



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

# Department of Environmental Protection

One Winter Street Boston, MA 02108 • 617-292-5500

Charles D. Baker  
Governor

Karyn E. Polito  
Lieutenant Governor

Kathleen A. Theoharides  
Secretary

Martin Suuberg  
Commissioner

## NOTIFICATION OF PERMIT EXTENSION FOR BWR GENERAL PERMITS

On March 10, 2020, Governor Baker declared a state of emergency due to the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19"). Following the declaration of the state of emergency, the Governor issued several orders including COVID-19 Order No. 42, "Order Resuming State Permitting Deadlines and Continuing to Extend the Validity of Certain State Permits" issued on July 2, 2020 ("COVID Order No. 42"). The Governor further declared that the state of emergency was terminated effective 12:01 a.m. on June 15, 2021 (see COVID-19 Order No. 69, issued May 28, 2021).

The COVID-19 Order No. 42 provisions have extended the term of the Groundwater Discharge Permit Program's General Permits for Small Publicly Owned Wastewater Treatment Facilities as it was in effect during the specified time period. **This permit will now expire on April 16, 2025.**

**Persons wishing to continue coverage must either file a Notice of Intent application (BRPWP80 or BRPWP81), requesting coverage under the General Permit OR file an application for an Individual Permit (BRPWP79 or BRPWP85) by October 18, 2024, six months prior to the new expiration date.**

Lealdon Langley, Director  
Division of Watershed Management



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

# Department of Environmental Protection

One Winter Street Boston, MA 02108 • 617-292-5500

Charles D. Baker  
Governor

Karyn E. Polito  
Lieutenant Governor

Matthew A. Beaton  
Secretary

Martin Suuberg  
Commissioner

## **GROUND WATER DISCHARGE GENERAL PERMIT** **For Discharges of Treated Effluent From Small** **Publicly Owned Wastewater Treatment Facilities**

Date of Issuance: January 10, 2019

Date of Expiration: January 10, 2024

### **AUTHORITY FOR ISSUANCE**

Pursuant to authority granted by Chapter 21, Sections 26-53 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and 314 CMR 5.00, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (the "Department" or "MassDEP") reissues this General Permit to regulate certain small **publicly** owned wastewater treatment facilities ("**POTWs**") that are designed to provide and do provide secondary treatment to less than 50,000 gallons of sewage per day and the discharge of effluent to the ground water from those facilities (the "General Permit"). A person granted coverage under the General Permit is a permittee authorized to construct, operate and maintain the covered wastewater treatment facilities, and to discharge effluent from said facilities 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 Massachusetts Clean Waters Act, M.G.L. c. 21, §§ 26-53. MassDEP has also prepared a Fact Sheet for the General Permit. This 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 facilities that are eligible for coverage under the General Permit and the process for requesting coverage under the General Permit.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature & Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
January 10, 2019

Date

## I. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

### A. **Effluent Limits**

(1) The permittee is authorized to discharge to the ground from the wastewater treatment facilities for which this permit is issued 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>
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD5) (5 Day at 20°C)	30 mg/l
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	30 mg/l
Nitrate Nitrogen	10 mg/l
Total Nitrogen (NO <sub>2</sub> + NO <sub>3</sub> + TKN)	10 mg/l
Oil & Grease	15 mg/l

(a) If the effluent goes to an open sand bed prior to discharge to the ground water, the effluent shall be disinfected to meet an effluent limitation of no more than 200 fecal coliform organisms per 100 ml; and, if chlorine is used for disinfection, the chlorine residual in the effluent shall not exceed 1.0 mg/l.

For purposes of this requirement, an open sand bed is a disposal system where effluent is spread onto the surface of the disposal area having a sand media so that the effluent may percolate through the sand media and then through the soil and the unsaturated zone before entering the ground water.

(b) Except as otherwise provided herein, 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.

(c) The discharge of the effluent shall not interfere with the use of the 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.

(d) The monthly average concentration of BOD5 and TSS in the discharge shall not exceed 15 percent of the monthly average concentrations of BOD5 and TSS in the influent into the permittee's wastewater treatment facility.

(e) The average daily flow shall not exceed the average daily flow specified in the Notice of Intent requesting coverage under the General Permit. When the average daily flow exceeds 80 percent of the flow specified in the Notice of Intent, the permittee shall submit a report to the Department describing what steps the permittee will take in order to keep its average daily flow at or below the flow specified in the Notice of Intent.

**B. Monitoring and Reporting**

The permittee shall monitor and record the quality of the **influent** to the wastewater treatment facility and the quality and quantity of the **effluent** from the wastewater treatment facility prior to discharge to the disposal area according to the following schedule and other provisions:

**(1) INFLUENT TO THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY:**

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Minimum Frequency of Analysis</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>
BOD5	Monthly	24 Hr. Composite
TSS	Monthly	24 Hr. Composite
Total Solids	Monthly	24 Hr. Composite
Ammonia Nitrogen	Monthly	24 Hr. Composite

**(2) 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
BOD5	Monthly	24 Hr. Composite
TSS	Monthly	24 Hr. Composite
TS	Monthly	24 Hr. Composite
Nitrate Nitrogen	Monthly	24 Hr. Composite
Total Nitrogen (NO2+NO3+TKN)	Monthly	24 Hr. Composite
Oil & Grease	Monthly	Grab
Surfactants	Monthly	Grab
Total Phosphorus	Quarterly	Grab
Orthophosphate	Quarterly	Grab
Volatile Organic Compounds	Annually	Grab

(a) If the wastewater is discharged to an open sand bed prior to discharge to the ground water, the permittee shall perform additional monitoring as follows:

- (1) The permittee shall take a monthly grab sample of the effluent to monitor the effectiveness of the disinfection and measure the number of colonies of fecal coliform per 100 ml in the effluent and record the results;
- (2) If chlorine is used for disinfection, the permittee shall also take a daily grab sample of the effluent to monitor the chlorine residual in the effluent and record the results of this monitoring; and
- (3) If UV is used for disinfection, the permittee shall monitor the UV intensity daily and record the results of this monitoring.

