# Ohio EPA Contacts

- NWDO  
Alex Smaili 419-373-3004
- NEDO  
Virginia Wilson (330)963-1180  
Dean Stoll (330)963-1197
- SWDO  
Debora Roth (937)285-6100
- SEDO  
Bruce Goff (740)380-5238
- CDO  
Anthony Hanes (614)728-3840

