

**North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality Public Notice  
Issue of an NDPDES Permit**

Public Notice Date: 7/24/2024

Public Notice Number: ND-2024-010

**Purpose of Public Notice**

The Department intends to issue the following North Dakota Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NDPDES) Discharge Permit under the authority of Section 61-28-04 of the North Dakota Century Code.

**Permit Information**

Application Date: 4/1/2024

Application Number: NDG32

Applicant Name: General Permit NDG320000-Waste Stabilization Pond Discharges to Class III Waters

Mailing Address: ND Dept of Env Quality, Div of Water Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, Bismarck ND 58503-1324

Telephone Number: 701.328.5237

Proposed Permit Expiration Date: 9/30/2029

**Description**

The Department intends to reissue a NDPDES General Permit, NDG320000, to regulate discharges from waste stabilization ponds. Coverage under the General Permit is limited to facilities that serve a population less than 5,000 and satisfy additional qualification criteria specified in the permit. This General Permit applies to waste stabilization pond discharges to any waters of the State subject to Class III surface water quality standards.

**Tentative Determinations**

Proposed effluent limitations and other permit conditions have been made by the Department. They assure that State Water Quality Standards and applicable provisions of the FWPCA will be protected.

**Information Requests and Public Comments**

Copies of the application, draft permit, and related documents are available for review. Comments or requests should be directed to the ND Dept of Env Quality, Div of Water Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, Bismarck ND 58503-1324 or by calling 701.328.5210.

All comments received by August 31, 2024 will be considered prior to finalizing the permit. If there is significant interest, a public hearing will be scheduled. Otherwise, the Department will issue the final permit within sixty (60) days of this notice.

The NDDEQ will consider every request for reasonable accommodation to provide an accessible meeting facility or other accommodation for people with disabilities, language interpretation for people with limited English proficiency (LEP), and translations of written material necessary to access programs and information. Language assistance services are available free of charge to you. To request accommodations, contact the NDDEQ Non-discrimination Coordinator at 701-328-5210 or [deqEJ@nd.gov](mailto:deqEJ@nd.gov). To request accommodations, TTY users may use Relay North Dakota at 711 or 1-800-366-6888.

**FACT SHEET FOR NDPDES GENERAL PERMIT  
NDG320000**

**DOMESTIC WASTEWATER STABILIZATION POND SYSTEM DISCHARGES TO CLASS III  
WATERS OF THE STATE**

**Reissuance – (Domestic Minor Municipal – Lagoon System)**

**DATE OF THIS FACT SHEET – May 2024**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Federal Clean Water Act (CWA, 1972, and later amendments in 1977, 1981, and 1987, etc.) established water quality goals for the navigable (surface) waters of the United States. One mechanism for achieving the goals of the CWA is the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), which the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) oversees. In 1975, the State of North Dakota was delegated primacy of the NPDES program by EPA. The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, hereafter referred to as “department”, has been designated the state water pollution control agency for all purposes of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended [33 U.S.C. 1251, et seq.], and is authorized to take all action necessary or appropriate to secure to this state the benefits of that act and similar federal acts. The department’s authority and obligations for the wastewater discharge permit program is in the North Dakota Administrative Code (NDAC) 33.1-16 which was adopted under North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) chapter 61-28. In North Dakota, these permits are referred to as North Dakota Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NDPDES) permits.

The following regulations apply to NDPDES permits:

- Procedures the department use for issuing NDPDES permits (NDAC chapter 33.1-16-01),
- Standards of Quality for Waters of the State (NDAC chapter 33.1-16-02.1).

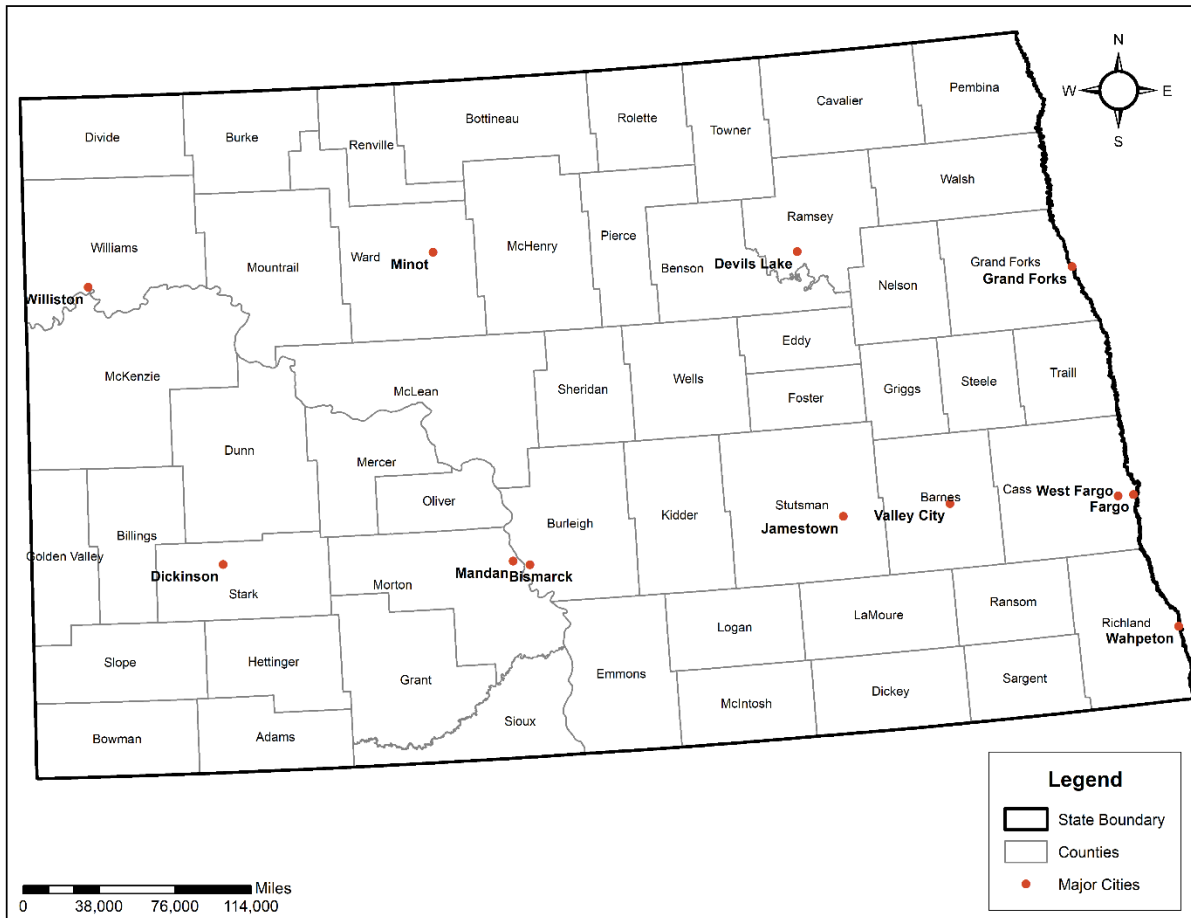
These rules require any treatment facility operator to obtain an NDPDES permit before discharging wastewater to state waters. They also define the basis for limits on each discharge and for other requirements imposed by the permit.

According to the NDAC, section 33.1-16-01-08, the department must prepare a draft permit and accompanying fact sheet and make it available for public review. The department must also publish an announcement (public notice) during a period of thirty days, informing the public where a draft permit may be obtained and where comments regarding the draft permit may be sent (NDAC 33.1-16-01-07). For more information regarding preparing and submitting comments about the fact sheet and permit, please see **Appendix A – Public Involvement Information**. Following the public comment period, the department may make changes to the draft NDPDES permit. The department will summarize the responses to comments and any changes to the permit in **Appendix D – Response to Comments**.

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### BACKGROUND INFORMATION



**Figure 1 - Map of the State of North Dakota**

The current permit issued for this class of dischargers expires on September 30, 2024 and covers facilities across the state. Currently, 194 facilities are covered and regulated under this permit. Due to upcoming TMDL's, it is expected that over the next five years the number of facilities covered by this permit will decrease.

According to Part 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 122.28, general permits issued for a class of discharges in place of individual permits for specific facilities benefits both the department and the permit holder by reducing administrative tasks and making the requirements for similar facilities consistent. As provided in the NDPDES Rules (NDAC 33.1-16-01), the department may issue general permits for a class of point source discharges that meet the following criteria: discharge the same types of wastes, employ similar or equivalent types of treatment, require the same effluent limitations, and require the same or similar monitoring. The wastewater stabilization pond discharges described in this permit meet these criteria and can be appropriately regulated under a general permit.

