



State of Georgia  
Department of Natural Resources  
Environmental Protection Division

NPDES General Permit GAR050000 (2012 IGP)  
Authorization to Discharge Storm Water Associated with Industrial Activity

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**  
**About the 2012 IGP**

**1. Q: Is there a fee for the submittal of the Notice of Intent (NOI), the No Exposure Exclusion (NEE) or the permit?**

A: No, there is no fee.

**2. Q: When will I be notified of permit coverage?**

A: EPD does not acknowledge receipt of NOIs or NEEs; therefore your certified mail or other return receipt serves as confirmation of permit coverage. Coverage begins on the day your NOI/NEE is postmarked. Retain a copy of the return receipt with a copy of your original NOI/NEE with the SWPPP. There will be an updated list of permitted facilities on the website as soon as possible. The website is updated semi-annually.

**3. Q: How can I figure out my Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code?**

A: Your SIC code is determined by the primary industrial activity occurring at your facility. The [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov) website is a useful website that may help you determine your industrial SIC code(s). Primary activity is determined by the largest revenue stream or activity that employs the greatest number of personnel.

**4. Q: When do I start sampling under the new permit?**

A: Monitoring begins in the first full quarter following the effective date of the Permit which was June 1, 2012 (see Part 6.1.7.1). Sampling should begin in the quarter starting July 1, 2012.

**5. Q: When are NOIs and NEEs due?**

A: NOIs and NEEs for existing permittees must be submitted no later than thirty (30) days after the effective date of the permit or no later than July 1, 2012. All facilities that were covered or exempted from coverage under the 2006 permit must submit a 2012 NOI or NEE to obtain coverage or exemption under the 2012 permit. For new facilities seeking permit coverage, the NOI must be submitted seven (7) days prior to commencing storm water discharge associated with industrial activity.

**6. Q: I do not have fecal coliform as a result of industrial activity at my site, but I discharge to a stream impaired for fecal coliform. Must I sample for fecal coliform?**

A: No, you do not have to sample for fecal coliform unless you discharge storm water that has been exposed to fecal coliform as a result of your industrial activity. Document that fecal coliform is not present at the facility as a result of industrial activity and retain the documentation with the SWPPP (see Part C.1.2).

**7. Q: What is required to be submitted right now?**

A: The NOI or the NEE must be submitted. Updated Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans are to remain on-site as well as any sampling data. The first annual report is due January 31, 2013 and should include a one-page summary of analytical results, if applicable.

**8. Q: Can I delegate authority to conduct inspections and for other permit-related activities to a consultant?**

A: Yes, as long as the consultant has been formally delegated corporate responsibility for those activities at that facility.

**9. Q: How do I determine which river basin I discharge to?**

A: Search for the river basin using the web address listed on the NOI and NEE, which is ([www.gaepd.org/Files\\_PDF/news/basins\\_map.pdf](http://www.gaepd.org/Files_PDF/news/basins_map.pdf)), via your search engine of choice. Putting the link directly into the address bar of your browser will typically generate an error.

**10.Q: If I am in Sector P and have no vehicle maintenance, am I required to have coverage?**

A: No, the permit authorizes storm water discharges from only those portions of the land transportation facility that are involved in vehicle maintenance (including vehicle rehabilitation, mechanical repairs, painting, fueling and lubrication) or equipment cleaning operations (see Part 8.P.2).

**11.Q: My facility was built in 2007 and I don't have any floor drains or sinks in industrial areas that were installed before 1/1/2006. Do I have to conduct a smoke, dye or equivalent test?**

A: No. The requirement to test for this permit cycle does not apply to drains and sinks built after 1/1/2006. The presumption is made that recent construction was done properly and is not old enough to be incorrectly modified. The testing of drains and sinks built in 2007 will likely be required in the next permit cycle.

## 12. Q: How do I figure out whether my facility discharges to an impaired water?

A: After determining the name of the receiving water body you discharge into and the river basin that water body is a part of, go to EPD's website material for the "Georgia 305(b)/303(d) List Documents" at <http://www.gaepd.org/Documents/305b.html> and open the most currently approved 305(b)/303(d) list document (currently 2010). This is the official information permittees are required to comply with. Open the appropriate integrated report (i.e. Rivers/Streams, Lakes, Harbors, etc.) and search for your river basin and receiving water. Determine whether your discharge is within one linear mile of a water body listed as "not supporting" on the 305(b)/303(d) list. Several helpful tools are listed below.

### County List:

Go to <http://www.gaepd.org/Documents/IndustrialStormwater.html> and look for the "2010 305(b)/303(d) List for Industrial Storm Water Permittees" and open it. Look for the county your facility is located in and see if your receiving water is listed. If it is, you will need to determine if your facility is within one mile upstream of, and discharging to, the impaired water. Below are several methods for making that determination.

### Determining If the Facility Is Within 1 Mile of a Listed Water Body:

- Navigate to <http://www.gaepd.org/Documents/IndustrialStormwater.html>, save both the "Google Earth 2010 305(b)/303(d) Impaired Waters Map" and the "Google Earth 2010 305(b)/303(d) Impaired Waters Map Instructions" files to your desktop. Open the file with Google Earth (available for free at <http://www.google.com/earth/index.html>.) and follow the instructions to determine if your facility is within 1 mile of an impaired water.
- Navigate to [http://www.gecap.org/ga\\_stormwater\\_tool\\_start.html](http://www.gecap.org/ga_stormwater_tool_start.html) and select the county where your facility is located. Enter your facility address to see if you're within the 1-mile shaded area adjacent to a water shown in red on the map. If you are, you will need to determine if you discharge to the impaired water body.
- Navigate to [http://www.gaepd.org/Documents/gismenu.html#Y10\\_305b](http://www.gaepd.org/Documents/gismenu.html#Y10_305b) and download the latest GIS files. If you have access to ARCVIEW software you can use the files to help determine if you discharge to an impaired water body.
- Using a topographic or other map, locate your facility and receiving water. Using a compass, set the scale to one mile and draw a circle from your discharge point. Determine if any of the streams inside the circle are listed as impaired.

If your facility is within 1 mile upstream and discharging to an impaired water you must determine if discharges from your industrial activity have the potential to contribute the pollutant of concern for which the water is impaired. If your facility does have the potential then you will be required to comply with the requirements contained in Appendix C.