

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT  
WATER BUREAU**

**GROUNDWATER DISCHARGE GENERAL PERMIT  
2215-10-8**

This general permit is issued under the provisions of Part 31, Water Resources Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, being Sections 324.3101 through 324.3119 of the Compiled Laws of Michigan, and the Administrative Rules promulgated thereunder. This general permit does not relieve the discharger from obtaining and complying with any other permits required under local, state, or federal law.

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| <b>Authorization:</b>   | <b>Rule 2215</b>  |
| <b>Type of Operation:</b>   | <b>Hydrostatic Pressure Test Water</b>                                |
| <b>Discharge Category:</b>  | <b>Wastewater from Pressure Testing of New Pipelines or New Tanks</b> |
| <b>Type of Wastewater:</b>  | <b>Hydrostatic Test Water, no additives</b>                           |
| <b>Method of Disposal:</b>  | <b>Groundwater or Ground</b>  |
| <b>Issue Date:</b>  | <b>April 1, 2010</b>  |
| <b>Expiration Date:</b>   | <b>April 1, 2015</b>  |
| <b>Authorization to Discharge</b> in accordance with the limitations and conditions as set forth in this general permit as authorized pursuant to <b>R 323.2215</b> . |   |

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (Department) has determined that discharges of wastewater from hydrostatic pressure testing of new pipelines or new tanks, into the groundwater or onto the ground, are appropriately and adequately controlled by this general permit. Pursuant to this general permit, a discharge may begin as soon as the conditions of the general permit have been met.

In accordance with Section 324.3122 of the Michigan Act, the permittee shall make payment of an annual permit fee to the Department for each December 15 the permit is in effect regardless of occurrence of discharge. The permittee shall submit the fee in response to the Department's annual notice. The fee shall be postmarked by March 1 for notices mailed by January 15. The fee is due no later than 45 days after receiving the notice for notices mailed after January 15. Fees paid in accordance with the Michigan Act are not refundable.

All construction, maintenance, operations, and monitoring of this facility must comply with the conditions set forth in this general permit by the Department. Failure to comply with the terms and provisions of this general permit may result in civil and/or criminal penalties as provided in Part 31.

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James R. Janiczek, Chief  
Groundwater Permits Unit  
Water Bureau  
Department of Natural Resources and Environment

## **A. General Permit Conditions**

1. No discharge can occur under the terms of this general permit until the discharger requests a certificate of coverage on a form approved by the Department and obtains a certificate of coverage authorizing the discharge.
2. The discharge shall only consist of hydrostatic pressure test water, with no additives, on new pipelines and new tanks.
3. The discharger shall submit at the time of application the following:
  - method(s) of preparing and cleaning the piping, tanks and associated equipment prior to the hydrostatic pressure testing.
  - Erosion control measures to be implemented during the discharge.
  - Designated permittee field contact(s) for the discharge.
  - Method of disposal for residuals from the cleaning of the pipe, tanks, etc.
3. The source of the water shall be from a municipal water supply or a water supply meeting state or federal criteria for use as potable water or another source of water meeting the standards of R323.2222 or another source of water approved by the Department as meeting the conditions of R323.2204.
4. The hydrostatic pressure testing operations shall not add additional contaminants to the wastewater.
5. This general permit does not authorize a discharge of hydrostatic pressure testing water to any surface water.
6. All treatment or control facilities or systems installed or used to achieve compliance with this general permit shall be maintained in good working order and operated as efficiently as possible.
7. The discharge shall not create a facility as defined in Part 201, Environmental Response, of the NREPA.
8. The permittee shall maintain records detailing the date, location and discharge volume of each hydrostatic pressure test event. Records shall be available for inspection and submitted to the Department upon request. Records shall be retained for a period of three years unless otherwise required by the Department.

## **B. Discharge Notification**

On or before 60 days prior to a discharge, the permittee shall notify the district office of the Department of Natural Resources & Environment of the proposed discharge. The notification shall include where the discharge is to be located and the discharge schedule.

## **C. Transfer of Ownership or Control**

In the event of any change in control or ownership of facilities from which the authorized discharge emanates, the permittee shall submit to the Department 30 days prior to the actual transfer of ownership or control a written agreement between the current permittee and the new permittee containing: 1) the legal name and address of the new owner; 2) a

specific date for the effective transfer of permit responsibility, coverage and liability; and 3) a certification of the continuity of or any changes in operations, wastewater discharge, or wastewater treatment.

If the new permittee is proposing changes in operations, wastewater discharge, or wastewater treatment, the Department may propose modification of this permit in accordance with applicable laws and rules.

#### **D. Change or Modification of Treatment or Discharge**

If at any time the discharge fails to meet a qualifying condition of this permit, the general permit and any specific certificate of coverage no longer applies, and the discharger must obtain an appropriate authorization.

