



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance
Water Permitting and Enforcement Division

Environmental Permitting Fact Sheet

General Permit to Discharge from Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems Serving Existing Facilities

Permit Overview

This general permit is issued under the authority of, and is administered by, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance, Water Permitting and Enforcement Division. DEEP uses both individual and general permits to regulate activities. Individual permits are issued directly to an applicant, whereas general permits are issued to authorize similar activities by one or more registrants throughout a prescribed geographic area. General permits are permits issued to authorize specific categories of discharges that involve the same or substantially the same effluent limitations, operating conditions or standards and require the same or similar monitoring that are designed to protect the waters of the state from pollution.

This general permit authorizes discharges of domestic sewage from subsurface sewage disposal systems serving *existing facilities*, to groundwater or to holding tanks that meet the requirements of this general permit.

Authority

The Commissioner of DEEP is authorized to approve or deny such permits pursuant to Section 22a-430b of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Authorized Activities

This general permit provides coverage for *existing facilities*, which are sites in existence on or before the date of issuance of the permit with the following activities:

1. Discharges of domestic sewage with cumulative design flows greater than 5,000 gallons per day through one or more subsurface sewage disposal systems to any one site;
2. Discharges of domestic sewage through a community sewerage system (e.g., a sewerage system serving 2 or more residences in separate structures not connected to a municipal sewerage system) regardless of design flow;
3. Discharges of domestic sewage to holding tanks located on sites under an approved Wastewater Management Plan or to address a failing or malfunctioning system.

Environmental Benefit

This general permit provides an efficient mechanism to authorize existing facilities, many of which have historically remained unpermitted, in order to ensure proper operation and maintenance of existing subsurface sewage disposal systems, and proper design and construction of system repairs, upgrades and modifications. The registration process under this general permit enables a more streamlined administrative review for proposed system repairs and upgrades, and therefore, results in a quicker elimination of potential threats to public health and the environment.

Requirements for All Authorized Activity

All authorized activities must comply with the conditions set forth in the general permit, which include requirements for proper design, operation, maintenance and monitoring of subsurface sewage disposal systems serving existing facilities. Non compliance with the general permit is potentially subject to legal action. All authorized activities under the general permit must comply with all applicable local, state and federal requirements.

Registration

Any person or municipality seeking coverage to discharge under this general permit must first register. Modification of an approved registration will be required for any future activity that will increase design flow, result in a change to a subsurface sewage disposal system or impact a potential repair area (e.g. system upgrade/repair, bedroom addition).

A registration form is required for each existing facility for which the registrant seeks authorization under this general permit. The effective date of authorization under this general permit is the date the Commissioner issues a written approval of such registration.

What must I submit to register?

A registrant must submit to DEEP a complete registration form with the appropriate fee, all required supporting documents and certifications in accordance with Section 4(c) of the general permit. A technical plan is required for any proposed expansion, repair, building conversion or change in use. A facility Wastewater Management Plan (“WMP”) is also required upfront for a system expansion associated with a design flow increase or building conversion, however, a WMP may be submitted after the date of registration if no system repair/expansion or design flow increase is proposed.

What is a technical plan and when do I have to prepare one?

A technical plan is the plan for a repair or expansion of a subsurface sewage disposal system and must be prepared any time an upgrade or a repair of a system is proposed with or without increase in design flow. This is the plan that shows the design of the subsurface sewage disposal system. The contents of the technical plan are described in Section 4(c)(3)(A) of this general permit. The technical plan must be consistent with the approved WMP.

What is a Wastewater Management Plan, when do I have to prepare one and when do I have to modify it?

Wastewater Management Plan (WMP) means an evaluation of a site including, but not limited to, a comprehensive inventory and evaluation of all existing subsurface sewage disposal systems and recommendations for short-term and long-term strategies, objectives and actions to be implemented for proper wastewater management, and a schedule for such implementation. An approved WMP is typically required for each site, and the contents of a WMP plan are described in Section 4(c)(3)(B) of this general permit. A WMP may also provide for anticipated future repairs and/or expansions of subsurface sewage disposal systems at the site.

A registrant shall amend and resubmit a WMP for DEEP approval if: 1) there is a site change that is either not included in an approved WMP or has the potential to cause pollution of the waters of the state, 2) the actions required by the approved WMP fail to ensure or adequately protect against pollution of the waters of the state, or 3) the Commissioner requires modification of the WMP.

PROPOSED ACTIVITY	TECHNICAL PLAN (PLAN) REQUIRED?	WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN (WMP) REQUIRED?
Site registration	no	yes <2 years
Subsurface sewage disposal system(s) repairs and upgrades	yes	yes < 1 year
Building addition, structural alteration or other construction with increase in system design flow	yes	yes with Plan
Building addition, structural alteration or other construction with no increase in system design flow and no impact to available area	Not required provided site/facility registered	

Fees

Each registration shall include the appropriate fee in the form of a check or money order payable to the **Department of Energy and Environmental Protection**. The registration fee is non-refundable. Fees vary based on cumulative site flows and system design flows; however, they do not fully account for the time and complexity of review necessary for approval of the activities covered by the general permit.

TYPE OF REGISTRATION	FLOW CATEGORY	FEE
Initial Registration	Site Design Flows ≤5,000 gpd	\$100
	Site Design Flows >5,000 gpd and ≤10,000 gpd	\$1,500
	Site Design Flows >10,000 gpd	\$3,000
Modified Registration w/No Changes to WMP	System Design Flows ≤5,000 gpd	\$100
	System Design Flows >5,000 gpd and ≤10,000 gpd	\$150
	System Design Flows >10,000 gpd	\$300
Modified Registration w/ Changes to WMP	System Design Flows ≤5,000 gpd	\$200
	System Design Flows >5,000 gpd and ≤10,000 gpd	\$375
	System Design Flows >10,000 gpd	\$750

Permit Duration

The General Permit for the Discharge from Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems Serving Existing Facilities is effective on the date this permit is issued by the Commissioner and expires ten (10) years from such date of issuance.

Contact Address

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This overview is designed to answer general questions and provide basic information. You should refer to the appropriate statutes and regulations for the specific regulatory language of the different permit programs. This document should not be relied upon to determine whether or not an environmental permit is required. It is the registrant's responsibility to ensure that all required permits have been obtained.