

GENERAL PERMIT NO. GW1550000

  
**STATE OF MICHIGAN**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY**  
**GROUNDWATER DISCHARGE PERMIT**

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. Application of brine for ice control, as a dust suppressant, and for soil and road stabilization are authorized to be discharged from facilities specified in an individual Certificates of Coverage (COC) in accordance with effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, and other conditions set forth in this Groundwater General Permit.

**Rule Authorization: Rule 2215**

**Operation Type: Application of Brine for Ice Control, Dust Suppressant, and Soil and Road Stabilization**

**Wastewater Type: Brine Regulated Pursuant to Part 615, and from Wells Permitted under Part 625, of the NREPA**

**Effective Date: April 1, 2020**

**Expiration Date: April 1, 2023**

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (Department) has determined that the application of brines onto the ground for ice control, as a dust suppressant, and for soil and road stabilization, are appropriately and adequately controlled by a general permit. Brines discharged for this purpose must either meet the requirements of R 324.705 (3) of Part 615, Supervisor of Wells, or are from wells permitted under Part 625, Mineral Wells, of the NREPA.

In order to constitute a valid authorization to discharge, this permit must be accompanied by a certification of coverage (COC) issued by the Department.

This general permit supersedes all Permits and Exemptions issued by the Department to facilities with the same or substantially similar types of operation.

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.

Issued: March 31, 2020.



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Kristine Rendon, Supervisor  
Groundwater Permits Unit  
Permits Section  
Water Resources Division

**PERMIT FEE REQUIREMENTS**

In accordance with Section 324.3122 of the NREPA, the permittee shall make payment of an annual permit fee to the Department for each December 15th 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 1st for notices mailed by January 15th. The fee is due no later than 45 days after receiving the notice for notices mailed after January 15th.

**CONTESTED CASE INFORMATION**

Any person who is aggrieved by this permit may file a sworn petition with the Michigan Administrative Hearing System of the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, setting forth the conditions of the permit that are being challenged and specifying the grounds for the challenge. The Michigan Administrative Hearing System may reject any petition filed more than 60 days after issuance as being untimely.

**PART I****A. Permit Requirements****1. Effluent Limitations**

During the period beginning on the effective date of this permit and the effective date of an individual COC and lasting until the expiration of this permit or termination of the individual COC, the permittee is authorized to discharge brine to the groundwaters of the state. Such discharge shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below.

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Maximum Limit</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Monitoring Frequency</b>	<b>Sample Type</b>
Application Rate (Dust Control and Soil Stabilization)	1,500	Gal/Lane Mile <i>of road</i>	Daily	Direct Measurement
	1,250	Gal/Acre <i>of land</i>	Daily	Direct Measurement
Application Rate (Ice Control)	400	Gal/Lane Mile <i>of road</i>	Daily	Direct Measurement
	500	Gal/Acre <i>of land</i>	Daily	Direct Measurement

- a. The permittee shall record all brine applications in a log that shall be available for review upon request by the Department or the county, district or city health department that has jurisdiction.
- b. Records shall be retained for a period of 3 years unless otherwise required by the Department.

**2. 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 324.3110 and 324.4104 of the NREPA.

**3. General Conditions**

- a. The discharge shall not be, or not be likely to become, injurious to the protected uses of the waters of the state.
- b. The discharge shall not cause runoff to, ponding on, or flooding of adjacent property, shall not cause erosion, and shall not cause nuisance conditions.
- c. The point of discharge shall not be outside of the surface of the road, parking lot, or other land area that has been approved by the landowner for brine application. Brine applied on public roads must remain on the road surface and cannot discharge to the right-of-way.
- d. The discharge shall not create a facility as defined in Part 201, Environmental Response, of the NREPA.
- e. The discharge of treated wastewater shall only be in property owned by the discharger unless the discharger has written authorization from the landowner for such a discharge.

- f. 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.