#### **E. Cessation of Discharge-Related Activities**

If all or any portion of the authorized treatment facilities and discharge areas are intended to be eliminated, the discharger shall comply with the requirements of R 323.2226.

#### **F. Reporting Requirements**

All notices, reports, and other submissions required by and pursuant to this general permit shall be submitted to:

Groundwater Permits Unit  
Water Bureau  
Department of Natural Resources and Environment  
P.O. Box 30273  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-8130

Telephone: 517-373-8148

#### **G. Spill Notification**

The permittee shall immediately report any release of any polluting material which occurs to the surface waters or groundwater of the state, unless the permittee has determined that the release is not in excess of the threshold reporting quantities specified in the Part 5 Rules (Rules 324.2001 through 324.2009 of the Michigan Administrative Code), by calling the Department at the number indicated in the certificate of coverage, or if the notice is provided after regular working hours call the Department's 24-hour Pollution Emergency Alerting System telephone number, 1-800-292-4706 (calls from out-of-state dial 1-517-373-7660).

Within ten (10) days of the release, the permittee shall submit to the Department a full written explanation as to the cause of the release, the discovery of the release, response (clean-up and/or recovery) measures taken, and preventative measures taken or a schedule for completion of measures to be taken to prevent reoccurrence of similar releases.

#### **H. Duty to Comply**

All discharges authorized herein shall be consistent with the terms and conditions of this permit and the facility's certificate of coverage (COC). The discharge of any pollutant identified in this permit and/or the facility's COC more frequently than or at a level in excess of that authorized shall constitute a violation of the permit.

It is the duty of the permittee to comply with all the terms and conditions of this permit and the facility's COC. Any noncompliance with the Effluent Limitations, Special Conditions, or terms of this permit or the facility's COC constitutes a violation of the Michigan Act and constitutes grounds for enforcement action; for COC termination, revocation and reissuance, or modification; or denial of an application for permit or COC renewal.

### **I. Operator Certification**

The permittee shall have the waste treatment facilities under direct supervision of an operator certified at the appropriate level for the facility certification by the Department, as required by Sections 3110 and 4104 of the Michigan Act.

### **J. Power Failures**

In order to maintain compliance with the effluent limitations of this permit and prevent unauthorized discharges, the permittee shall either:

1. provide an alternative power source sufficient to operate facilities utilized by the permittee to maintain compliance with the effluent limitations and conditions of this permit; or
2. upon the reduction, loss, or failure of one or more of the primary sources of power to facilities utilized by the permittee to maintain compliance with the effluent limitations and conditions of this permit, the permittee shall halt, reduce or otherwise control production and/or all discharge in order to maintain compliance with the effluent limitations and conditions of this permit.

### **K. Waste Treatment Residues**

Residuals (i.e. solids, sludges, biosolids, filter backwash, scrubber water, ash, grit or other pollutants) removed from or resulting from treatment or control of wastewaters, shall be disposed of in an environmentally compatible manner and according to applicable laws and rules. These laws may include, but are not limited to, the Michigan Act, Part 31 for protection of water resources, Part 55 for air pollution control, Part 111 for hazardous waste management, Part 115 for solid waste management, Part 121 for liquid industrial wastes, Part 301 for protection of inland lakes and streams, and Part 303 for wetlands protection. Such disposal shall not result in any unlawful pollution of the air, surface waters or groundwaters of the state.

### **L. Right of Entry**

The permittee shall allow the Department, any agent appointed by the Department, upon the presentation of credentials:

1. to enter upon the permittee's premises where an effluent source is located or in which any records are required to be kept under the terms and conditions of this permit; and
2. at reasonable times to have access to and copy any records required to be kept under the terms and conditions of this permit; to inspect process facilities, treatment works, monitoring methods and equipment regulated or required under this permit; and to sample any discharge of pollutants.

**M. Availability of Reports**

Except for data determined to be confidential under Rule 2128 (Rule 323.2128 of the Michigan Administrative Code), all reports prepared in accordance with the terms of this permit shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the Department. Effluent data shall not be considered confidential. Knowingly making any false statement on any such report may result in the imposition of criminal penalties as provided for in Sections 3112, 3115, 4106 and 4110 of the Michigan Act.

**N. Civil and Criminal Liability**

Except as provided in permit conditions on "Bypass", nothing in this permit shall be construed to relieve the permittee from civil or criminal penalties for noncompliance, whether or not such noncompliance is due to factors beyond the permittee's control, such as accidents, equipment breakdowns, or labor disputes.

**O. State Laws**

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve the permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties established pursuant to any applicable state law or regulation.

**P. Property Rights**

The issuance of this permit does not convey any property rights in either real or personal property, or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize violation of any federal, state or local laws or regulations, nor does it obviate the necessity of obtaining such permits or approvals as may be required by law.