## PERMIT COVERAGE

This general permit covers discharges from wastewater stabilization ponds to Class III streams and applicable lakes and reservoirs of the state. Generally, coverage is assigned according to the classification listed for the receiving water in the Standards of Quality for Waters of the State (NDAC Chapter 33.1-16-02.1). In some instances, a facility may be assigned coverage under a permit identifying a water classification higher than that listed in the standards for the receiving water to protect local features of the water body which support beneficial uses that may exceed those generally expected for the water body. Such features may include areas improved to provide recreation, proximity to a larger water body or areas known to provide valuable aquatic habitat.

To be eligible for coverage under this general permit, the wastewater stabilization ponds must primarily treat domestic wastewater, service a population of less than 5,000 people and not be considered a major discharger. In addition, it must be demonstrated that the facility can meet secondary effluent limitations through compliance with the conditions of a previously issued individual permit or through engineering design criteria and data.

Systems which receive a significant industrial discharge contribution will not be covered under this permit unless it is determined by the department that the system can adequately treat the wastewater contribution. For purposes of this permit, significant industrial users are those satisfying any one of the following:

- 1) has a process wastewater flow of 25,000 gallons or more per average workday;
- 2) has a flow greater than 5 percent of the flow carried by the municipal system receiving the waste;
- 3) has in its waste a toxic pollutant in toxic amounts as defined under Section 307(a) of the Clean Water Act or is otherwise subject to a standard developed under Section 307(b) of the Act; or
- 4) found by the permit issuing authority to have a significant impact on the treatment works or quality of effluent from the POTW.

To obtain coverage under this permit, the owner/operator or authorized agent for the facility must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Obtain Coverage Under NDPDES General Permit Associated with the Treatment of Domestic Wastewater prior to the anticipated start of any discharge. In the case of an application for renewal of an individual permit or coverage under a general permit, a reapplication made under the provisions of the existing permit will be acceptable.

The department will then have thirty (30) days to deny coverage, request information or authorize coverage under the general permit. Coverage under the general permit will be valid only when the applicant receives a written notice of coverage (NOC) from the department. Facilities qualifying for coverage under this general permit, which are covered by individual permit, shall remain covered by the individual permit until its expiration. As provided in North Dakota's NDPDES Rules, the operator of a facility covered under this general permit, may request to be excluded from coverage under the general permit by submitting an application for an individual permit. In addition, any action by the department to require a facility to obtain an

individual discharge permit will follow the procedures defined in NDAC 33.1-16-01.

### DESCRIPTION OF DISCHARGE

Wastewater stabilization ponds are the most common means of treating domestic wastewater from small communities in North Dakota. Generally, these systems contain two or more cells, discharge seven days or less at a time, and are designed to provide for 180 days of storage. Typically, discharges occur from these systems in the spring and/or fall of the year. Discharges are made when the desired quality is achieved and to maintain adequate storage capacity.

Based on information received during the last permit renewal, the average population served by a system covered by this permit is 311 people. The population distribution for communities covered by this permit ranges from 15 people to 2,211 people. A list of domestic wastewater stabilization pond systems in North Dakota, providing information on the location, cell size and population served, is maintained in the department's NDPDES database.

The department is responsible for overseeing the design, construction, and operation of municipal sewer collection and treatment systems. With the exception of minor repairs, the design plans for modifying or adding to a municipal treatment works must be reviewed by the department (NDCC 61-28-06). Facilities serving a population of 500 or more are required to have a state certified operator in accordance with NDCC 23-26. Under this general permit, the permittee is required to have pre-discharge samples reviewed by the department prior to any discharge from a wastewater stabilization system.

### PERMIT STATUS

The department issued the previous permit on October 1, 2019. The previous permit had effluent limits and monitoring requirements for 5-Day Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD<sub>5</sub>), Total Suspended Solids (TSS), and pH.

### SUMMARY OF COMPLIANCE WITH PREVIOUS PERMIT ISSUED

#### Past Discharge Data

The concentration of pollutants in the discharges for all facilities covered under this permit were reported through Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs). The effluent data are characterized in the below table:

**Table 1 – NDG32 DMR Data (October 1, 2019 through March 31, 2024)**

Parameter	Range	Average	Permit Limit	Number of Exceedances	TRC Exceedances
BOD <sub>5</sub> (mg/l)	0.6 – 368	11.98	25 Monthly Avg 45 Daily Max	35	15
TSS (mg/l)	0.5 – 309	19.28	30 Monthly Avg 45 Daily Max	119	57
pH (s.u.)	5.2 – 10.2	N/A	6.0 – 9.0	60	N/A
Drain (MG)	0.13 – 27.04	5.83	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Notes:</b>					

Out of the 194 facilities covered under this general permit, 86 facilities discharged for a combined total of 3,274 days over 371 discharge events between October 2019 and March 2024.

## PROPOSED PERMIT LIMITS

### Technology-Based Effluent Limitations

The discharge of wastewater generated by domestic wastewater treatment facilities is regulated by national effluent guidelines. Federal and state regulations define technology-based effluent limits for municipal wastewater treatment plants. These effluent limits are given in 40 CFR Part 133 and in NDAC 33.1-16-01-30. Through Best Professional Judgement (BPJ) these effluent limits were incorporated into the permit. These regulations are performance standards that constitute all known, available, and reasonable methods of prevention, control, and treatment for municipal wastewater.

NDAC 33.1-16-01-30 incorporates by reference 40 CFR Part 133 which lists the following technology-based limits for BOD<sub>5</sub>, TSS, and pH:

**Table 2 - Technology-Based Effluent Limits (40 CFR 133)**

Parameter	30-Day Average	7-Day Average
BOD <sub>5</sub>	30 mg/l	45 mg/l
TSS	30 mg/l	45 mg/l
pH	Remain between 6.0 and 9.0 S.U.	--
Percent Removal	85% BOD <sub>5</sub> and 85% TSS	--

NDAC 33.1-16-01-14(3)(c)(1) allows for adjustment of the secondary treatment criteria to reflect site specific considerations. A five-day biochemical oxygen demand limit of twenty-five milligrams per liter (consecutive thirty-day average) may be applied in instances in which limits expressed in terms of secondary treatment standards would be impractical or deemed inappropriate to protect receiving waters.

The department acknowledges that 40 CFR 133 requires an 85% removal for BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS. The percent removal rate in 40 CFR 133 is dependent upon the influent and effluent samples being taken at approximately the same time. The facilities covered under this permit utilize waste stabilization ponds to treat wastewater. Due to the infeasibility of determining percent removal for waste stabilization ponds, the department has determined not to include the percent removal requirements for facilities covered under this permit. Influent and effluent samples would not be representative of the same wastewater. Therefore, the department has calculated an estimated percent removal for permitted facilities. The average BOD<sub>5</sub> concentration of domestic wastewater is 220 mg/l (Metcalf & Eddy, Inc., 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 1979). Facilities meeting a discharge limitation of 25 mg/l BOD<sub>5</sub> theoretically would achieve 88% removal efficiency. The department would then assume that facilities meeting the permit limitation of 25 mg/l would therefore be meeting the percent removal requirement. The average TSS concentration of domestic wastewater is 220 mg/l (Metcalf & Eddy, Inc., 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 1979). Facilities meeting the discharge limitation of 30 mg/l TSS theoretically would achieve 86% removal efficiency. The department would then assume that facilities meeting the permit limitation of 30 mg/l would therefore be meeting the percent removal requirement.

### Effluent Limitation Requirements

NDAC 33.1-16-01-14 also establishes effluent limitations for domestic wastewater. Limitations may be generated using BPJ in the absence of a federal standard to ensure reasonable control technologies are used to prevent potential harmful effects of the discharge. In addition, the department must consider and include limitations necessary to protect water quality standards applicable to receiving waters. NDAC 33.1-16-02.1 establishes standards of quality for waters of the state.

Not all facilities regulated by this permit may be municipal or publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) and may not be regulated by national effluent standards which establish technology-based effluent limitations for POTWs. However, using BPJ, these standards were incorporated into the permit for all facilities covered under this permit.