#### 4. Specific Conditions

- a. Only brine that meets the requirements of R 324.705(3) of Part 615, as amended, or is from a well permitted pursuant to Part 625 of the NREPA, may be used for ice control, as a dust suppressant, and soil and road stabilization on land, such as roads, parking lots and other land.
- b. To prevent other contaminants from becoming part of the brine discharge, brine shall be applied with vehicular equipment dedicated to this use or hauling fresh water.
- c. Brine shall be applied for dust suppression and soil and road stabilization in accordance with the following criteria:
  - i. Brine may be applied to the surface of roads and parking lots up to four (4) applications each year south of the southern county lines of Mason, Lake, Osceola, Clare, Gladwin, and Arenac Counties. Counties north of this line may apply only three (3) applications per year.
  - ii. Brine may be applied to the surface of roads being used as a detour and on other areas during construction as necessary to control dust up to six (6) applications each year.
  - iii. Brine must be applied to roads and parking areas with a spreader bar. This device shall be constructed to deliver a uniform application of brine over a width of at least eight (8) feet.
  - iv. Brine may be applied at a maximum rate of 1,500 gallons per lane mile of road or 1,250 gallons per acre of land, provided runoff does not occur.
  - v. Brine shall be applied in a manner to prevent runoff.
- d. Brine shall be applied for ice control in accordance with the following criteria:
  - i. Brine shall be applied only on paved roads or paved parking lots.
  - ii. Brine shall be applied at a maximum rate of 500 gallons per lane mile of road or 400 gallons per acre of land.
  - iii. Brine shall be applied only when the air temperature is above 20° Fahrenheit, unless used for pre-wetting sand or solid salt.
  - iv. Brine must be applied with equipment designed to direct the discharge to the center of the pavement or high sides of curves.
- e. Brine application measurement methods must be used to ensure that brine application rates are within the limits described in this general permit.
- f. Brine shall only be applied at a frequency necessary to control dust and ice in order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, and up to the maximum allowed by this general permit.
- g. Brine shall not be applied at a location determined to be a site of environmental contamination for chlorides under Part 201, Environmental Remediation, (Part 201) of the NREPA.
- h. The permittee shall develop written Standard Operating Procedures which shall specify brine loading and spreading methods and monitoring procedures to be used by the permittee's personnel to ensure compliance with the terms of this

permit. The Standard Operating Procedures shall be available for inspection by the Department or a peace officer.

- i. Records shall be kept of the use of brine as follows:
  - i. The location, description, volume, and the source or sources of the brine.
  - ii. A brine application log shall be kept which shall include the following:
    1. Driver's name.
    2. Loading date and time and source of brine.
    3. Dates of brine application.
    4. County and township where brine was applied.
    5. Name of road or roads or other land areas where brine was applied and the gallons of brine that were applied.
    6. For road brining, give the distance brine was applied between startup and stopping point to the closest one tenth (0.1) mile.
    7. Documentation that the supervisor of the wells used has approved them for use.
  - iii. The records for the previous two weeks, as described in this section of this general permit, shall be maintained on the vehicle for inspection by the Department or a peace officer.
  - iv. The records described in this section shall be maintained by the discharger for a period of three calendar years from the date they were generated and shall be available for inspection by the Department or a peace officer.

## 5. Compliance Requirements

Compliance with all applicable requirements set forth in Parts 31 and 41 of the NREPA and related regulations and rules is required. All instances of noncompliance with concentration limitations of effluent or groundwater shall be reported as follows:

- a. If the facility is in a wellhead protection area, within 48 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the noncompliance, the permittee shall report noncompliance to the public water supply manager.
- b. Within seven (7) days from the time the permittee becomes aware of the noncompliance, the permittee shall report, in writing, all instances of noncompliance. Written reporting shall include all of the following: (1) the name of the substance(s) for which a limit was exceeded; (2) the concentration at which the substance was found; and (3) the location(s) at which the limit was exceeded.
- c. Within 14 days from the time the permittee becomes aware of the noncompliance, the permittee shall resample the monitoring point at which the limit was exceeded for the substance for which a limit was exceeded.
- d. Within 60 days from the time the permittee becomes aware of the noncompliance, the permittee shall submit a written report that shall include all of the following: (1) the results of the confirmation sampling; (2) an evaluation of the cause for the limit being exceeded and the impact of that event to the groundwater; and (3) a proposal detailing steps taken or to be taken to prevent recurrence.

