



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

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GROUND WATER DISCHARGE GENERAL PERMIT

For Discharge of Effluent from Commercial Laundromats

Date of Issuance: DRAFT

Date of Expiration: DRAFT

AUTHORITY FOR ISSUANCE

Pursuant to authority granted by the Massachusetts Clean Waters Act, M.G.L. c. 21, §§26-53 (MCWA) and 314 CMR 5.00, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (the Department or MassDEP) hereby issues this General Permit to regulate certain facilities that treat wastewater solely from commercial laundromats and the discharge into the ground of the effluent from those facilities. Each person granted coverage under the General Permit is a permittee authorized to construct, operate and maintain a covered wastewater treatment facility ("facility"), and to discharge effluent from the facility only in accordance with all the terms and conditions of the General Permit. A violation of the terms and conditions set forth herein is a violation of the General Permit, 314 CMR 5.00, and the MCWA. MassDEP has also prepared a Fact Sheet for the General Permit. The Fact Sheet is incorporated and made part of the General Permit. The Fact Sheet outlines the factual and legal basis for the General Permit, identifies the types of facilities that are eligible for coverage under the General Permit, and describes the process for requesting coverage under the General Permit.

David Boyer, P.E., Groundwater Discharge Section Chief
Division of Watershed Management

Date

I. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

A. Effluent & Water Quality Limits

- 1) Each permittee is authorized to discharge into the ground from their wastewater treatment facility a treated effluent whose characteristics within one month of start-up and continuing thereafter shall not exceed the following values:

<u>Effluent Characteristics</u>	<u>Discharge Limitations</u>
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	30 mg/l
Oil & Grease	15 mg/l
<u>Downgradient Monitoring Well</u>	<u>Water Quality Limitations</u>
Surfactants	0.5 mg/l

- a) The pH of the effluent shall not be less than 6.5 nor greater than 8.5 at any time. If under natural conditions, the pH of the receiving ground water is less than 6.5 or greater than 8.5, the pH of the effluent shall not vary from the naturally occurring pH by more than 0.2 units.
- b) The discharge of the effluent shall not interfere with the use of ground water as an actual or potential source of potable water, and the use of surface waters for their existing and designated uses. The discharge of effluent shall not cause or contribute to a violation of the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards, 314 CMR 4.00.

B. Monitoring and Reporting

- 1) Each permittee shall monitor and record the quality and quantity of the **effluent** from their wastewater treatment facility prior to discharge to the disposal area according to the following schedule and other provisions:

Effluent From the Wastewater Treatment Facility:

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Minimum Frequency of Analysis</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>
Flow	Daily	Reading-Report: Max-Min-Avg
pH	Daily	Grab
TSS	Monthly	Grab
Oil & Grease	Monthly	Grab
Surfactants	Monthly	Grab
Volatile Organic Compounds	Annual	Grab

- 2) Prior to submission of a Notice of Intent requesting coverage under the General Permit, each permittee shall submit a Hydrogeological Report/Monitoring Well Plan to the Department for its review and approval. At least ninety (90) days prior to the start-up of their wastewater treatment facility, each permittee shall install monitoring wells in accordance with the Monitoring Well Plan as approved by the Department.

Each permittee shall monitor, record, and report the quality of water in the monitoring wells installed in accordance with the Monitoring Plan as approved by the Department according to the following schedule and other provisions:

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Frequency of Analysis</u>
pH	Quarterly
Static Water Level	Quarterly
Specific Conductance	Quarterly
Surfactants	Quarterly
Volatile Organic Compounds	Annually

- a) Static Water Level shall be expressed as an elevation and shall be referenced to the surveyed datum established for the site. It shall be calculated by subtracting the depth to the water table from the surveyed elevation of the top of the monitoring well's PVC well casing/riser.

- b) The Department may require a permittee to replace damaged monitoring wells, to install additional monitoring wells, to monitor for additional parameters, or to perform more frequent monitoring if it determines that such requirements are necessary to protect the public health, safety, welfare, or the environment
- 3) Any grab sample or composite sample required to be taken less frequently than daily shall be taken during the period of Monday through Friday inclusive. All composite samples shall be taken over the operating day.
- 4) Each permittee shall submit all monitoring reports within thirty (30) days of the last day of the reporting month to MassDEP and to the appropriate Board of Health. All discharge monitoring reports submitted to MassDEP must be submitted through eDEP - [eDEP Online Filing for MassDEP Environmental Permits & Reports | Mass.gov](#) - using the eDEP data submission system. A permittee may seek a waiver of this requirement by submitting a written request for the Department's approval.

C. Supplemental Conditions

- 1) Each permittee shall notify the Department at least thirty (30) days in advance of a proposed transfer of ownership of the facility covered by the General Permit. The notification shall include a written agreement between the existing and proposed new permittee containing a proposed date for the transfer of general permit coverage, and the proposed new permittee's assumption of responsibility for compliance with the General Permit. The transfer shall be subject to the automatic transfer provisions of 314 CMR 5.12(4). Pursuant to 314 CMR 5.12(4), the transfer shall take effect on the proposed transfer date unless the Department notifies the existing permittee before the proposed transfer date that it intends to modify or revoke and reissue the general permit coverage determination, or that it needs additional information.
- 2) Each permittee shall submit an operation, maintenance, and staffing plan (the "Operations and Maintenance Plan") for their wastewater treatment facility to the Department for its review and approval at least ninety (90) days prior to operation of the facility or forty-five (45) days before their general permit coverage takes effect, whichever last occurs. Each Operations and Maintenance Plan shall cover, without limitation, the sewer system, pump stations, and disposal fields.
- 3) If a facility is constructed after coverage under the General Permit is granted, an Engineering Report and as-built plans for the wastewater treatment facility shall be submitted to the Department at least ninety (90) days prior to operation of the