The proposed effluent limitations shall take effect once the permit becomes effective. The limitations apply to all wastewater outfalls for the facility. The effluent limitations and basis for the limitations are provided in the tables below:

**Table 3 - Proposed Effluent Limitations**

Effluent Parameter	Avg. Monthly Limit <sup>a</sup>	Avg. Weekly Limit <sup>a</sup>	Daily Maximum Limit <sup>a</sup>	Basis <sup>b</sup>
BOD <sub>5</sub> (mg/l)	25	*	45	NDAC 33.1-16-01-14(3)(c)(1); 40 CFR 133.102(a)(2); Previous Permit
TSS (mg/l)	30	*	45	40 CFR 133.102(b); Previous Permit
pH (S.U.)	Shall remain between 6.0 and 9.0 S.U.			40 CFR 133.102(c); WQS
<b>Notes:</b>				
*	This parameter is not limited. However, the department may impose limitations based on sample history to protect receiving waters.			
a.	Systems covered under this permit are small and discharge infrequently for short periods of time. Therefore, the 7-day maximum limits outlined in the secondary treatment standards (40 CFR 133) have not been used in this permit. The limitations applied to each lagoon cell discharge event and reflect the 30-day average limits and the 7-day maximum limits as a daily maximum outlined in the secondary treatment standards. The final secondary treatment regulation (40 CFR Part 133.103) indicates that appropriate monitoring adjustments could be provided to reflect system operation.			



b.	<p>The basis for effluent limitations is given below:</p> <p>“Previous Permit” refers to limitations in the previous permit. The NPDES regulations <b>40 CFR Part 122.44(l)(1) Reissued Permits</b> require that when a permit is renewed or reissued, interim limitation, standards, or conditions must be at least as stringent as the final effluent limitations, standard, or conditions in the previous permit unless the circumstances on which the previous permit was issued have materially and substantially changed since the previous permit was issued and would constitute cause for permit modification or revocation and reissuance under <b>40 CFR Part 122.62</b>.</p> <p>“WQS” refers to the effluent limitations based on the state of North Dakota’s “Standards of Quality for Waters of the State”, NDAC Chapter 33.1-16-02.1.</p> <p>“BPJ” refers to best professional judgement.</p>
<b>Stipulations:</b>	
Best Management Practices (BMPs) are to be utilized so that there shall be no discharge of floating debris, oil, scum, and other floating materials in sufficient amounts to be unsightly or deleterious, or oil wastes that produce a visible sheen on the surface of the receiving water.	
Discharges may only occur during the open-water season. There shall be no discharge when the receiving water is ice covered.	

### SELF-MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

#### Monitoring Requirements

The department requires monitoring, recording, and reporting (NDAC 33.1-16-01(21-23) and 40 CFR 122.41) to verify that the treatment process is functioning correctly and that the discharge complies with permit limits.

All effluent shall be sampled at a point leaving the outfall but prior to entering waters of the state.

**Table 4 - Self Monitoring Requirements**

Effluent Parameter	Frequency	Sample Type <sup>a</sup>
BOD <sub>5</sub> (mg/l)	Weekly <sup>b</sup>	Grab
TSS (mg/l)	Weekly <sup>b</sup>	Grab
pH (s.u.)	Weekly <sup>b</sup>	Grab
Total Drain (MG) <sup>c</sup>	Per Event	Calculated
<b>Notes:</b>		
a.	Refer to Appendix B for definitions	

b.	Sampling shall consist of one (1) grab sample to be taken and analyzed prior to any discharge. This analysis shall be reported to the department prior to discharge and used for the first week of the discharge. In addition, one (1) grab sample of the actual discharge shall be taken and analyzed on a weekly basis for each additional week of the discharge, starting on the 8 <sup>th</sup> day of the discharge.
c.	The total amount of water discharged shall be determined either by using a flow-measuring device or by recording the water level drop in the pond.
<b>Stipulations:</b>	
The beginning and ending dates of the discharge shall be recorded.	
The facility must monitor for any additional pollutants added during the treatment process and notify the department of any additions.	

### SURFACE WATER QUALITY-BASED EFFLUENT LIMITS

The North Dakota State Water Quality Standards (NDAC Chapter 33.1-16-02.1) are designed to protect existing water quality and preserve the beneficial uses of North Dakota's surface waters. Wastewater discharge permits must include conditions that ensure the discharge will meet the surface water quality standards. Water quality-based effluent limits may be based on an individual waste load allocation or on a waste load allocation developed during a basin wide total maximum daily load (TMDL) study. TMDLs result from a scientific study of the water body and are developed in order to reduce pollution from all sources.

Stream reaches that receive effluent from facilities covered under this permit were reviewed for applicable TMDLs. Six facilities were identified in approved TMDL's. The facilities of Wyndmere City of, Bottineau City of, Amenia City of, and Lake Metigoshe Recreation were assigned a waste load allocation (WLA) for fecal coliform. Because the WQS no longer includes a fecal coliform criterion, the department is developing a fecal coliform to *E. coli* translator to update the existing TMDLs. The facilities of Milnor City of and Buffalo City of were assigned a WLA for *E. coli*. The *E. coli* WLA's were calculated using the WQS concentration for *E. coli* and the average discharge volume recorded for the facility. This permit does not require *E. coli* limitations, therefore these facilities will be transferred to a more appropriate general permit, NDG220000. While NDG220000 does not include loading limits for *E. coli*, it does implement the WQS concentration for *E. coli*. The WLA's resulting from these TMDL's required meeting end-of-pipe concentrations consistent with applicable water quality criteria and are deemed consistent with the assumptions of the WLA's. Therefore, those facilities are eligible for coverage under that permit.

Permittees covered under this general permit discharge to Class III streams throughout the state. The quality of waters in these classes are described below:

- **Class III streams:** The quality of the waters in this class shall be suitable for agricultural and industrial uses. Streams in this class generally have low average flows with prolonged periods of no flow. During periods of no flow, they are of limited value for recreation and fish and aquatic biota. The quality of these waters must be maintained to protect secondary contact recreation uses (e.g., wading), fish and aquatic biota, and wildlife uses.

### **Numerical Criteria for the Protection of Aquatic Life and Recreation**

Numerical water quality criteria are listed in the water quality standards for surface waters (NDAC Chapter 33.1-16-02.1). They specify the maximum levels of pollutants allowed in receiving water to protect aquatic life and recreation in and on the water. The department uses numerical criteria along with chemical and physical data for the wastewater and receiving water to derive the effluent limits in the discharge permit. When surface water quality-based limits are more stringent or potentially more stringent than technology-based limits, the discharge must meet the water quality-based limits.

### **Numerical Criteria for the Protection of Human Health**

The U.S. EPA has published numeric water quality criteria for the protection of human health that are applicable to dischargers. These criteria are designed to protect humans from exposure to pollutants linked to cancer and other diseases, based on consuming fish and shellfish, and drinking contaminated surface waters. The Water Quality Standards also include radionuclide criteria to protect humans from the effects of radioactive substances.

### **Narrative Criteria**

Narrative water quality criteria (NDAC Section 33.1-16-02.1-08) limit concentrations of pollutants from exceeding applicable standards of the receiving waters. The department adopted a narrative biological goal solely to provide an additional assessment method that can be used to identify impaired surface waters.

### **Antidegradation**

The purpose of North Dakota's Antidegradation Policy (NDAC Chapter 33.1-16-02.1, (Appendix IV)) is to:

- Provide all waters of the state one of three levels of antidegradation protection.
- Determine whether authorizing the proposed regulated activity is consistent with antidegradation requirements.

The department's fact sheet demonstrates that the existing and designated uses of the receiving water will be protected under the conditions of the proposed permit.

### **Mixing Zones**

The department's WQS contains a Mixing Zone and Dilution Policy and Implementation Procedure, NDAC Chapter 33.1-16-02.1 (Appendix III). This policy addresses how mixing and dilution of point source discharges with receiving waters will be addressed in developing chemical-specific and whole effluent toxicity discharge limitations for point source discharges. Depending upon site-specific mixing patterns and environmental concerns, some pollutants/criteria may be allowed a mixing zone or dilution while others may not. In all cases, mixing zone and dilution allowances shall be limited, as necessary, to protect the integrity of the receiving water's ecosystem and designated uses.

## **EVALUATION OF SURFACE WATER QUALITY-BASED EFFLUENT LIMITS FOR NUMERIC CRITERIA**

### **pH**

The permit shall reflect the WQS for pH. Discharges to lakes and reservoirs, and Class III streams shall have an instantaneous pH limitation between 6.0 s.u. and 9.0 s.u.