- e. In accordance with applicable rules, the Department may require additional activities including, but not limited to, the following:
  - i. Change the monitoring program, including increasing the frequency of effluent monitoring or groundwater sampling, or both.
  - ii. Develop and implement a groundwater monitoring program if one is not in place.
  - iii. If the discharge is in a designated wellhead protection area, assess the effects of the discharge on the public water supply system.
  - iv. Review the operational or treatment procedures, or both, at the facility.
  - v. Define the extent to which groundwater quality exceeds the applicable criteria that would designate the site as a facility under Part 201 of the NREPA.
  - vi. Revise the operational procedures at the facility.
  - vii. Change the design or construction of the wastewater operations at the facility.
  - viii. Initiate an alternative method of waste treatment or disposal.
  - ix. Remediate contamination to comply with the terms of Part 201 of the NREPA, if applicable.
- f. If the Department determines there is a change in groundwater quality from a normal operating baseline that indicates the concentration of a substance in groundwater may exceed an applicable limit, then the discharger shall take the following actions if required by the Department:
  - i. Change the monitoring program, including increasing the frequency of effluent sampling or groundwater sampling, or both.
  - ii. Review the operational or treatment procedures, or both, at the facility.

## 6. Expiration and Reissuance

On or before October 1, 2022, a permittee seeking continued authorization to discharge under this permit beyond the permit's expiration date shall submit to the Department an application for reissuance via the Department's MiWaters system. The MiWaters website is located at <https://miwaters.deq.state.mi.us>. Without a timely application for reissuance, the permittee's authorization to discharge will expire on April 1, 2023. With a timely application for reissuance, the permittee shall continue to be subject to the terms and conditions of the expired permit until the Department takes action on the application, unless this permit is terminated or revoked.

If this permit is terminated or revoked, the Department will notify the permittee in writing and all authorizations to discharge under the permit shall expire on the date of termination or revocation. If this permit is modified, the Department will notify the permittee in writing of any required action. Upon the effective date of the modified permit, the permittee shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the modified permit, unless the Department notifies the permittee otherwise.

If the discharge authorized under this permit is terminated, the permittee shall submit to the Department a Groundwater Notice of Termination request via MiWaters at <https://miwaters.deq.state.mi.us>.

## PART II

### A. Definitions

*This list of definitions may include terms not applicable to this permit.*

**Annual Monitoring Frequency** refers to a calendar year beginning on January 1 and ending on December 31. When required by this permit, an analytical result, reading, value, or observation must be reported for that period if a discharge occurs during that period.

**Best Management Practices** means structural devices or nonstructural practices that are designed to prevent pollutants from entering into groundwater.

**Biosolids** are the solid, semisolid, or liquid residues generated during the treatment of sanitary sewage or domestic sewage in a treatment works. This includes, but is not limited to, scum or solids removed in primary, secondary, or advanced wastewater treatment processes and a derivative of the removed scum or solids.

**Bulk Biosolids** means biosolids that are not sold or given away in a bag or other container for application to a lawn or home garden.

**By-Pass** means any diversion from or bypass of facilities necessary to maintain compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit.

**Certificate of Coverage (COC)** is a document, issued by the Department, which authorizes a discharge under a general permit.

**Class B Biosolids** refers to material that has met the Class B pathogen reduction requirements or equivalent treatment by a Process to Significantly Reduce Pathogens (PSRP) in accordance with the Part 24 Rules. Processes include aerobic digestion, composting, anaerobic digestion, lime stabilization and air drying.

**Daily Concentration** is the sum of the concentrations of the individual samples of a parameter divided by the number of samples taken during any calendar day. If the parameter concentration in any sample is less than the quantification limit, regard that value as zero when calculating the daily concentration. For pH, report the maximum value of any individual sample taken during the month and the minimum value of any individual sample taken during the month.

