

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

GENERAL PERMIT NO. NCG220000

TO DISCHARGE STORMWATER UNDER THE

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM

In compliance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute 143-215.1, other lawful standards and regulations promulgated and adopted by the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission, and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, this permit is hereby issued to all owners or operators, hereafter permittees, which are covered by this permit as evidenced by receipt of a Certificate of Coverage authorized by the Environmental Management Commission to allow the discharge of stormwater to the surface waters of North Carolina or separate storm sewer systems conveying stormwater to surface waters in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth herein.

Coverage under this general permit is applicable to the owners or operators of stormwater point source discharges associated with Wood Chip Mills [a part of standard industrial classification (SIC) Major Group 24] who were covered by NPDES General Stormwater Permit NCG040000 on August 30, 1997 and by the previous version of this General Permit NCG220000 which was issued on November 20, 2000.

The following activities are specifically excluded from coverage under this General Permit: those chip mills not previously permitted, expansion of existing chip mills as described above and discharges of non-stormwater, such as wet decking.

The General Permit shall become effective on December 1, 2003.

The General Permit shall expire at midnight on November 30, 2008.

Signed this day November 17, 2003.

*Original signed by Alan Klimek* \_\_\_\_\_

Alan Klimek, PE, Director

Division of Water Quality

By the Authority of the Environmental Management Commission

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### PART I INTRODUCTION

Section A: General Permit Coverage

Section B: Permitted Activities

### PART II MONITORING, CONTROLS, AND LIMITATIONS FOR PERMITTED DISCHARGES

Section A: Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan

Section B: Analytical Monitoring Requirements

Section C: Qualitative Monitoring Requirements

Section D: Production Information

Section E: Submission of Results

### PART III STANDARD CONDITIONS

Section A: Compliance and Liability

1. Compliance Schedule
2. Duty to Comply
3. Duty to Mitigate
4. Civil and Criminal Liability
5. Oil and Hazardous Substance Liability
6. Property Rights
7. Severability
8. Duty to Provide Information
9. Penalties for Tampering
10. Penalties for Falsification of Reports

Section B: General Conditions

1. Transfers
2. When an Individual Permit May be Required

3. When an Individual Permit May be Requested
4. Signatory Requirements
5. General Permit Modification, Revocation and Reissuance, or Termination
6. Certificate of Coverage Actions

Section C: Operation and Maintenance of Pollution Controls

1. Proper Operation and Maintenance
2. Need to Halt or Reduce not a Defense
3. Bypassing of Stormwater Control Facilities

Section D: Monitoring and Records

1. Representative Sampling
2. Recording Results
3. Flow Measurements
4. Test Procedures
5. Representative Outfall
6. Records Retention
7. Inspection and Entry

Section E: Reporting Requirements

1. Discharge Monitoring Reports
2. Submitting Reports
3. Availability of Reports
4. Non-Stormwater Discharges
5. Planned Changes
6. Anticipated Noncompliance
7. Bypass
8. Twenty-four Hour Reporting
9. Other Noncompliance
10. Other Information

PART IV LIMITATIONS REOPENER

PART V ADMINISTERING AND COMPLIANCE MONITORING FEE REQUIREMENTS

PART VI DEFINITIONS

## PART I INTRODUCTION

### SECTION A: GENERAL PERMIT COVERAGE

All persons desiring to be covered by this General Permit must register with the Division of Water Quality by the filing of a Notice of Intent (NOI) and applicable fees or by the submission of a permit renewal form for NCG220000.

Any owner or operator not wishing to be covered or limited by this General Permit may make application for an individual NPDES permit in accordance with NPDES procedures in 15A NCAC 2H .0100, stating the reasons supporting the request.

This General Permit does not cover activities or discharges covered by an individual NPDES permit until the individual permit has expired or has been revoked. Any person conducting an activity covered by an individual permit but which could be covered by this General Permit may request that the individual permit be revoked and coverage under this General Permit be provided.

Facilities submitting renewal forms for continued coverage under this permit, prior to establishment or approval of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for a priority pollutant(s) for stormwater discharges (i.e. wet weather flows), may be covered under this permit during its term. For such facilities continued coverage under the reissuance of this permit is subject to the facility demonstrating that it does not have a reasonable potential to violate applicable water quality standards for such pollutants due to the stormwater discharge(s). For facilities that do have a reasonable potential for violation of applicable water quality standards due to the stormwater discharge(s) the facility shall apply for an individual permit 180 days prior to the expiration of this general permit. Once the individual permit is issued and becomes effective the facility will no longer have coverage under the general permit. A list of approved TMDLs for the state of North Carolina can be found at [http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/tmdl/General\\_TMDLs.htm](http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/tmdl/General_TMDLs.htm).

During the period beginning on the effective date of the permit and lasting until expiration, the Permittee is authorized to discharge stormwater associated with industrial activity. Such discharges shall be controlled, limited and monitored as specified in this permit.