The department is aware that some discharges are above 9.0 s.u. According to NDAC 33.1-16-01-14(3)(c)(3) "The pH of natural ground waters and surface waters in some parts of the state are basic, and the stabilization process of wastewater treatment in lagoon systems can result in more alkaline (increased pH) water. Discharges from waste treatment facilities may exceed the upper pH limit of 9.0 provided in the secondary treatment standard due to these uncontrollable ambient properties. Approval to discharge may be granted, providing the pH of the receiving water is not violated."

A determination was made to continue with the previous permit limit range of shall be between 6.0 s.u. and 9.0 s.u. with a sampling frequency of weekly.

### **Nutrients (Phosphorus and Nitrogen)**

Nutrient monitoring was excluded from this general permit renewal. According to the North Dakota Nutrient Reduction Strategy for Surface Waters, facilities covered under this permit would be classified as Category II facilities. The strategy emphasizes that Category II facilities will focus on monitoring, inspections, optimization, and treatment upgrades as needed, without requiring monitoring implementation into permits.

### **Biosolids**

Currently, the department does not have the authority to regulate biosolids. Therefore, the facilities covered under this permit are required under the Direct Enforceability provisions of 40 CFR 503.3(b) to meet the applicable requirements of the regulations.

### **Human Health**

North Dakota's water quality standards include numeric human health-based criteria that the department must consider when writing NDPDES permits. These criteria were established in 1992 by the U.S. EPA in its National Toxics Rule (40 CFR 131.36). The National Toxics Rule allows states to use mixing zones to evaluate whether discharges comply with human health criteria. The department determined the applicant(s) discharge is unlikely to contain chemicals regulated to protect human health. The department will re-evaluate this discharge for impacts to human health at the next permit reissuance.

## **MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

The department requires monitoring, recording, and reporting (NDAC Sections 33.1-16-01-(21 through 23) and 40 CFR 122.41) to verify that the treatment process is functioning correctly and that the discharge complies with the permit's limits.

**EXPIRATION DATE: September 30, 2029**

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### **Test Procedures**

The collection and transportation of all samples shall conform to EPA preservation techniques and holding times. All laboratory tests shall be performed by a North Dakota certified laboratory in conformance with test procedures pursuant to 40 CFR 136, unless other test procedures have been specified or approved by EPA as an alternate test procedure under 40 CFR 136.5. The method of determining the total amount of water discharged shall provide results within ten (10) percent of the actual amount.

### **OTHER PERMIT CONIDITIONS**

#### **Beneficial Reuse**

Wastewater that has met secondary or tertiary treatment standards may be beneficially reused in lieu of discharging. The proposed permit contains conditions for the beneficial reuse of wastewater for irrigation, construction, and oil and gas production. These conditions were developed by the department using BPJ and are listed in all like permits.

If wastewater is being taken by another party for use, the facility must provide the other party with an analysis of the wastewater. The analysis must include the applicable parameters the facility is responsible for monitoring in accordance with this permit. The facility must keep a record of all wastewater transferred to another entity which shall include the location the water was transferred to, the usage of the water, and the amount transferred.

### **PERMIT ISSUANCE PROCEDURES**

#### **Permit Actions**

This permit may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause. This includes the establishment of limitations or prohibitions based on changes to Water Quality Standards, the development and approval of waste load allocation plans, the development or revision to water quality management plans, changes in sewage sludge practices, or the establishment of prohibitions or more stringent limitations for toxic or conventional pollutants and/or sewage sludges. The filing of a request by the permittee for a permit modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination, or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not stay any permit condition.

#### **Proposed Permit Issuance**

This proposed permit meets all statutory requirements for the department to authorize a wastewater discharge. The permit includes limits and conditions to protect human health and aquatic life, and the beneficial uses of waters of the State of North Dakota. The department proposes to issue this permit for a term of five (5) years.

## APPENDIX A – PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT INFORMATION

The department proposes to reissue a NDPDES general permit for the facilities that qualify for coverage under the NDG320000. The permit includes wastewater discharge limits and other compliance conditions. This fact sheet describes the conditions the facilities must meet for coverage under NDG320000 and the department's reasons for requiring permit conditions.

The department placed a Public Notice of Draft on **July 24, 2024** in all state regional papers and on the department's website to inform the public and invite comment on the proposed draft North Dakota Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit and fact sheet. The notice will also be mailed to the department's public notice mailing list. The facilities covered under the present permit will be provided a copy of the public notice and draft permit at the beginning of the public comment period.

The Notice –

- Indicates where copies of the draft Permit and Fact Sheet are available for public evaluation;
- Offers to provide assistance to accommodate special needs;
- Urges individuals to submit their comments before the end of the comment period;
- Informs the public that if there is significant interest, a public hearing will be scheduled.

Further information can be obtained from the department by calling – 701.328.5210 or by writing to the address below.

North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality  
Division of Water Quality  
4201 Normandy Street  
Bismarck, ND 58503-1324

The primary permit and fact sheet writer is Sarah Waldron Feld.

**North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality Public Notice  
Issue of an NDPDES Permit**

Public Notice Date: 7/24/2024

Public Notice Number: ND-2024-010

**Purpose of Public Notice**

The Department intends to issue the following North Dakota Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NDPDES) Discharge Permit under the authority of Section 61-28-04 of the North Dakota Century Code.

**Permit Information**

Application Date: 4/1/2024

Application Number: NDG32

Applicant Name: General Permit NDG320000-Waste Stabilization Pond Discharges to Class III Waters

Mailing Address: ND Dept of Env Quality, Div of Water Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, Bismarck ND 58503-1324

Telephone Number: 701.328.5237

Proposed Permit Expiration Date: 9/30/2029

**Description**

The Department intends to reissue a NDPDES General Permit, NDG320000, to regulate discharges from waste stabilization ponds. Coverage under the General Permit is limited to facilities that serve a population less than 5,000 and satisfy additional qualification criteria specified in the permit. This General Permit applies to waste stabilization pond discharges to any waters of the State subject to Class III surface water quality standards.

**Tentative Determinations**

Proposed effluent limitations and other permit conditions have been made by the Department. They assure that State Water Quality Standards and applicable provisions of the FWPCAA will be protected.

**Information Requests and Public Comments**

Copies of the application, draft permit, and related documents are available for review. Comments or requests should be directed to the ND Dept of Env Quality, Div of Water Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, Bismarck ND 58503-1324 or by calling 701.328.5210.

All comments received by August 31, 2024 will be considered prior to finalizing the permit. If there is significant interest, a public hearing will be scheduled. Otherwise, the Department will issue the final permit within sixty (60) days of this notice.

The NDDEQ will consider every request for reasonable accommodation to provide an accessible meeting facility or other accommodation for people with disabilities, language interpretation for people with limited English proficiency (LEP), and translations of written material necessary to access programs and information. Language assistance services are available free of charge to you. To request accommodations, contact the NDDEQ Non-discrimination Coordinator at 701-328-5210 or [deqEJ@nd.gov](mailto:deqEJ@nd.gov). To request accommodations, TTY users may use Relay North Dakota at 711 or 1-800-366-6888.

## APPENDIX B – DEFINITIONS

### DEFINITIONS Standard Permit BP 2019.05.29

1. “**Act**” means the Clean Water Act.
2. “**Average monthly discharge limitation**” means the highest allowable average of “daily discharges” over a calendar month, calculated as the sum of all “daily discharges” measured during a calendar month divided by the number of “daily discharges” measured during that month.
3. “**Average weekly discharge limitation**” means the highest allowable average of “daily discharges” over a calendar week, calculated as the sum of all “daily discharges” measured during a calendar week divided by the number of “daily discharges” measured during that week.
4. “**Best management practices**” (BMPs) means schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the pollution of waters of the United States. BMPs also include treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices to control plant site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw material storage areas.
5. “**Bypass**” means the intentional diversion of waste streams from any portion of a treatment facility.
6. “**Composite**” sample means a combination of at least 4 discrete sample aliquots, collected over periodic intervals from the same location, during the operating hours of a facility not to exceed a 24 hour period. The sample aliquots must be collected and stored in accordance with procedures prescribed in the most recent edition of Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater.
7. “**Daily discharge**” means the discharge of a pollutant measured during a calendar day or any 24-hour period that reasonably represents the calendar day for purposes of sampling. For pollutants with limitations expressed in units of mass, the “daily discharge” is calculated as the total mass of the pollutant discharged over the day. For pollutants with limitations expressed in other units of measurement, the “daily discharge” is calculated as the average measurement of the pollutant over the day.
8. “**Department**” means the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Quality.
9. “**DMR**” means discharge monitoring report.
10. “**EPA**” means the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
11. “**Geometric mean**” means the  $n^{\text{th}}$  root of a product of  $n$  factors, or the antilogarithm of the arithmetic mean of the logarithms of the individual sample values.
12. “**Grab**” for monitoring requirements, means a single "dip and take" sample collected at a representative point in the discharge stream.