**Daily Monitoring Frequency** refers to a 24-hour day. When required by this permit,

**Department** means the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

**Detection Level** means the lowest concentration or amount of the target analyte that can be determined to be different from zero by a single measurement at a stated level of probability.

**Discharge** means the addition of any waste, waste effluent, wastewater, pollutant, or any combination thereof to any groundwaters of the state.



**Flow Proportioned Sample** is a composite sample with the sample volume proportional to the effluent flow.

**Furrow Stream** is the volume, in gallons per unit time, usually per minute, of wastewater discharged into the furrow.

**General Permit** means a groundwater permit that is designed to cover permittees with similar operations or type of discharge.

**GPD** means gallons per day.

**GPY** means gallons per year.

**Grab Sample** is a single sample taken at neither a set time nor flow.

**Individual Permit** means a site-specific Groundwater permit.

**Land Application** means spraying or spreading waste, waste effluent, or wastewater onto the land surface, or incorporating into the soil to be treated by the plants, soil surface, and/or the soil matrix.

For biosolids or a biosolids derivative sprayed or spread onto the land surface, or incorporating into the soil can either condition the soil or fertilize crops or vegetation grown in the soil.

**MGD** means million gallons per day.

**Mg/l** is a unit of measurement and means milligrams per liter.

**Monthly Monitoring Frequency** refers to a calendar month. When required by this permit, an analytical result, reading, value, or observation must be reported for that period if a discharge occurs during that period.

**POTW** is a publicly owned treatment work.

**Quantification Level** means the measurement of the concentration of a contaminant obtained by using a specified laboratory procedure calculated at a specified concentration above the detection level. It is considered the lowest concentration at

which a particular contaminant can be quantitatively measured using a specified laboratory procedure for monitoring of the contaminant.

**Quarterly Monitoring Frequency** refers to a three-month period, defined as January through March, April through June, July through September, and October through December. When required by this permit, an analytical result, reading, value, or observation must be reported for that period if a discharge occurs during that period.

**Rapid Infiltration** is the application of wastewater to areas of moderately to highly permeable soil. The majority of applied wastewater percolates through the soil, and the treated effluent drains naturally to groundwater.

**Slow-Rate Land Treatment** is the application of wastewater to a vegetated land surface with the applied wastewater being treated as it flows through the plant and soil matrix. A portion of the flow is expected to percolate to the groundwater while the remainder is utilized by plants or lost through evaporation.

**Report** means there is no limit associated with the individual substance for the medium that is being sampled, that the permittee must only report the result of the laboratory analysis.

**Weekly Monitoring Frequency** refers to a calendar week that begins on Sunday and ends on Saturday. When required by this permit, an analytical result, reading, value, or observation must be reported for that period if a discharge occurs during that period.

**24-Hour Composite Sample** is a flow proportioned composite sample consisting of hourly or more frequent portions that are taken over a 24-hour period.

## PART II

### B. Monitoring Procedures

#### 1. Permit Monitoring Requirements

Pursuant to R 323.2223(1), the Department may modify the effluent or groundwater monitoring parameters or frequency requirements of this permit. The permittee may request a modification of the parameters or frequency of monitoring of this permit with adequate supporting documentation.

#### 2. Instrumentation

The permittee shall periodically calibrate and perform maintenance procedures on all monitoring instrumentation at intervals to ensure accuracy of measurements.

#### 3. Test Procedures

Test procedures for the analysis of pollutants shall conform to regulations promulgated pursuant to either SW-846, 3rd Edition, September 1986, "Test Methods for the Evaluation of Solid Waste, Physical-Chemical Methods," or Section 304(h) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), 40 CFR, Part 136, Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants, unless specified otherwise in this permit. Requests to use test procedures not defined here shall be submitted to the Department for review and approval.

The permittee shall periodically calibrate and perform maintenance procedures on all analytical instrumentation at intervals to ensure accuracy of measurements. The calibration and maintenance shall be performed as part of the permittee's laboratory Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) Program.

