

FACT SHEET

GENERAL PERMIT PROCEDURES and WASTEWATER DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION:

General permits which authorize multiple discharges of similar wastewater are issued in accordance with Rule 2191 of the Part 21 Rules of 1994 PA Act 451, Part 31 (the "Michigan Act"). This general permit sets forth the effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, and other conditions necessary to discharge wastewater stabilization lagoon effluent to the surface waters of the state of Michigan. The applicability of this general permit shall be limited to wastewater discharges which are of this type and which meet the criteria established in this general permit. Discharges which may cause or contribute to a violation of a water quality standard are not authorized by this permit.

Upon the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (the "Department") receiving a complete National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit application for a discharge of wastewater stabilization lagoon effluent from an applicant, the Department may issue a "certificate of coverage" for an individual facility. In order to constitute a valid authorization to discharge, this permit must be complemented by a certificate of coverage issued by the Department.

DESCRIPTION OF WASTEWATER STABILIZATION LAGOON TREATMENT:

Wastewater stabilization lagoon treatment systems are constructed ponds or basins designed to receive, hold, and treat wastewater for a predetermined period of time. In Michigan, seasonally-discharged lagoons are designed for 180 days detention. A typical lagoon system consists of two or more ponds 4-8 feet in depth. In the lagoon, wastewater is treated through a combination of physical, biological, and chemical processes. Much of the treatment occurs naturally, but some lagoon systems use aeration devices to add oxygen to the wastewater. Aeration makes treatment more efficient. Properly operated wastewater stabilization lagoons provide effective, economical, and reliable treatment of sanitary wastewater. Lagoon systems covered under the Wastewater Stabilization Lagoon General Permit are monitored and discharged during high stream flow conditions in the spring and fall months.

RECEIVING WATERS AND MIXING ZONES:

Mixing zones shall be determined pursuant to the Michigan Water Quality Standards (Rules 323.1082 and 323.1090 of the Michigan Administrative Code) for any discharge covered by this permit. The discharges authorized by this permit and complementing certificates of coverage will protect Michigan's surface waters for the designated uses, as appropriate, which include agricultural uses, navigation, industrial water supply, public water supply in areas with designated public water supply intakes, warm- and cold-water fish, other indigenous aquatic life and wildlife, partial body contact recreation, total body contact recreation (May through October), and fish consumption.

BASIS FOR PROPOSED EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS:

Based on a facility's application for an NPDES discharge permit, the Department proposes to issue the applicant an individual certificate of coverage to complement this permit to discharge, subject to effluent limitations and certain other conditions within the permit. Effluent limitations for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), total suspended solids (TSS), fecal coliform bacteria, and pH are based on secondary treatment standards; effluent limitations for dissolved oxygen and total phosphorus (if applicable) are based on water quality; monitoring for nitrogen ammonia and total phosphorus are based on water quality concerns; and flow monitoring is based on the permit writer's judgment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Periods of discharge are limited to October through December and March through May unless otherwise restricted further on the certificate of coverage.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments or objections to the draft permit received between July 20, 2008, and August 20, 2008, will be considered in the final decision on whether to issue this permit.

If submitted comments indicate significant public interest in this permit or if useful information may be produced, the Department, at its discretion, may hold a public hearing on this permit. Any person may request the Department to hold a hearing on this permit. The request should include specific reasons for the request indicating which portions of the draft permit constitute the need for a hearing.

If a public hearing is held, public notice of a hearing will be provided at least thirty (30) days in advance. The Department will consider comments made at the hearing when making its final determinations on this permit. Further information regarding the draft general permit and procedures for commenting or requesting a public hearing may be obtained by contacting Karen Lauterbach, Permits Section, Water Bureau, Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 30273, Lansing, Michigan, 48909, telephone: 517-373-1326; email: lauterbachk@michigan.gov.