13. **“Instantaneous”** for monitoring requirements, means a single reading, observation, or measurement. If more than one sample is taken during any calendar day, each result obtained shall be considered.

14. **“Maximum daily discharge limitation”** means the highest allowable “daily discharge.”

15. **“Salmonid”** means of, belonging to, or characteristic of the family Salmonidae, which includes the salmon, trout, and whitefish.

16. **“Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO)”** means untreated or partially treated sewage overflows from a sanitary sewer collection system.

17. **“Severe property damage”** means substantial physical damage to property, damage to the treatment facilities which causes them to become inoperable, or substantial and permanent loss of natural resources which can reasonably be expected to occur in the absence of a bypass. Severe property damage does not mean economic loss caused by delays in production.

18. **“Total drain”** means the total volume of effluent discharged.

19. **“Upset”** means 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. An upset does not include noncompliance to the extent caused by operational error, improperly designed treatment facilities, inadequate treatment facilities, lack of preventive maintenance, or careless or improper operation.

## **APPENDIX C – DATA AND TECHNICAL CALCULATIONS**

The development of the permit did not require technical calculations by the department. The department reviewed applicable water quality standards for Class III waters of the state to determine appropriate requirements to be placed in the permit. The department also reviewed 40 CFR 133 for similar discharges (domestic wastewater) to determine the appropriate requirements for the permit.

## **APPENDIX D – RESPONSE TO COMMENTS**

Any comments received during the public comment period will be addressed here.

Permit No: NDG320000  
Effective Date: October 1, 2024  
Expiration Date: September 30, 2029

AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE UNDER THE  
NORTH DAKOTA POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM

In compliance with Chapter 33.1-16-01 of the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality rules as promulgated under Chapter 61-28 (North Dakota Water Pollution Control Act) of the North Dakota Century Code,

domestic wastewater treatment facilities satisfying the requirements of this permit

are authorized to discharge from waste stabilization ponds

to Class III waters of the state

provided all the conditions of this permit are met.

This permit and the authorization to discharge shall expire at midnight,

September 30, 2029.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karl H. Rockeman, P.E.  
Director  
Division of Water Quality

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**OUTFALL DESCRIPTION**

**Outfall “Cell Name”** – Active. Final Outfall. Wastewater Stabilization Ponds Discharge. The wastewater stabilization pond system receives domestic wastewater for treatment.

**PERMIT SUBMITTALS SUMMARY**

Coverage Point	Submittal	Frequency	First Submittal Date
“Cell Name”	Discharge Monitoring Report	Semiannually	April 30, 2025
Application Renewal	NDPDES Notice of Intent (NOI)	1/permit cycle	April 30, 2029

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

**A. Alternate Permits**

When an individual North Dakota Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NDPDES) permit is issued to a facility otherwise subject to this permit, coverage under General Permit NDG320000 is automatically terminated upon the effective date of the individual permit. When a facility is approved for coverage under an alternative NDPDES general permit, the authorization under this permit is automatically terminated on the date of approval for coverage under the alternative NDPDES general permit. When an individual NDPDES permit or coverage under an alternative general permit is denied to a facility/POTW otherwise subject to this permit, the applicability of this permit remains in effect, unless otherwise specified by the department.

**B. Facility Permit Coverage**

1. To obtain coverage under this permit, the owner, operator, or authorized agent of the facility must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Obtain Coverage Under NDPDES General Permit for Discharges Associated with the Treatment of Domestic Wastewater (SFN 61369).

The NOI shall contain, at a minimum, the following information:

- a. Legal name, mailing address and phone number of the organization responsible for the facility;
- b. Name of the facility;
- c. Contact name and phone number;
- d. Average number of people serviced daily;
- e. Whether the facility receives industrial waste and how many industrial facilities discharge to the system;
- f. Types of facilities that discharge to the system;
- g. Estimated percentage of influent flow that is domestic and industrial;
- h. Type of treatment and design capacity;
- i. Effluent characteristics include five-day biochemical oxygen demand and total suspended solids. Include name, mailing address and telephone number of each laboratory or consulting firm conducting the analysis;
- j. Discharge point location (latitude and longitude, or township, range, and section);
- k. Name of receiving water(s)

- l. Whether the facility receives waste from septic haulers. Include:
- m. Location of designated disposal station at the facility for accepting domestic hauled waste;
- n. Signature of the application signed in accordance with Part IV.(E) Signatory Requirements.

Completed applications shall be submitted to:

North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality  
Division of Water Quality  
4201 Normandy Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Bismarck, ND 58503

2. Within thirty (30) days after receiving an application, the department will authorize coverage under this discharge permit, deny coverage, or request additional information. Coverage under this General Permit will begin with the applicant receives a written notice of coverage from the department.
3. A request to be issued an individual permit may be made by the owner, operator, or authorized agent of any facility that is eligible for coverage under this General Permit. Such requests shall provide the reasons for issuing an individual permit to the facility. If the reasons are adequate to support the request, the department may issue an individual permit.
4. Facilities covered by an individual permit, which are also eligible for coverage under this permit, shall remain covered by the individual permit until it expires. The reapplication submitted under the provisions of the existing individual permit will be processed as an application for authorization under this permit.

### **C. Notice of Termination**

1. Permittees wishing to terminate coverage under this permit must submit a Notice of Termination (NOT) or other written request identifying the facility, reason why the permit is no longer needed, and signed in accordance with Part IV(E) Signatory Requirements. Compliance with the conditions of this permit is required until a NOT is submitted.

## I. PERMIT COVERAGE

### A. Applicability of the General Permit

The department may issue a general permit to one or more category of subcategories of discharges when the point sources within a particular category operate in the same geographic area; involve the same or similar types of operations; discharge the same types of wastes; require the same effluent limitations and operating conditions; require the same or similar monitoring requirements; and, in the opinion of the department, are more appropriately controlled under a general permit than under individual permits (NDAC 33.1-16-01-26.1).

### B. Discharges Covered

2. This permit applies to all areas within the jurisdiction of the state of North Dakota.
3. This permit applies to wastewater discharges from facilities that primarily treat domestic wastewater utilizing wastewater stabilization ponds (lagoons) and have no industrial contributions. The department may approve facilities that receive industrial contributions if it is determined that the system can adequately treat the wastewater.

### C. Discharges Not Covered

Discharges to waters for which there is a total maximum daily load (TMDL) allocation in which the discharge is not consistent with the assumptions, allocations, and requirements of the approved TMDL.

## II. LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

### A. Discharge Authorization

1. During the effective period of this permit, the permittee is authorized to discharge wastewater pollutants provided the discharge meets the limitations and monitoring requirements outlined in this permit. Permittees discharging wastewater that does not comply with the permit conditions may be subject to civil and/or criminal penalties under the North Dakota Statutes. This permit identifies the requirements for discharges from waste stabilization ponds in North Dakota to Class III waters of the state.
2. To be eligible for authorization to discharge under this general permit, the stabilization ponds must service a population of less than 5,000 people, not be considered a major discharge facility by the department and have no significant industrial discharge contributions as determined by the department. Additionally, it must be demonstrated that the system can meet secondary treatment limitations through compliance with a previously issued discharge permit for the facility or engineering design criteria.

This permit authorizes the discharge of only those pollutants resulting from facility processes, waste streams, and operations that have been clearly identified in the permit application process.

### B. Effluent Limitations and Monitoring

The permittee must notify the department prior to any lagoon discharge. Approximately two (2) weeks prior to any planned discharge, a representative pre-discharge grab sample must be collected from the lagoon cell and analyzed for the parameters listed in the table below. The pre-discharge sample results must be provided when notifying the department of a planned discharge. Pre-discharge samples are valid for 30 days from the date of the sample to the start of discharge.