#### 4. Representative Samples

Samples and measurements taken as required herein shall be representative of the volume and nature of the monitored discharge. Guidance on how to collect representative samples is contained in Guidesheet III, "Characterization of Wastewater," which is available via the Internet at

<https://www.michigan.gov/egle/-/media/Project/Websites/egle/Documents/Programs/WRD/Groundwater-Discharge/characterization-wastewater.pdf>

#### 5. Recording Results

For each measurement or sample taken pursuant to the requirements of this permit, the permittee shall record the following information: (1) the exact place, date, and time of measurement or sampling; (2) the person(s) who performed the measurement or sample collection; (3) the dates the analyses were performed; (4) the person(s) who performed the analyses; (5) the analytical techniques or methods used; (6) the date of and person responsible for equipment calibration; and (7) the results of all required analyses.

#### 6. Records Retention

All records and information resulting from the monitoring activities required by this permit, including all records of analyses performed and calibration and maintenance of instrumentation and recordings from continuous monitoring instrumentation, shall be retained for a minimum of three (3) years, or longer if requested by the Department.

**7. Additional Monitoring by Permittee**

If the permittee monitors any pollutant at the location(s) designated herein more frequently than required by this permit, using approved analytical methods as specified above, the results of such monitoring shall be included in the calculation and reporting of the values required in the Discharge Monitoring Report. Such increased frequency shall also be indicated.

Monitoring required pursuant to Part 41 of the NREPA or Rule 35 of the Mobile Home Park Commission Act (1987 PA 96) for assurance of proper facility operation shall be submitted as required by the Department.

## PART II

### C. Reporting Requirements

#### 1. **Electronic Reporting**

Upon notice by the Department that electronic reporting tools are available for specific reports or notifications, the permittee shall submit all such reports or notifications as required by this permit, electronically.

#### 2. **Start-Up Notification**

If the permittee will not discharge during the first 60 days following the effective date of this permit, the permittee shall notify the Department within 14 days following the effective date of this permit and then 60 days prior to the commencement of the discharge.

#### 3. **Compliance Dates Notification**

Within 14 days of every compliance date specified in this permit, the permittee shall submit a written notification to the Department indicating whether or not the particular requirement was accomplished. If the requirement was not accomplished, the notification shall include an explanation of the failure to accomplish the requirement, actions taken or planned by the permittee to correct the situation, and an estimate of when the requirement will be accomplished. If a written report is required to be submitted by a specified date and the permittee accomplishes this, a separate written notification is not required.

#### 4. **Notification of Changes in Discharge, Treatment, or Facility Operations**

If proposing to modify the quantity or effluent characteristics of the discharge or the treatment process for the discharge, the permittee shall notify the Department of the proposed modification prior to its occurrence. Significant modifications require the permittee to submit an application. A permit modification shall be processed in accordance with applicable rules and laws prior to implementation of the modification.

#### 5. **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.

#### 6. **Spill Notification**

The permittee shall immediately report any release of any polluting material that 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 R 324.2001 through 324.2009 of the Michigan Administrative Code (Part 5 Rules, Spillage of Oil and Polluting Materials, promulgated under Part 31 of the NREPA), by calling the Department at the number indicated in the Contact

Information section of this permit, or if the notice is provided after regular working hours, call the Department's 24-hour Pollution Emergency Alerting System at 1-800-292-4706 (from out-of-state call 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.

## **7. Upset Noncompliance Notification**

If a process "upset" (defined as an exceptional incident in which there is unintentional and temporary noncompliance with technology-based permit effluent limitations because of factors beyond the reasonable control of the permittee) has occurred, the permittee who wishes to establish the affirmative defense of upset, shall notify the Department by telephone within 24 hours of becoming aware of such conditions and within five (5) days, provide in writing the following information:

- a) That an upset occurred and that the permittee can identify the specific cause(s) of the upset.
- b) That the permitted wastewater treatment facility was, at the time, being properly operated.
- c) That the permittee has specified and taken action on all responsible steps to minimize or correct any adverse impact in the environment resulting from noncompliance with this permit.

In any enforcement proceedings, the permittee seeking to establish the occurrence of an upset has the burden of proof.

