

## FACT SHEET

### Modifications to the *General Permit for Miscellaneous Discharges of Sewer Compatible Wastewater*

The purpose of the *General Permit for Miscellaneous Discharges of Sewer Compatible Wastewater* (Miscellaneous General Permit) is to provide a legal means of discharging many common industrial and commercial wastewaters (e.g. contact and noncontact cooling water, boiler blowdown, tumbling and cleaning wastewater, water treatment wastewater, etc.) to the sanitary sewer. The Miscellaneous General Permit was first issued in 2001 and revised in 2013 to add more sewer compatible discharges to bring the current total of discharge categories to sixteen.

The more significant modifications proposed in the revised Miscellaneous General Permit include the following:

- the addition of “reverse osmosis reject water” as a Group II discharge
- the addition of “potable water system maintenance or sampling wastewaters” as a group III discharge
- the addition of arsenic monitoring for water treatment wastewater resulting from coagulation and flocculation treatment processes
- the addition of a section requiring public water treatment facilities that seek a variance from the effluent limits to submit detailed information on the discharge requiring the variance and the facility’s current and potential future residuals management plans
- the addition of specific phone numbers and times in the event a violation needs to be reported to the DEEP
- the addition of a certification requirement and recordkeeping for wastewaters transported to a Publicly Owned Treatment Works

These and other changes to the Miscellaneous General Permit are described in further detail below:

**Section 3(b)(10) Requirements for Authorization** (page 11)—Language returned to original 2001 wording that allows facilities subject to an EPA categorical standard to discharge under the Miscellaneous general permit if EPA has not developed effluent limits for the specific category. This modification will allow several plastics processing facilities to use the Miscellaneous general permit rather than file for an individual pretreatment permit for contact cooling water discharges.

**Section 3(b)(11) Requirements for Authorization** (page 11)—This statement concerning the Electroplating Point Source Category or the Metal Finishing Point Source Category has been repeated from Section 5(f)(2) to add emphasis.

**Section 3(f) Transition to and from an Individual Permit** (page 11)—This language has been updated to reflect the Department’s most current wording.

**Section 4(a)(1) Who Must File a Registration** (page 13)—“Reverse osmosis reject water” has been added as a Group II Discharge. Many facilities, including hospital dialysis units use the reverse osmosis water purification process to ultrapurify potable water from a public source for a specific use. The reject water is relatively clean. This change minimizes the monitoring requirements for reverse osmosis reject water by shifting those discharges to a different category. This type of discharge was previously a part of the “water treatment wastewater” category.

**Section 4(a)(1) Who Must File a Registration** (page 13)—“Potable water system maintenance or sampling wastewaters” has been added as a Group III Discharge. This new category is defined in Appendix I (Definitions) as “1) potable water storage tank or water line draining for maintenance or hydrostatic testing purposes or 2) raw or treated water from process sampling points, on-line process analytical instrumentation, or 3) raw or treated water from equipment leakage and bleed-off”. These relatively clean discharges are commonly produced at public water treatment facilities and may contain chlorine at ~1 part per million.

**Section 5(e)(4)(A)(iv) & (v) Collection and Transport of Wastewater from Unsewered Areas** (page 32)—Additional requirements were added for transported wastewaters:

- Certification that the wastewater is not hazardous
- Recordkeeping for wastewater transported including dates, volumes, description of wastewater, and monitoring results.

**Section 5(f)(11) Additional Conditions for Water Treatment Wastewaters**

(page 38)—Additional specific operating conditions were added for water treatment wastewaters. With the expiration of the Water Treatment Wastewater general permit that allows discharges to the sanitary sewer, water treatment facilities will need to register the sanitary sewer portion of their facility discharges under the Miscellaneous general permit. Some of these discharges containing aluminum hydroxide will require variances from the total suspended solids effluent limit of 600 mg/l. Those that require variances must also provide the following information as an addendum to the registration:

- A) a specific breakdown describing the types of water treatment wastewaters that will require a variance including, but not limited to, clarifier tank sludge blowdown, filter media backwash, sludge dewatering wastewaters, infiltration bed and settling lagoon residuals;

- B) for each type of wastewater, the expected average and maximum daily flow in gallons per day, frequency of discharge, percent solids, results of chemical characterization, source of the suspended solid (e.g. coagulant name) and method of conveyance (e.g. truck transport or sanitary sewer) and what area of the POTW the wastewaters will be discharged to (e.g. headworks, solids handling, etc.);
- C) standard operating procedures for water treatment wastewaters management at the water treatment facility. At a minimum, this shall include a site map, a summary of the operation and maintenance plans for any lagoons or clarifiers, a description of where any solid residuals removed may be placed, stored or disposed of, and the techniques used to prevent the removed solids from re-entering the surface waters from any on-site storage.
- D) a feasibility analysis of treatment and disposal options other than discharge to a POTW. This analysis should include a discussion of the alternatives and approximate cost and time frame necessary for implementation of such alternatives at that facility and must be submitted within six months of the date of approval of registration. Such a feasibility analysis is not required for filter media backwash.

Other changes associated with this include:

- 1) the addition of an arsenic effluent limit in Table 5-1;
- 2) monitoring for Total Suspended Solids (TSS) in Table 5-2a for all water treatment wastewater
- 3) monitoring for Arsenic in Table 5-2a if alum treatment is used

**Clarifications to language** exist throughout the general permit and are generally self-explanatory.