facility. These submissions shall be prepared in accordance with the Department's *Guidelines for the Design, Construction, Operator and Maintenance of Small WWTFs with Land Disposal* by a Massachusetts Registered Professional Engineer with a concentration in civil, sanitary, or environmental engineering. The Report and plans shall be accompanied by a certification from the Engineer that the wastewater treatment facility has been constructed in accordance with the as-built plans and Engineering Report and that the wastewater treatment facility, if operated and maintained in accordance with the Operations and Maintenance Plan, the General Permit, 314 CMR 5.00, and 314 CMR 12.00, shall be able to meet all the terms and conditions of the General Permit, including without limitation, the effluent limits set forth therein.

- 4) If a facility is constructed after coverage is granted under the General Permit, the permittee shall not operate the facility unless and until the Department has inspected the facility and authorized operation of the facility in writing.
- 5) A revised Operations and Maintenance Plan shall be submitted to the Department whenever there are significant modifications to a permittee's wastewater treatment facility, the standard operating procedures for the facility, or staffing of the facility.
- 6) Each permittee shall operate and maintain their wastewater treatment facility in accordance with the Operations and Maintenance Plan approved by the Department.
- 7) Each facility shall treat only wastewater produced on the premises from commercial washing machines. Disposal of any wastewater from a dry-cleaning operation is not authorized by this permit.
- 8) At least ninety (90) days before entering into a contract with an independent contractor (the contract operator) for the operation and maintenance of the Wastewater treatment facility, any such permittee shall submit a draft, unsigned copy of the contract to the Department for its review and approval in accordance with 314 CMR 12.04(3) and 314 CMR 5.10(8)(j)(5). The contract shall provide that the contract operator must operate and maintain the facility in accordance with the approved Operation and Maintenance Plan, 314 CMR 5.00, ~~20-00~~, 314 CMR 12.00, and 257 CMR 2.00. A permittee shall not execute a contract or authorize a contract operator to operate the facility unless and until the Department has approved the contract in writing.

- 9) All tests and other analytical determinations conducted by or on behalf of the permittee to determine compliance with permit standards and requirements shall comply with the following:
 - a) All samples shall be collected, transported and stored in the manner outlined in Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, 22nd Edition, published by the American Public Health Association, American Water Works Association, and the Water Environment Federation, 2016, and the latest EPA analytical procedures.
 - b) Samples and measurements taken for the purpose of monitoring shall be representative of the monitored activity. Monitoring must be conducted according to test procedures approved under 40 CFR Part 136 unless other test procedures are specified herein.
 - c) Samples shall be analyzed by a Massachusetts Certified laboratory, unless other means of sample analysis are identified and approved by the Department in writing.
- 10) Each permittee shall notify the appropriate MassDEP Regional Office, in writing, within thirty (30) days of any of the following events:
 - a) The date their wastewater treatment facility starts operation;
 - b) Any interruption of the operation of the wastewater treatment facility other than routine maintenance.
 - c) Final shutdown of the wastewater treatment facility.
- 11) Each permittee shall contract to have all solids and sludges generated by the wastewater treatment facility removed off site by a properly licensed waste hauler for disposal at an EPA/MassDEP approved facility. The name and license number of the hauler, along with the quantity of waste removed and the date(s) of removal shall be reported by each permittee within thirty (30) days of the last day of the reporting month to MassDEP using eDEP.
- 12) In the event that effluent limits are not met, or a discharge is determined to impair groundwater quality in accordance with 314 CMR 5.16(1), any permittee may be obligated to modify, supplement, or replace the approved treatment process so as to ensure that the discharge does not impair the ability of the groundwater to act as an actual or potential source of potable water.

- 13) Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 21A, section 18(a), and 310 CMR 4.03, each permittee may be subject to annual compliance assurance fees as assessed each year on July 1st and invoiced by the Department. Failure of any permittee to pay applicable annual compliance assurance fees shall result in the automatic suspension of their general permit coverage by operation of law under the statute. If fee non-payment continues for sixty days or more, the Department has the statutory option of revoking a permittee's coverage, denying any other pending permit applications filed by the permittee, or taking other enforcement action. Each permittee is required to notify the department in writing if they wish to relinquish or transfer their permit coverage. Failure to do so will result in the continued assessment of fees.
- 14) The General Permit is in effect for a period of five years from the date of issuance.
- 15) Each permittee shall file a Notice of Intent requesting continued coverage under the General Permit, or file an application for an individual permit, at least one hundred eighty (180) days prior to the expiration date of the General Permit, regardless of when their permit coverage was granted.
- 16) In accordance with 314 CMR 5.13(3), the Department may modify or revoke a general permit in accordance with applicable provisions of 314 CMR 2.00: Permit Procedures and 5.00. The Department may make a minor modification of a general permit without following the procedures set forth in 314 CMR 2.00 to correct typographical errors.

The General Permit Conditions set forth in 314 CMR 5.16 are hereby incorporated and made part of the General Permit