The permittee must limit and monitor all discharges as specified below:

**Table 1 – Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements – Wastewater Stabilization Ponds**

Parameter	Effluent Limitations			Monitoring Requirements	
	Avg. Monthly Limit	Avg. Weekly Limit	Daily Maximum Limit	Sample Frequency	Sample Type
Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD <sub>5</sub> ) <sup>a</sup>	25 mg/l	*	45 mg/l	Weekly	Grab
Total Suspended Solids (TSS) <sup>a</sup>	30 mg/l	*	45 mg/l	Weekly	Grab
pH <sup>a</sup>	Shall remain between 6.0 and 9.0 s.u.			Weekly	Grab
Total Drain, MG <sup>b</sup>	*	*	Report Total	Per Event	Calculated

**Notes:**

*	This parameter is not limited. However, the department may impose limitations based on sample history and to protect the receiving waters.
a.	A pre-discharge sample must be analyzed and reported to the department prior to the start of any discharge. A pre-discharge grab sample shall be tested for BOD <sub>5</sub> , TSS, and pH. This analysis shall be reported to the department prior to discharge and used for the first week of discharge. In addition, one (1) grab sample of the actual discharge shall be taken and analyzed on a weekly basis for each additional week of discharge, starting on the 8 <sup>th</sup> day of discharge.
b.	The total amount of water discharged shall be determined either by using a flow-measuring device or by recording the water level drop in the pond.

**Stipulations:**

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are to be utilized so that there shall be no discharge of floating debris, oil, scum, or other floating materials in sufficient amounts to be unsightly or deleterious, or oil wastes that produce a visible sheen on the surface of the receiving water.
The average monthly limitations for BOD <sub>5</sub> and TSS are based on the average of all samples taken to monitor the discharge from a cell. If only one sample is collected, that one value shall be used as the average. The limitation for pH applies to each sample taken.
The facility must sample for any additional pollutant added during the treatment process. The department may require the permittee to provide additional sampling and monitoring as deemed necessary to assure adequate operation of the treatment system and ensure the water quality standards are met during the discharge period.
All samples and measurements taken shall be representative of the discharge.
Discharges may only occur during the open-water season. There shall be no discharge when the receiving water is ice covered.
All discharges shall be made in such a manner to minimize any possible adverse impacts on the receiving stream and downstream landowners.

<b>Table 1 – Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements – Wastewater Stabilization Ponds</b>					
Parameter	Effluent Limitations			Monitoring Requirements	
	Avg. Monthly Limit	Avg. Weekly Limit	Daily Maximum Limit	Sample Frequency	Sample Type
Compliance samples meeting the monitoring requirements specified in this permit shall be taken prior to leaving the wastewater stabilization pond system or entering the receiving stream.					

**C. Additional Conditions**

1. Wastewater may be utilized for other beneficial uses in accordance with **Part VIII. Beneficial Reuses** of this permit.
2. If wastewater is being taken by another party for use, the permittee must provide the other party with an analysis of the wastewater. The analysis must include the applicable parameters the permittee is responsible for monitoring in accordance with this permit. The permittee must keep a record of all wastewater transferred to another entity.

**III. MONITORING, RECORDING, AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS BP 2021.09.09**

**A. Representative Sampling (Routine and Non-Routine Discharges)**

All samples and measurements taken shall be representative of the monitored discharge.

In order to ensure that the effluent limits set forth in this permit are not violated at times other than when routine samples are taken, the permittee must collect additional samples at the appropriate outfall whenever any discharge occurs that may reasonably be expected to cause or contribute to a violation that is unlikely to be detected by a routine sample. The permittee must analyze the additional samples for those parameters limited under **Part II(B). Effluent Limitations and Monitoring** of this permit that are likely to be affected by the discharge.

The permittee must collect such additional samples as soon as the spill, discharge, or bypassed effluent reaches the outfall. The samples must be analyzed in accordance with **B. Test Procedures**. The permittee must report all additional monitoring in accordance with **D. Additional Monitoring**.

**B. Test Procedures**

The collection and transportation of all samples shall conform with EPA preservation techniques and holding times found in 40 CFR 136. All laboratory tests shall be performed by a North Dakota certified laboratory in conformance with test procedures pursuant to 40 CFR 136, unless other test procedures have been specified in this permit or approved by EPA as an alternate test procedure under 40 CFR 136.5. The method of determining the total amount of water discharged shall provide results within 10 percent of the actual amount.

**C. Recording of Results**

Records of monitoring information shall include:

1. the date, exact place and time of sampling or measurements;
2. the name(s) of the individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurements;
3. the name of the laboratory;
4. the date(s) and time(s) analyses were performed;

5. the name(s) of the individual(s) who performed the analyses;
6. the analytical techniques or methods used; and
7. the results of such analyses.

**D. Additional Monitoring**

If the discharge is monitored more frequently than this permit requires, all additional results, if in compliance with B. Test Procedures, shall be included in the summary on the Discharge Monitoring Report.

**E. Reporting of Monitoring Results**

1. Monitoring results shall be summarized and reported to the department using Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs). If no discharge occurs during a reporting period, "No Discharge" shall be reported. The permittee must submit DMRs electronically using the electronic information reporting system unless requirements in subsection 3 are met.
2. Prior to December 21, 2025, the permittee may elect to electronically submit the following compliance monitoring data and reports instead of mailing paper forms. Beginning December 21, 2025, the permittee must report the following using the electronic reporting system:
  - a. General permit reports [e.g., notices of intent (NOI); notices of termination (NOT); no exposure certifications (NOE)];
  - b. Municipal separate storm sewer system program reports;
  - c. Pretreatment program reports;
  - d. Sewer overflow/bypass event reports; and
  - e. Clean Water Act 316(b) annual reports
3. The permittee may seek a waiver from electronic reporting. To obtain a waiver, the permittee must complete and submit an Application for Temporary Electronic Reporting Waiver form (SFN 60992) to the department. The department will have 120 days to approve or deny the waiver request. Once the waiver is approved, the permittee may submit paper versions of monitoring data and reports to the department.
  - a. One of the following criteria must be met in order to obtain a waiver. The department reserves the right to deny any waiver request, even if they meet one of the criteria below.
    1. No internet access,
    2. No computer access,
    3. Annual DMRs (upon approval of the department),
    4. Employee turnover (3-month periods only), or
    5. Short duration permits (upon approval of the department)

All reports must be postmarked by the last day of the month following the end of each reporting period. All original documents and reports required herein shall be signed and submitted to the department at the following address:



ND Department of Environmental Quality  
Division of Water Quality  
4201 Normandy Street  
Bismarck ND 58503-1324

**F. Records Retention**

All records and information (including calibration and maintenance) required by this permit shall be kept for at least three years or longer if requested by the department or EPA.

**IV. COMPLIANCE RESPONSIBILITIES**

**A. Duty to Comply**

The permittee must comply with all conditions of this permit. Any permit noncompliance constitutes a violation of the Act and is grounds for enforcement action; for permit termination, revocation and reissuance, or modification; or for denial of a permit renewal application.

**B. Proper Operation and Maintenance**

The permittee shall at all times maintain in good working order and operate as efficiently as possible all treatment or control facilities or systems installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit. If necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of this permit, this shall include the operation and maintenance of backup or auxiliary systems.

**C. Planned Changes**

The department shall be given advance notice of any planned changes at the permitted facility or of an activity which may result in permit noncompliance. Any anticipated facility expansions, production increase, or process modifications which might result in new, different, or increased discharges of pollutants shall be reported to the department as soon as possible. Changes which may result in a facility being designated a "new source" as determined in 40 CFR 122.29(b) shall also be reported.

**D. Duty to Provide Information**

The permittee shall furnish to the department, within a reasonable time, any information which the department may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, or terminating this permit, or to determine compliance with this permit. The permittee shall also furnish to the department, upon request, copies of records required to be kept by this permit. When a permittee becomes aware that it failed to submit any relevant facts or submitted incorrect information in a permit application or any report, it shall promptly submit such facts or information.

**E. Signatory Requirements**

All applications, reports, or information submitted to the department shall be signed and certified.

All permit applications shall be signed by a responsible corporate officer, a general partner, or a principal executive officer or ranking elected official.

All reports required by the permit and other information requested by the department shall be signed by a person described above or by a duly authorized representative of that person. A person is a duly authorized representative only if:

The authorization is made in writing by a person described above and submitted to the department;  
and

The authorization specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated facility, such as the position of plant manager, superintendent, position of equivalent responsibility, or an individual or position having overall responsibility for environmental matters.

