

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

**GROUNDWATER DISCHARGE AUTHORIZATION**

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

<b>Authorization Number:</b>	General Exemption 10-02-01	<b>Rule 2210(y)</b>
<b>Authorization for:</b>	Disposal of drilling fluids, grouts, casing sealing material, and other materials, including additives, authorized for well completion and decommissioning of water wells and geotechnical wells and borings by R 325.1640 (hereafter wastewater).	
<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>February 19, 2002</b>	
<b>Expiration Date:</b>	<b>February 1, 2007</b>	
<p><b>Background:</b> Standard practice for drilling water wells and geotechnical wells and borings involves the use of various materials such as drilling fluids, grouts and casing sealing material (e.g., cement, bentonite). Drilling fluids are used for borehole stabilization and removal of cuttings. Grouts are used to prevent well contamination and aquifer degradation by sealing between the well casing and borehole, or between strings of casing, and to decommission abandoned wells. During well completion or decommissioning wastewater is generated. The substances contained in these wastewaters include additives and other materials approved in accordance with R 325.1640, adopted pursuant to Part 127 of Act No. 368 of the Public Acts of 1978, as amended. These same materials used in completion or decommissioning of drinking water wells come into contact with potable water. However, these materials are wastewater as defined by R 323.2203(o), and as such, are subject to regulation pursuant to Part 31. If wastewater is not disposed in accordance with the conditions of this exemption the discharger must ensure that the requirements of Part 115, Solid Waste Management, and Part 121, Liquid Industrial Wastes of Act 451 are met.</p>		
<p><b>Purpose:</b> The purpose of this authorization is to allow disposal of wastewater without creating injury or nuisance conditions and to provide the conditions under which the wastewater may be disposed without the discharger applying for or obtaining a specific authorization under Part 31. This does not apply to a site known or expected to have environmental contamination present and does not apply to oil or mineral well drilling fluids. Provided all conditions of this general exemption are met, an application or notification pursuant to Part 22 Rules, Groundwater Quality, is not required.</p>		
<b>Type of Wastewater:</b>	Spent Drilling Fluids	
<b>Method of Disposal:</b>	Land Disposal	

Violation of this authorization may result in civil and/or criminal penalties as provided in Part 31.

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Lonnie C. Lee, Chief, Groundwater Program Section  
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**Authorization Conditions**

This authorization applies to drilling fluids, grouts, casing sealing material, and other materials, including additives, authorized for well completion and decommissioning of water wells and geotechnical wells and borings by R 325.1640 (hereafter wastewater) provided the following conditions are met:

1. This general exemption does not apply to a site that is known or expected to have environmental contamination present.
2. The land disposal of wastewater shall meet the requirements of Section 324.3109(1) of Part 31, Water Resources Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, and R 323.2204(2)(a), (b) and (f), promulgated thereunder.
3. The land disposal of wastewater shall only be on property owned by the company, or the company must have written authorization from the landowner for such a discharge. The written consent shall indicate that the landowner has been informed of the nature of the wastewater to be disposed of and the landowner grants the company permission to land dispose to a specific site.
4. The company shall ensure that wastewater is not disposed of in a manner that causes ponding, pooling, or runoff in the land disposal area.
5. Prior to land disposal, the company shall ensure that wastewater is not mixed with other wastes or wastewater that are not inert as defined by Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of Act 451 and rules promulgated thereunder, unless appropriate approvals or permits as required by state and/or federal law are first obtained.
6. Wastewater shall not come into direct contact with surface water or be disposed in a 100 year floodplain or a wetland, as defined in Act 451, except for potable water wells constructed in compliance with Part 127 of Act No. 368 of the Public Act of 1978, as amended.
7. The company shall allow access by authorized representatives of the Department to all land where wastewater is disposed for the purpose of verifying compliance with the provisions of this exemption.

**Conditions Which Void Exemption**

This exemption shall immediately become void for any of the following reasons:

1. Additional information demonstrates that wastewater is causing environmental contamination in groundwater above standards established by Part 201, Environmental Remediation, of Act 451.
2. State or federal laws are enacted which would cause this exemption to be invalid.

The Department shall provide notice if this exemption is voided.