## **8. Bypass Prohibition and Notification**

- a) Bypass Prohibition - Bypass is prohibited unless:
  - (1) Bypass was unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage.
  - (2) There were no feasible alternatives to the bypass, such as the use of auxiliary treatment facilities, retention of untreated wastes, or maintenance during normal periods of equipment downtime. This condition is not satisfied if adequate backup equipment should have been installed in the exercise of reasonable engineering judgment to prevent a bypass.
  - (3) The permittee submitted notices as required under 15.b) or 15.c), below.
- b) Notice of Anticipated Bypass - If the permittee knows in advance of the need for a bypass, it shall submit prior notice to the Department, if possible at least ten (10) days before the date of the bypass, and provide information about the anticipated bypass as required by the Department. The Department may approve an anticipated bypass, after considering its adverse effects, if it will meet the three (3) conditions listed in 15.a), above.

- c) Notice of Unanticipated Bypass - The permittee shall submit notice to the Department of an unanticipated bypass by calling the Department at the number indicated in the Contact Information section of this permit (if the notice is provided after regular working hours, call the Department's 24-hour Pollution Emergency Alerting System at 1-800-292-4706; from out-of-state call 1-517-373-7660) as soon as possible, but no later than 24 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances.
- d) Written Report of Bypass - A written submission shall be provided within five (5) working days of commencing any bypass to the Department, and at additional times as directed by the Department. The written submission shall contain a description of the bypass and its cause; the period of bypass, including exact dates and times, and if the bypass has not been corrected, the anticipated time it is expected to continue; steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent reoccurrence of the bypass; and other information as required by the Department.
- e) Bypass Not Exceeding Limitations - The permittee may allow any bypass to occur that does not cause effluent limitations to be exceeded, but only if it also is for essential maintenance to assure efficient operation. These bypasses are not subject to the provisions of 15.a), 15.b), 15.c), and 15.d), above. This provision does not relieve the permittee of any notification responsibilities under Part II, Section 13, of this permit.

## 9. Untreated or Partially Treated Sewage Discharge Requirements

In accordance with Section 324.3112a of the NREPA, if untreated sewage, including sanitary sewer overflows (SSO), combined sewer overflows (CSO), or partially treated sewage is directly or indirectly discharged from a sewer system onto land or into the waters of the state, the entity responsible for the sewer system shall immediately, but not more than 24 hours after the discharge begins, notify, by telephone, the Department, local health departments, a daily newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the permittee is located, and a daily newspaper of general circulation in the county or counties in which the municipalities whose waters may be affected by the discharge are located that the discharge is occurring.

At the conclusion of the discharge, written notification shall be submitted in accordance with and on the "Report of Discharge" form available via the Internet (<http://www.michigan.gov/sewagedischarge>; under Information, click on Report a

Discharge (RTB/CSO/SSO/Other) Form), or alternatively for CSO discharges, in accordance with notification procedures approved by the Department.

In addition, in accordance with Section 324.3112a of the NREPA, each time a discharge of untreated sewage or partially treated sewage occurs, the permittee shall test the affected waters for *E. coli* to assess the risk to the public health as a result of the discharge and shall provide the test results to the affected local county health departments and the Department. The testing shall be done at locations specified by each affected local county health department but shall not exceed ten (10) tests for each separate discharge event. The affected local county health department may waive this testing requirement if it determines that such testing is not needed to assess the risk to the public health as a result of the discharge event. The results of this testing shall be submitted with the written notification required above, or if the

results are not yet available, submit them as soon as they become available. This testing is not required if the testing has been waived by the local health department or if the discharge(s) did not affect surface waters.

Permittees accepting sanitary or municipal sewage from other sewage collection systems are encouraged to notify the owners of those systems of the above reporting and testing requirements.

#### **10. Availability of Reports**

Except for data determined to be confidential under R 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 324.3112, 324.3115, 324.4106, and 324.4110 of the NREPA.



**PART II****D. Management Responsibilities****1. Discharge to the Surface Waters**

This permit does not authorize any discharge to the surface waters. The permittee is responsible for obtaining any permits required by federal or state laws or local ordinances.