If an authorization under E. Signatory Requirements is no longer accurate for any reason, a new authorization satisfying the above requirements must be submitted to the department prior to or together with any reports, information, or applications to be signed by an authorized representative.

Any person signing a document under this section shall make the following certification:

"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

#### **F. Twenty-four Hour Notice of Noncompliance Reporting**

1. The permittee shall report any noncompliance which may endanger health or the environment. Any information shall be provided orally as soon as possible, but no later than twenty-four (24) hours from the time the permittee first became aware of the circumstances. The following occurrences of noncompliance shall be included in the oral report to the department at 701.328.5210:
  - a. Any lagoon cell overflow or any unanticipated bypass which exceeds any effluent limitation in the permit under G. Bypass of Treatment Facilities;
  - b. Any upset which exceeds any effluent limitation in the permit under H. Upset Conditions; or
  - c. Violation of any daily maximum effluent or instantaneous discharge limitation for any of the pollutants listed in the permit.
2. A written submission shall also be provided within five days of the time that the permittee became aware of the circumstances. The written submission shall contain:
  - a. A description of the noncompliance and its cause;
  - b. The period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times;
  - c. The estimated time noncompliance is expected to continue if it has not been corrected; and
  - d. Steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance.

Reports shall be submitted to the address in Part III(E). Reporting of Monitoring Results. The department may waive the written report on a case-by-case basis if the oral report has been received within 24 hours by the department at 701.328.5210 as identified above.

All other instances of noncompliance shall be reported no later than at the time of the next Discharge Monitoring Report submittal. The report shall include the four items listed in this subsection.

#### **G. Bypass of Treatment Facilities**

1. Bypass not exceeding limitations. The permittee may allow any bypass to occur which 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 any of the following provisions in this section.
2. Bypass exceeding limitations-notification requirements.
  - a. Anticipated Bypass. If the permittee knows in advance of the need for a bypass, it shall submit

prior notice, if possible at least ten (10) days before the date of bypass.

- b. Unanticipated Bypass. The permittee shall submit notice of an unanticipated bypass as required under F. Twenty-four Hour Notice of Noncompliance Reporting.
3. Prohibition of Bypass. Bypass is prohibited, and the department may take enforcement action against a permittee for bypass, unless:
    - a. Bypass was unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage;
    - b. 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 back-up equipment should have been installed in the exercise of reasonable engineering judgment to prevent a bypass which occurred during normal periods of equipment downtime or preventive maintenance; and
    - c. The permittee submitted notices as required under the 1. Anticipated Bypass subsection of this section.

The department may approve an anticipated bypass, after considering its adverse effects, if the department determines that it will meet the three (3) conditions listed above.

#### **H. Upset Conditions**

An upset constitutes an affirmative defense to an action brought for noncompliance with technology-based permit effluent limitations if the requirements of the following paragraph are met. No determination made during administrative review of claims that noncompliance was caused by upset, and before an action for noncompliance, is final administrative action subject to judicial review.

A permittee who wishes to establish the affirmative defense of upset shall demonstrate, through properly signed, contemporaneous operating logs, or other relevant evidence that:

1. An upset occurred and the permittee can identify its cause(s);
2. The permitted facility was, at the time being, properly operated;
3. The permittee submitted notice of the upset as required under F. Twenty-four Hour Notice of Noncompliance Reporting and
4. The permittee complied with any remedial measures required under I. Duty to Mitigate.

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

#### **I. Duty to Mitigate**

The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge or sludge use or disposal in violation of this permit which has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment. The permittee, at the department's request, shall provide accelerated or additional monitoring as necessary to determine the nature and impact of any discharge.

#### **J. Removed Materials**

Collected screenings, grit, solids, sludges, or other pollutants removed in the course of treatment shall be buried or disposed of in such a manner to prevent any pollutant from entering any waters of the state or creating a health hazard. Sludge/digester supernatant and filter backwash shall not be directly blended with or enter either the final plant discharge and/or waters of the state. The permit issuing authority shall be contacted prior to the disposal of any sewage sludges. At that time, concentration limitations and/or self-monitoring requirements may be established.

**K. Duty to Reapply**

Any request to have this permit renewed should be made six months prior to its expiration date.

**V. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**A. Inspection and Entry**

The permittee shall allow department and EPA representatives, at reasonable times and upon the presentation of credentials if requested, to enter the permittee's premises to inspect the wastewater treatment facilities and monitoring equipment, to sample any discharges, and to have access to and copy any records required to be kept by this permit.

**B. Availability of Reports**

Except for data determined to be confidential under 40 CFR Part 2, all reports prepared in accordance with the terms of this permit shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the department and EPA. As required by the Act, permit applications, permits, and effluent data shall not be considered confidential.

**C. Transfers**

This permit is not transferable except upon the filing of a Statement of Acceptance by the new party and subsequent department approval. The current permit holder should inform the new controller, operator, or owner of the existence of this permit and also notify the department of the possible change.

**D. New Limitations or Prohibitions**

The permittee shall comply with any effluent standards or prohibitions established under Section 306(a), Section 307(a), or Section 405 of the Act for any pollutant (toxic or conventional) present in the discharge or removed substances within the time identified in the regulations even if the permit has not yet been modified to incorporate the requirements.

**E. Permit Actions**

This permit may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause. This includes the establishment of limitations or prohibitions based on changes to Water Quality Standards, the development and approval of waste load allocation plans, the development or revision to water quality management plans, changes in sewage sludge practices, or the establishment of prohibitions or more stringent limitations for toxic or conventional pollutants and/or sewage sludges. The filing of a request by the permittee for a permit modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination, or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not stay any permit condition.

**F. Need to Halt or Reduce Activity Not a Defense**

It shall not be a defense for a permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this permit.

**G. State Laws**

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of legal action or relieve the permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties established pursuant to any applicable state law or regulation preserved under Section 510 of the Act.

**H. Oil and Hazardous Substance Liability**

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 to which the permittee is or may be subject under Section 311 of the Act.

**I. Property Rights**

The issuance of this permit does not convey any property rights of any sort, nor any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights, nor any infringement of federal, state or local laws or regulations.

**J. Severability**

The provisions of this permit are severable, and if any provision of this permit or the application of any provision of this permit to any circumstance is held invalid, the application of such provision to other circumstances and the remainder of this permit shall not be affected thereby.

**VI. INDUSTRIAL WASTE MANAGEMENT BP 2023.02.23  
Minor POTWs Non-Approved Pretreatment Program Requirements**

**A. General Responsibilities**

The permittee has the responsibility to protect the Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) from pollutants which would inhibit, interfere, or otherwise be incompatible with operation of the treatment works including interference with the use or disposal of municipal sludge.

**B. Pollutant Restrictions**

Pretreatment Standards (40 CFR Section 403.5) developed pursuant to Section 307 of the Federal Clean Water Act (the Act) require that the permittee shall not allow, under any circumstances, the introduction of the following pollutants to the POTW from any source of nondomestic discharge:

1. Any other pollutant which may cause Pass Through or Interference;
2. Pollutants which create a fire or explosion hazard in the POTW, including, but not limited to, waste streams with a closed cup flashpoint of less than sixty (60) degrees Centigrade (140 degrees Fahrenheit) using the test methods specified in 40 CFR Section 261.21;
3. Pollutants which will cause corrosive structural damage to the POTW, but in no case discharges with a pH of lower than 5.0 s.u., unless the treatment facilities are specifically designed to accommodate such discharges;
4. Solid or viscous pollutants in amounts which will cause obstruction to the flow in the POTW, or other interference with the operation of the POTW;
5. Any pollutant, including oxygen demanding pollutants (e.g., BOD), released in a discharge at a flow rate and/or pollutant concentration which will cause Interference with any treatment process at the POTW;
6. Heat in amounts which will inhibit biological activity in the POTW resulting in Interference, but in no case heat in such quantities that the temperature at the POTW treatment plant exceeds forty (40) degrees Centigrade (104 degrees Fahrenheit) unless the Approval Authority, upon request of the POTW, approves alternate temperature limits;
7. Petroleum oil, non-biodegradable cutting oil, or products of mineral oil origin in amounts that will cause Interference or Pass Through at the POTW;
8. Pollutants which result in the presence of toxic gases, vapors, or fumes within the POTW in a quantity that may cause acute worker health and safety problems;
9. Any trucked or hauled pollutants, except at discharge points designated by the POTW; and
10. Any specific pollutant which exceeds a local limitation established by the permittee in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR Section 403.5 (c) and (d).

