

Consistent with Tier I, Baseline Permitting, of the U.S. EPA permitting strategy, the State Water Board issued a statewide General Permit on November 19, 1991 that applied to all storm water discharges requiring a permit except construction activity. The monitoring requirements of this General Permit were amended September 17, 1992. A separate statewide general permit has been issued for construction activity.

To obtain authorization for continued and future storm water discharge under this General Permit, each facility operator must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI). This approach is consistent with the four-tier permitting strategy described in Federal regulations, i.e., Tier 1, Baseline Permitting. Tier 1, Baseline Permitting, enables the State to begin reducing pollutants in industrial storm water in the most efficient manner possible.

This General Permit generally requires facility operators to:

1. Eliminate unauthorized non-storm water discharges;
2. Develop and implement a storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP); and
3. Perform monitoring of storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges.

TYPES OF STORM WATER DISCHARGES COVERED BY THIS GENERAL PERMIT

This General Permit is intended to cover all new or existing storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges from facilities required by Federal regulations to obtain a permit including those (1) facilities previously covered by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board Order No. 92-011 (as amended by Order No. 92-116), (2) facilities designated by the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards), (3) facilities whose operators seek coverage under this General Permit, (4) and facilities required by future U.S. EPA storm water regulations.

The General Permit is intended to cover all facilities described in Attachment 1, whether the facility is primary or is auxiliary to the facility operator's function. For example, although a school district's primary function is education, a facility that it operates for vehicle maintenance of school buses is a transportation facility that is covered by this General Permit.

The definition of "storm water associated with industrial activity" is provided in Attachment 4, Definition 9, of this General Permit. Facilities that discharge storm water associated with industrial activity requiring a General Permit are listed by category in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 122.26(b)(14) (Federal Register, Volume 55 on

Pages 48065-66) and in Attachment 1 of this General Permit. The facilities can be publicly or privately owned. General descriptions of these categories are:

1. Facilities subject to storm water effluent limitations guidelines, new source performance standards, or toxic pollutant effluent standards (40 CFR Subchapter N);
2. Manufacturing facilities;
3. Mining/oil and gas facilities;
4. Hazardous waste treatment, storage, or disposal facilities;
5. Landfills, land application sites, and open dumps that receive industrial waste;
6. Recycling facilities such as metal scrap yards, battery reclaimers, salvage yards, automobile yards;
7. Steam electric generating facilities;
8. Transportation facilities that conduct any type of vehicle maintenance such as fueling, cleaning, repairing, etc.;
9. Sewage treatment plants;
10. Construction activity (covered by a separate general permit); and
11. Certain facilities (often referred to as "light industry") where industrial materials, equipment, or activities are exposed to storm water.

For the most part, these facilities are identified in the Federal regulations by a Standard Industrial Classification (SIC).

Category 1 Dischargers

The following categories of facilities currently have storm water effluent limitation guidelines for at least one of their subcategories. They are cement manufacturing (40 CFR Part 411); feedlots (40 CFR Part 412); fertilizer manufacturing (40 CFR Part 418); petroleum refining (40 CFR Part 419); phosphate manufacturing (40 CFR Part 422); steam electric power generation (40 CFR Part 423); coal mining (40 CFR Part 434); mineral mining and processing (40 CFR Part 436); ore mining and dressing (40 CFR Part 440); and asphalt emulsion (40 CFR Part 443). A facility operator whose facility falls into one of these general categories should examine the effluent guidelines to determine if the facility is categorized in one of the subcategories that have storm water effluent guidelines. If

a facility is classified as one of those subcategories, that facility is subject to the standards listed in the CFR for that category and is subject to this General Permit. This General Permit contains additional requirements (see Section B.6.) for facilities with storm water effluent limitations guidelines.

Category 5 Dischargers

Inactive or closed landfills, land application sites, and open dumps that have received industrial wastes (Category 5) may be subject to this General Permit unless the storm water discharges from the sites are already regulated by an NPDES permit issued by the appropriate Regional Water Board. Facility operators of closed landfills that are regulated by waste discharge requirements (WDRs) may be required to comply with this General Permit. In some cases, it may be appropriate for closed landfills to be covered by the State Water Board's General Permit during closure activities. The Construction Activities General Permit should cover new landfill construction. Facility operators should contact their Regional Water Board to determine the appropriate permit coverage.

Category 10 Dischargers

Facility operators of Category 10 (light industry) facilities are not subject to this General Permit if they can certify that the following minimum conditions at their facilities are met:

1. All prohibited non-storm water discharges have been eliminated or otherwise permitted.
2. All areas of past exposure have been inspected and cleaned, as appropriate.
3. All materials related to industrial activity (including waste materials) are not exposed to storm water or authorized non-storm water discharges.
4. All industrial activities and industrial equipment are not exposed to storm water or authorized non-storm water discharges.
5. There is no exposure of materials associated with industrial activity through other direct or indirect pathways such as particulates from stacks and exhaust systems.
6. There is periodic re-evaluation of the facility to ensure Conditions 1, 3, 4, and 5 are continuously met.

Currently, facility operators that can certify that the above conditions are met are not required to notify the State Water

Board or Regional Water Board. These facility operators are advised to retain such certification documentation on site.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals invalidated the exemption granted by U.S. EPA for storm water discharges from facilities in Category 11 that do not have exposure and remanded the regulation to U.S. EPA for further action. The State Water Board, at this time, is not requiring storm water discharges from facilities in Category 11 that do not have exposure to be covered by this General Permit. Instead, the State Water Board will await future U.S. EPA or court action clarifying the types of storm water discharges that must be permitted. If necessary, the State Water Board will reopen the General Permit to accommodate such a clarification.

Section 1068 of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Act of 1991 exempts municipal agencies serving populations of less than 100,000 from Phase I permit requirements for most facilities they operate (uncontrolled sanitary landfills, power plants, and airports are still required to be permitted in Phase I). Phase II of the Permit Program scheduled to begin August 7, 2001 will cover the facilities that are exempt from Phase I permit requirements.

TYPES OF DISCHARGES NOT COVERED BY THIS GENERAL PERMIT

1. CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY: Discharges from construction activity of five acres or more, including clearing, grading, and excavation. A separate general permit was adopted on August 20, 1992 for this industrial category.
2. FACILITIES WHICH HAVE NPDES PERMITS CONTAINING STORM WATER PROVISIONS: Some storm water discharges may be regulated by other individual or general NPDES permits issued by the State Water Board or the Regional Water Boards. This General Permit shall not regulate these discharges. When the individual or general NPDES permits for such discharges expire, the State Water Board or Regional Water Board may authorize coverage under this General Permit or another general NPDES permit, or may issue a new individual NPDES permit consistent with the Federal and State storm water regulations. Interested parties may petition the State Water Board or appropriate Regional Water Board to issue individual or General NPDES Permits. General Permits may be issued for a particular industrial group or watershed area.
3. FACILITIES DETERMINED INELIGIBLE BY REGIONAL WATER BOARDS: Regional Water Boards may determine that discharges from a facility or groups of facilities, otherwise eligible for coverage under this General Permit, have potential water quality impacts that may not be appropriately addressed by