**2. 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.

**3. 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.

**4. Duty to Comply**

All discharges authorized herein shall be consistent with the terms and conditions of this permit. The discharge of any pollutant identified in this permit more frequently than or at a level in excess of that authorized shall constitute a violation of this permit.

It is the duty of the permittee to comply with all the terms and conditions of this permit. Any noncompliance with the effluent limitations, conditions, or terms of this permit constitutes a violation of the NREPA and constitutes grounds for enforcement action; for permit termination, revocation, reissuance, or modification; or denial of an application for permit renewal.

**5. Civil and Criminal Liability**

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.

**6. Facilities Operation**

The permittee shall, at all times, properly operate and maintain all treatment or control facilities or systems installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit. Proper operation and maintenance include adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures.

**7. Power Failures**

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

- a. 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.

- b. 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.

## **8. Containment Facilities**

The permittee shall provide facilities for containment of any accidental losses of polluting materials in accordance with the requirements of the Part 5 Rules (R 324.2001 through 324.2009 of the Michigan Administrative Code). For a publicly owned treatment works (POTW), these facilities shall be approved under Part 41 of the NREPA.

## **9. 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, Part 31, Water Resources Protection; Part 55, Air Pollution Control; Part 111, Hazardous Waste Management; Part 115, Solid Waste Management; Part 121, Liquid Industrial Wastes; Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams; and Part 303, Wetlands Protection, of the NREPA. Such disposal shall not result in any unlawful pollution of the air, surface waters, or groundwater of the state.

## **10. Treatment System Closure**

- a. In the event that discharges from a treatment system are planned to be eliminated, the permittee shall do the following:
  - i. Eliminate all physical threats associated with discharge-related facilities not later than five (5) days after use of the facility has ceased.
  - ii. Not less than 75 days before cessation of discharge-related activities, characterize any wastewater, sediments, and sludges related to the discharge, pursuant to R 323.2226(4)(a)(i-iii).
- b. Within 30 days of completing the characterization, the discharger shall submit a closure plan to the Department for review and approval that describes how the wastewater, sediments, and sludges associated with the discharge will be handled in accordance with Part 31, Part 111, Part 115, or Part 201 of the NREPA, as appropriate.
- c. Closure activities must be initiated within 30 days of Department approval of the Closure Plan and must be completed within one (1) year of approval of the Closure Plan.
- d. If the groundwater exceeds a standard established by the Department that would result in the site qualifying as a facility under Part 201 of the NREPA, then the permittee shall comply with the requirements of Part 201, as applicable.
- e. The Department may require post closure monitoring activities to evaluate the effectiveness of the closure activities. Any wastewater or residual disposal inconsistent with the approved plan shall be considered a violation of this

permit. After proper closure of the treatment system, this permit may be terminated.

- f. The permittee must certify completion of the approved closure plan. Certification shall be by a qualified person described as follows:
  - i. An engineer licensed under Public Act 299 of 1980, as amended, being §339.101 et seq. of the Michigan Compiled Laws and known as the Occupational Code.
  - ii. A professional geologist certified by the American Institute of Professional Geologists, 7828 Vance Drive, Suite 103, Arvada, Colorado 80003.
  - iii. A professional hydrologist certified by the American Institute of Hydrology, 2499 Rice Street, Suite 135, St. Paul, Minnesota 55113.
  - iv. A groundwater professional certified by the National Ground Water Association, Association of Groundwater Scientists and Engineers Division, 601 Dempsey Road, Westerville, Ohio 43081.
  - v. Another groundwater professional certified by an organization approved by the Department.

## 11. Right of Entry

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

- a. 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.
- b. 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 effluent discharge, discharge of pollutants, and groundwater monitoring wells and soils associated with the discharge.

## 12. Construction Certification

On or before 30 days following completion of construction of any new wastewater treatment facilities after issuance of this permit, pursuant to R 323.2218(4)(a), the permittee shall submit a certification that a QA/QC Program was utilized and the facilities constructed were built consistent with standard construction practices to comply with the permit and the NREPA. This certification shall be by an engineer licensed under Act 299.