

# FACT SHEET

FOR

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD (STATE WATER BOARD)  
WATER QUALITY ORDER NO. 97-03-DWQ  
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES)  
GENERAL PERMIT NO. CAS000001 (GENERAL PERMIT)

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS (WDRS)  
FOR

DISCHARGES OF STORM WATER ASSOCIATED WITH INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES  
EXCLUDING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

## BACKGROUND

In 1972, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (also referred to as the Clean Water Act [CWA]) was amended to provide that the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States from any point source is effectively prohibited unless the discharge is in compliance with an NPDES permit. The 1987 amendments to the CWA added Section 402(p) that establishes a framework for regulating municipal and industrial storm water discharges under the NPDES Program. On November 16, 1990, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) published final regulations that establish application requirements for storm water permits. The regulations require that storm water associated with industrial activity (storm water) that discharges either directly to surface waters or indirectly through municipal separate storm sewers must be regulated by an NPDES permit.

U.S. EPA developed a four-tier permit issuance strategy for storm water discharges associated with industrial activity as follows:

Tier I, Baseline Permitting--One or more general permits will be developed to initially cover the majority of storm water discharges associated with industrial activity.

Tier II, Watershed Permitting--Facilities within watersheds shown to be adversely impacted by storm water discharges associated with industrial activity will be targeted for individual or watershed-specific general permits.

Tier III, Industry-Specific Permitting--Specific industry categories will be targeted for individual or Industry-specific general permits.

Tier IV, Facility-Specific Permitting--A variety of factors will be used to target specific facilities for individual permits.

The regulations allow authorized states to issue general permits or individual permits to regulate storm water discharges.

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs)

All facility operators must prepare, retain on site, and implement an SWPPP. The SWPPP has two major objectives: (1) to help identify the sources of pollution that affect the quality of industrial storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges, and (2) to describe and ensure the implementation of BMPs to reduce or prevent pollutants in industrial storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges.

This General Permit requires development and implementation of an SWPPP emphasizing BMPs. This approach provides the flexibility necessary to establish appropriate BMPs for different types of industrial activities and pollutant sources. As this General Permit covers vastly different types of facilities, the State Water Board recognizes that there is no single best way of developing or organizing an SWPPP. The SWPPP requirements contain the essential elements that all facility operators must consider and address in the SWPPP. This General Permit's SWPPP requirements are more detailed than the previous general permit's SWPPP requirements, and the suggested order of the SWPPP elements have been rearranged (1) to correspond more closely with other storm water permits in effect throughout the country, and (2) to generally follow a more logical path. Facility operators that have already developed and implemented SWPPPs under previous general permits are required to review the SWPPP's requirements contained in this General Permit and then review their existing SWPPP for adequacy. If the existing SWPPP adequately identifies and assesses all potential sources of pollutants and describes the appropriate BMPs necessary to reduce or prevent pollutants, the facility operator is not required to revise the existing SWPPP.

One of the major elements of the SWPPP is the elimination of unauthorized non-storm water discharges to the facility's storm drain system. Unauthorized non-storm water discharges can be generated from a wide variety of potential pollutant sources. They include waters from the rinsing or washing of vehicles, equipment, buildings, or pavement; materials that have been improperly disposed of or dumped, and spilled; or leaked materials. Unauthorized non-storm water discharges can contribute a significant pollutant load to receiving waters. Measures to control spills, leakage, and dumping can often be addressed through BMPs. Unauthorized non-storm water discharges may enter the storm drain system via conveyances such as floor drains. All conveyances should be evaluated to determine whether they convey unauthorized non-storm water discharges to the storm drain system. Unauthorized non-storm water discharges (even when commingled with storm water) shall be eliminated or covered by a separate NPDES Permit.

There are many non-storm water discharges that, under certain conditions, should not contain pollutants associated with