For purpose of this requirement, an open sand bed is a disposal system where effluent is spread onto the surface of the disposal area having a sand media so that the effluent may percolate through the sand media and then through the soil and unsaturated zone prior to entering the ground water.

(3) Prior to submission of a Notice of Intent requesting coverage under the General Permit, the permittee obtained approval from the Department of a Hydrogeological Report. In accordance with 314 CMR 5.09, this Hydrogeological Report included a detailed monitoring plan (the "Monitoring Plan"). At least 90 days prior to the start-up of the wastewater treatment facility, the permittee shall install monitoring wells in accordance with the Monitoring Plan as approved by the Department.

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

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Frequency of Analysis</u>
pH	Monthly
Static Water Level	Monthly
Specific Conductance	Monthly
Nitrate Nitrogen	Quarterly
Surfactants	Quarterly
Total Nitrogen (NO <sub>2</sub> + NO <sub>3</sub> + TKN)	Quarterly
Total Phosphorus	Quarterly
Orthophosphate	Quarterly
Volatile Organic Compounds	Annually

(b) 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.

(4) 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.

(5) The Department may require the 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.

(6) The permittee shall submit all monitoring reports within 30 days of the last day of the reporting month to MassDEP using the eDEP data submission system.

**To register for electronic submission go to:**

**<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/service/online/edep-online-filing.html>**

The permittee shall also submit reports to the Board of Health.

### **C. Supplemental Conditions**

(1) The permittee shall notify the Department at least thirty (30) days in advance of a proposed transfer of ownership of the facility covered by this permit. Said notification shall include a written agreement between the existing and proposed new permittee containing a proposed date for the transfer of permit coverage and the proposed new permittee's assumption of responsibility for compliance with all the terms and conditions of the permit. The transfer shall be subject to the automatic transfer provisions of 314 CMR 5.12(5). Pursuant to 314 CMR 5.12(5), the transfer shall take effect on the proposed transfer date unless the Department notifies the permittee before that proposed transfer date that it intends to modify or revoke and reissue the permit or that it needs additional information.

(2) An operation and maintenance plan and staffing plan (the "Operations and Maintenance Plan") for the wastewater treatment facility, including without limitation the sewer system, pump stations, and disposal fields, shall be submitted to the Department for its review and approval at least ninety (90) days prior to the operation of the treatment works or forty-five (45) days before the permit takes effect, whichever last occurs.

(3) If the 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 the operation of the facility. These submissions shall be prepared in accordance with the Department's Guidelines by a Massachusetts Registered Professional Engineer with a concentration in civil, sanitary, or environmental engineering, and 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 this General Permit including without limitation the effluent limits set forth herein.

(4) If the 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 the wastewater treatment facility, the standard operating procedures for the facility, or the staff of the facility.

(6) The permittee shall operate and maintain the wastewater treatment facility in accordance with the Operations and Maintenance Plan approved by the Department.

(7) At least ninety (90) days before entering into a contract with an independent contractor (the contract operator) for the operation and maintenance of the treatment works, the 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 and 314 CMR 5.10(8)(j)(5). The contract shall provide that the contract operator shall operate and maintain the facility in accordance with the approved Operation and Maintenance Plan, 314 CMR 20.00, 314 CMR 12.00, and 257 CMR 2.00. The permittee shall not execute the contract and authorize the contract operator to operate the facility unless and until the Department has approved the contract in writing.

(8) For all tests or analytical determinations to determine compliance with permit standards and requirements:

(a) Effluent samples shall be collected, transported and stored in accordance with *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater*;

(b) Monitoring must be conducted according to test procedures approved under 40 CFR Part 136 unless other methods are approved by the Department; and,

(c) Samples shall be analyzed by a Massachusetts Certified Laboratory unless otherwise approved by the Department.

(9) The permittee shall notify the Department, in writing, within thirty (30) days of any the following events:

(a) The date the wastewater treatment facility starts operation;

(b) Any interruption of the operation of the wastewater treatment facility other than routine maintenance; and

(c) Final shutdown of the wastewater treatment facility.

(10) The permittee shall contract to have any and 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 schedule for the removal shall be reported by the permittee in writing to the Department at least thirty (30) days prior to the start-up of the wastewater treatment facility for new facilities, and at least thirty (30) days prior to the start of any new contract for the removal of solids and sludges for existing facilities.

(11) The permittee shall not allow industrial users to discharge wastewater other than sewage to the facility.

(12) The General Permit is in effect for a period of five years from the date of issuance.

(13) The permittee shall file a Notice of Intent requesting continued coverage under the General Permit, or shall 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 coverage was granted.

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