**C. Approval Authority**

North Dakota was delegated the Industrial Pretreatment Program in September of 2005. The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Quality shall be the Approval Authority

and the mailing address for all reporting and notifications to the Approval Authority shall be:

ND Department of Environmental Quality  
Division of Water Quality  
4201 Normandy Street  
Bismarck ND 58503-1324

**D. Industrial Categories**

In addition to the general limitations expressed above, more specific Pretreatment Standards have been and will be promulgated for specific industrial categories under Section 307 of the Act (40 CFR Part 405 et. Seq.).

**E. Notification Requirements**

The permittee must notify the Approval Authority, of any new introductions by new or existing industrial users or any substantial change in pollutants from any industrial user within sixty (60) days following the introduction or change. Such notice must identify:

1. Any new introduction of pollutants into the POTW from an industrial user which would be subject to Sections, 301, 306, and 307 of the Act if it were directly discharging those pollutants; or
2. Any substantial change in the volume or character of pollutants being introduced into the POTW by any industrial user;
3. For the purposes of this section, adequate notice shall include information on:
  - a. The identity of the industrial user;
  - b. The nature and concentration of pollutants in the discharge and the average and maximum flow of the discharge to be introduced into the POTW; and
  - c. Any anticipated impact of the change on the quantity or quality of effluent to be discharged from or biosolids produced at such POTW,
4. For the purposes of this section, a significant industrial user shall include:
  - a. Any discharger subject to Categorical Pretreatment Standards under Section 307 of the Act and 40 CFR chapter I, subchapter N;
  - b. Any discharger which has a process wastewater flow of 25,000 gallons or more per day;
  - c. Any discharger contributing five percent or more of the average dry weather hydraulic or organic capacity of the POTW treatment plant;
  - d. Any discharger who is designated by the Approval Authority as having a reasonable potential for adversely affecting the POTW's operation or for violating any Pretreatment Standards or requirements.

**F. Approval Authority Options**

At such time as a specific Pretreatment Standard or requirement becomes applicable to an industrial user of the permittee, the Approval Authority may, as appropriate:

1. Amend the permittee's North Dakota Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NDPDES) discharge permit to specify the additional pollutant(s) and corresponding effluent limitation(s) consistent with the

applicable national Pretreatment Standards;

2. Require the permittee to specify, by ordinance, order, or other enforceable means, the type of pollutant(s) and the maximum amount which may be discharged to the permittee's POTW for treatment. Such requirement shall be imposed in a manner consistent with the POTW program development requirements of the General Pretreatment Regulations at 40 CFR Part 403; and/or,
3. Require the permittee to monitor its discharge for any pollutant which may likely be discharged from the permittee's POTW, should the industrial user fail to properly pre-treat its waste.

#### **G. Enforcement Authority**

The Approval Authority retains, at all times, the right to take legal action against any source of nondomestic discharge, whether directly or indirectly controlled by the permittee, for violations of a permit, order or similar enforceable mechanism issued by the permittee, violations of any Pretreatment Standard or requirement, or for failure to discharge at an acceptable level under national standards issued by EPA under 40 CFR, chapter I, subchapter N. In those cases where a North Dakota Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NDPDES) permit violation has occurred because of requirements as necessary to protect the POTW, the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality and/or Approval Authority shall hold the permittee and/or industrial user responsible and may take legal action against the permittee as well as the industrial user(s) contributing to the permit violation.

### **VII. ACCEPTING HAULED WASTE**

- A. The permittee may only accept waste from permitted septic haulers unless the permittee has written approval from the department.
- B. The permittee may not accept production wastewater from oil and gas operations (i.e. produced water).
- C. A monitoring plan shall be developed to ensure accepted hauled waste meets the requirements of part **VI. Industrial Waste Management**.
- D. The permittee shall maintain records indicating the hauler transporting the load, the source of the wastewater, the date and time the waste was accepted, the volume of waste accepted, and any sample results from these loads.

### **VIII. BENEFICIAL REUSES** BP 2015.09.03

#### **A. Irrigation**

Only wastewater that has received secondary or tertiary treatment may be used for irrigation provided soil and water compatibility testing confirms the water is suitable for irrigation. Wastewater used for irrigation shall be applied at a rate which would allow complete infiltration and not result in ponding or runoff from the irrigated area.

Agricultural land may be irrigated provided the crop is not used for human consumption. Forage crops used for livestock consumption or pastures irrigated with wastewater shall not be harvested or grazed within 30 days of a wastewater application.

Public properties such as golf courses or parks may be irrigated provided the treated wastewater meets the following quality criteria.

<b>Table 2 – Irrigation Beneficial Reuse Limitations and Monitoring Requirements</b>			
Parameter	Limitations	Monitoring Requirements	
	Daily Max	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
BOD <sub>5</sub>	30 mg/l	1 per 14 days	Grab
TSS	45 mg/l	1 per 14 days	Grab
<i>E. Coli</i>	126/100 ml	Weekly	Grab

Whenever possible, irrigation shall take place during hours when the public does not have access to the area being irrigated. If the public has constant access to an area, signs must be posted in visible areas during irrigation and for two hours after irrigation is completed. The signs must advise people that the water could pose a health concern and to avoid the irrigated area.

Worker and public contact with treated wastewater should be minimized. Where frequent contact is likely, a higher level of disinfection should be provided such as achieving *E. coli* counts less than 14 colonies per 100 ml.

Avoid application within 100 feet of areas which have unlimited access (i.e., yards) or within 300 feet of potable water supply wells.

Runoff that occurs from irrigated areas shall be monitored at the frequencies and with the types of measurements described in **Part II(B). Effluent Limitations and Monitoring.**

The permittee shall maintain monitoring records indicating the location and usage (e.g., park or agricultural) of the land being irrigated, the dates irrigation occurred, the amount of wastewater used, and the total flow. In addition, monitoring records must include results from collected samples.

**B. Construction**

Treated domestic wastewater may be used for construction purposes such as soil compaction, dust suppression and washing aggregate, provided the following conditions are met.

The wastewater intended for use in construction, must at a minimum, receive secondary treatment.

Prior to using treated wastewater a sample from the prospective source must be tested and meet the criteria set below. In addition, the test results for *E. coli* must be provided to the department prior to use. Results from samples up to two (2) weeks old will be considered valid. The water quality limitations and minimum sampling frequencies recommended for wastewater used in construction are provided in the following table.

<b>Table 3 – Construction Beneficial Reuse Limitations and Monitoring Requirements</b>			
Parameter	Limitations	Monitoring Requirements	
	Daily Max	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
BOD <sub>5</sub>	30 mg/l	Monthly	Grab
TSS	100 mg/l	Monthly	Grab
<i>E. Coli</i>	126/100 ml	Weekly	Grab



In some systems chlorination is available. Chlorination is particularly desirable when frequent worker contact with the treated wastewater is likely or when the public may have constant access to areas where the wastewater is being used. Maintaining a chlorine residual of at least 0.1 mg/l is recommended.

While the conventional methods for treating domestic wastewater are generally effective in reducing infectious agents (bacteria, viruses, parasites) to acceptable levels, direct reuse of treated wastewater can pose a health concern. Additional precautions to consider are:

1. Worker and public contact with treated wastewater should be minimized.
2. Where frequent worker contact is likely a higher level of disinfection should be provided, such as achieving *E. coli* counts less than 14/100 ml.
3. Work closely with the treatment system operator to ensure treated wastewater quality is suitable when it is drawn for construction purposes.
4. Apply the treated wastewater in a manner that does not result in runoff or ponding.

Runoff that occurs from application areas shall be monitored at the frequencies and with the types of measurements described in **Part II(B). Effluent Limitations and Monitoring.**

The permittee shall maintain monitoring records indicating the location and usage of the land where application occurs, the dates application occurred, the amount of wastewater used, and the total flow. In addition, monitoring records must include results from collected samples.

**C. Oil and Gas Production (including Hydraulic Fracturing)**

The specific user of the wastewater may determine the specific treatment requirements for receiving wastewater.

The permittee shall maintain monitoring records indicating the specific user, the amount of wastewater used, and the total flow. In addition, monitoring records must include results from collected samples.

**D. Other Uses as Approved**

The permittee must consult with the department before beneficially reusing wastewater for purposes not identified in this permit.