

AZPDES De Minimis General Permit No. AZG2010-001 February 2011

BACKGROUND

A discharge permit is required for any point source discharge to surface waters of the U.S., under the federal Clean Water Act and associated regulations (40 CFR Part 122), and under ARS § 49-255 *et seq.* This includes any release to a storm sewer system if the discharge reaches waters of the U.S. The AZPDES De Minimis General Permit (DMGP) provides an alternative to individual permits for certain types of nonstormwater discharges. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) issued the current DMGP on April 27, 2010, to replace the expired 2004 DMGP.

ELIGIBLE DISCHARGES

The DMGP is designed to cover discharges from potable or reclaimed water systems, subterranean dewatering, well development, aquifer testing, hydrostatic testing of pipelines and tanks, residential cooling water, charitable car washes, building and street washing, and dechlorinated freshwater swimming pool drainage. The permit also allows ADEQ to review and authorize other types of proposed discharges on a case-by-case basis if they are determined to be De Minimis. By definition (DMGP Part VII), De Minimis discharges meet Arizona surface water quality standards; are low-flow, infrequent, or otherwise determined by ADEQ to have no significant impacts on water quality or the environment; are managed using appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs); and do not exceed 30 days of continuous discharge unless approved in advance by ADEQ. The permit is applicable to qualifying discharges throughout Arizona, except for those conducted on lands within Indian Country as defined by federal law (Title 18 USC § 1151).

OBTAINING COVERAGE UNDER THE DMGP

With some exceptions, to obtain authorization under the DMGP, the discharger must submit a complete Notice of Intent (NOI) to ADEQ at the address or fax number on the NOI form. The exceptions are for residential non-contact cooling water, qualifying

charitable car washes, building or street wash water, and dechlorinated drainage from swimming pools (as described in the DMGP Part I.B.6). The NOI must be complete, accurate, signed appropriately (DMGP Part V. K.), and submitted far enough in advance to allow for the review periods under “**Time frames**”, below. The NOI also serves as a promise that there will be compliance with the permit conditions. The BMP plan must also be submitted along with the NOI for certain discharges. A Notice of Termination (NOT) must be submitted within 30 days after the discharge ceases permanently, or after transfer of responsibility for the discharging facility.

AREAWIDE, FACILITYWIDE, AND PROJECTWIDE COVERAGE

As alternatives to single-source authorizations for specific discharges, the DMGP allows several types of comprehensive coverage for multiple locations and/or extended time frames:

- **AREAWIDE:** Municipalities and public water suppliers may apply for “Areawide” coverage of discharges from multiple locations within their service areas or municipal boundaries.
- **FACILITYWIDE:** Commercial, industrial, governmental, and other facilities which provide their own water supplies for potable use, irrigation, or fire suppression may apply for “Facilitywide” coverage of discharges from maintenance and testing of their water system(s).
- **PROJECTWIDE:** Utilities, agencies, hydrogeologic consulting firms, and other entities may apply for “Projectwide” coverage for multiple discharge locations and/or extended time periods needed for specific projects.

To request any of the above types of comprehensive coverage, the appropriate Areawide, Facilitywide, or Projectwide NOI forms must be submitted to ADEQ with a BMP plan. If authorization is granted, a Notice of Termination should not be submitted after each discharge, but only if the permittee wishes to

terminate the entire Areawide, Facilitywide, or Projectwide coverage.

TIME FRAMES

The time frame for discharge authorization depends on the receiving water(s) and the type of discharge. Unless ADEQ notifies the applicant otherwise:

1. For single-source discharges to ephemeral waters, canals without drinking water source uses, and effluent-dependent waters, authorization takes place five business days after ADEQ receives a complete and accurate NOI submittal.

Exception: See Item 4, below.

2. Discharges to perennial waters, canals with drinking water source uses, and intermittent waters are authorized 30 business days after receipt of a complete and accurate NOI submittal.

Exception: See Item 4, below.

3. Areawide, facilitywide, or projectwide coverage is authorized 30 business days after ADEQ receives a complete and accurate areawide, facilitywide, or projectwide NOI submittal.

Exception: See Item 4, below.

4. The following are not authorized until written approval is issued by ADEQ: discharges that are subject to specific approvals (Part I.B.7), discharges that will last more than 30 consecutive days, and discharges within one-fourth mile of an Outstanding Arizona Water (OAW) or impaired water. These may require 30 business days or more for ADEQ review.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

Monitoring must be conducted for most discharges (exceptions: see DMGP Appendix A, Section A.1.). Results and photographic documentation are generally required to be submitted to ADEQ for discharges lasting continuously for more than four consecutive days and/or exceeding 500,000 gallons in any one day. For permittees terminating single-source or projectwide authorizations, these results must be submitted with the NOT. Under areawide, facilitywide, or ongoing projectwide coverage, the results of such monitoring (including photo documentation) conducted prior to Jan. 1, 2013, are due to be submitted to ADEQ by Feb. 28, 2013. Numerical data is to be submitted on the De Minimis Discharge Monitoring Report Form.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND DE MINIMIS FORMS

See the ADEQ Web site at:

www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/permits/gen.html#demi

QUESTIONS?

Please contact ADEQ's De Minimis General Permit Project Manager:

Lavinia A. Wright

Stormwater and General Permits Unit,
Surface Water Section

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

1110 W. Washington St., Mailcode 5415A-1

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

(602) 771-4585 or

toll free at (800) 234-5677 Ext. 771-4585

Fax: (602) 771-4674

Hearing impaired persons call

ADEQ's TDD line: (602) 771-4829

e-mail: wright.lavinia@azdeq.gov