



Department of Environmental Quality



To protect, conserve, and enhance the Quality of Wyoming's environment for the benefit of current and future generations

Dave Freudenthal, Governor

John Corra, Director

Factsheet

State of Wyoming General Permit for the Renewal of Storm Water Discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewers (MS4s) (General Permit Number WYR04-0000)

Changes from the Previous Permit. This permit is being reissued with one minor change. As under the previous permit, Part 8 of this permit allows municipalities to cover certain industrial facilities under this permit rather than obtaining separate coverage under the industrial general permit (IGP) for storm water discharges. There was a change to the self-inspection requirements in the IGP that needed to be incorporated into this permit. In particular, inspection frequency of industrial facilities (in part 8.2 of this permit) is increased from annual to semi-annual to be consistent with the IGP.

Background. In 1972, the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) was amended to provide that the discharge of any pollutants to surface waters of the United States had to be regulated through the issuance of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Under the CWA, the states were given the authority to assume "primacy" for the issuance of such permits. Wyoming obtained primacy in 1974. The Wyoming program is called the Wyoming Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WYPDES).

Congress added section 402 (p) to the CWA in 1987 to establish a comprehensive framework, in two phases, for addressing storm water discharges under the NPDES program. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published the Phase 1 storm water regulations on November 16, 1990. Phase 1 regulations require large and medium municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s), those that serve populations of 100,000 or more, to obtain coverage under an NPDES storm water permit and implement a storm water management program to control pollutants in storm water discharges. Wyoming does not have any municipalities that can be considered "large" or "medium" MS4s.

On December 8, 1999, the EPA published Phase 2 regulations that extended storm water permit requirements to storm water discharges from "regulated" small MS4s (certain MS4s with populations less than 100,000). A discussion of regulated MS4s is presented below.

General Permits A "tool" which can be used to issue a large number of permits with a relatively small administrative burden, is the "general permit." Under the general permitting approach, a single generic permit is issued to cover a large number of similar facilities within a geographic area.

Discharges Requiring Storm Water Permit Coverage. WDEQ is reissuing this general permit to authorize discharges of storm water from regulated municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s). Regulated MS4s include any system within an urbanized area as defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census and any system designated by the WDEQ pursuant to applicable state and federal regulations. Wyoming currently

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has two urbanized areas as defined by the latest decennial census. These are the densely populated areas around Cheyenne and Casper and include portions of the cities of Casper and Cheyenne, the towns of Mills and Evansville, the counties of Laramie and Natrona, Warren Air Force Base, and non-standard MS4s within the urbanized area boundaries. No MS4s outside of urbanized areas have been designated as requiring coverage by the WDEQ at this time.

In addition to the storm water discharges described above, storm discharges associated with certain municipally owned and operated industrial activities will also be covered under this permit. Storm water discharges from municipally operated construction activities that disturb one or more acres must be covered under a separate WYPDES storm water permit. *Discharges of **process** water **cannot** be authorized by this permit. All non-storm water discharges require coverage under another WYPDES permit.*

Storm Water Management Program (SWMP). The permit requires regulated MS4s to develop a storm water management program which, when implemented, will reduce the discharge of pollutants in storm water to the “maximum extent practicable.” The SWMP must address each of the following six “minimum control measures:” public education and outreach, public participation and involvement, illicit discharge detection and elimination, construction site runoff control, post-construction runoff control, and pollution prevention and good housekeeping for municipal operations. Covered MS4s must fully develop and implement their SWMP within five years of obtaining authorization under the permit.

Effluent Limits. The permit does not establish numeric effluent limits. However, the control measures specified in the SWMP shall ensure that storm water discharges from the facility do not cause a violation of state water quality standards as defined in Chapter 1 of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations.

Location of Covered Discharges. The permit covers all areas within the State of Wyoming except areas within the Wind River Indian Reservation where the State does not have jurisdiction.

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August 11, 2008

Changes to the permit not covered in the “Response to Comments Received” document developed for the issuance of this permit.

Signature page: Original language indicated that the permit was to become effective October 1, 2008. That language was changed for the permit to become effective with the signature of the Administrator of the Water Quality Division and the Director of WDEQ.

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November 5, 2008