This General Permit shall expire on November 30, 2008, and the permittee is not authorized to discharge stormwater pursuant to its Certificate of Coverage after that date. The Division of Water Quality may or may not decide to reissue a general NPDES stormwater permit for the wood chip mill industry at that time. If the Division chooses not to reissue such a general permit, all facilities covered under this general permit shall be notified to submit applications for individual permits on forms provided by the Director at least 180 days prior to the general permit expiration.

### SECTION B: PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

Until this permit expires or is modified or revoked, the permittee is authorized to discharge stormwater to the surface waters of North Carolina or separate storm sewer system which has been adequately treated and managed in accordance with the terms and conditions of this General Permit. All discharges shall be in accordance with the conditions of this permit.

Any other point source discharge to surface waters of the state is prohibited unless it is an allowable non-stormwater discharge or is covered by another permit, authorization or approval.

The discharges allowed by this General Permit shall not cause or contribute to violations of Water Quality Standards.

This permit does not relieve the permittee from responsibility for compliance with any other applicable federal, state, or local law, rule, standard, ordinance, order, judgment, or decree.

## PART II MONITORING, CONTROLS, AND LIMITATIONS FOR PERMITTED DISCHARGES

### SECTION A: STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN

The Permittee shall implement the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan as previously required under General Permit NCG040000 and the previous version of this General Permit, herein after referred to as the Plan. This Plan shall be considered public information in accordance with Part III, Standard Conditions, Section E, Paragraph 3 of this general permit. The Plan shall include, at a minimum, the following items:

1. Site Plan. The site plan shall provide a description of the physical facility and the potential pollutant sources which may be expected to contribute to contamination of stormwater discharges. The site plan shall contain the following:
  - (a) A general location map (USGS quadrangle map or appropriately drafted equivalent map), showing the facility's location in relation to transportation routes and surface waters, the name of the receiving water(s) to which the stormwater outfall(s) discharges, or if the discharge is to a municipal separate storm sewer system, the name of the municipality and the ultimate receiving waters; and accurate latitude and longitude of the point(s) of discharge.
  - (b) A narrative description of storage practices, loading and unloading activities, outdoor process areas, dust or particulate generating or control processes, and waste disposal practices.
  - (c) A site map drawn to scale with the distance legend indicating location of industrial activities (including storage of materials, disposal areas, process areas and loading and unloading areas), drainage structures, drainage areas for each outfall and activities occurring in the drainage area, building locations, existing BMPs and impervious surfaces, and the percentage of each drainage area that is impervious. For each outfall, a narrative description of the potential pollutants which could be expected to be present in the stormwater discharge.
  - (d) A list of significant spills or leaks of pollutants that have occurred at the facility during the 3 previous years and any corrective actions taken to mitigate spill impacts.
  - (e) Certification that the stormwater outfalls have been evaluated for the presence of non-stormwater discharges. The certification statement will be signed in accordance with the requirements found in Part III, Standard Conditions, Section B, Paragraph 4.
2. Stormwater Management Plan. The stormwater management plan shall contain a narrative description of the materials management practices employed which control or

minimize the exposure of significant materials to stormwater, including structural and nonstructural measures. The stormwater management plan, at a minimum, shall incorporate the following:

- (a) **Feasibility Study.** A review of the technical and economic feasibility of changing the methods of operations and/or storage practices to eliminate or reduce exposure of materials and processes to stormwater. Wherever practical, the permittee shall prevent exposure of all storage areas, material handling operations, and manufacturing or fueling operations. In areas where elimination of exposure is not practical, the stormwater management plan shall document the feasibility of diverting the stormwater runoff away from areas of potential contamination.
  - (b) **Secondary Containment Schedule.** A schedule to provide secondary containment for bulk storage of liquid materials, storage of Section 313 of Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) water priority chemicals, or storage of hazardous substances to prevent leaks and spills from contaminating stormwater runoff. If the secondary containment devices are connected directly to stormwater conveyance systems, the connection shall be controlled by manually activated valves or other similar devices [which shall be secured with a locking mechanism] and any stormwater that accumulates in the containment area shall be at a minimum visually observed for color, foam, outfall staining, visible sheens and dry weather flow, prior to release of the accumulated stormwater. Accumulated stormwater shall be released if found to be uncontaminated by the material stored within the containment area. Records documenting the individual making the observation, the description of the accumulated stormwater and the date and time of the release shall be kept for a period of five years.
  - (c) **BMP Summary.** A narrative description shall be provided of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be considered such as, but not limited to, oil and grease separation, debris control, vegetative filter strips, infiltration and stormwater detention or retention, where necessary. The need for structural BMPs shall be based on the assessment of potential of sources to contribute significant quantities of pollutants to stormwater discharges and data collected through monitoring of stormwater discharges.
3. **Spill Prevention and Response Plan.** The Spill Prevention and Response Plan (SPRP) shall incorporate an assessment of potential pollutant sources based on a materials inventory of the facility. Facility personnel (or team) responsible for implementing the SPRP shall be identified. A responsible person shall be on-site at all times during facility operations that have the potential to contaminate stormwater runoff through spills or exposure of materials associated with the facility operations. The SPRP must be site stormwater specific. Therefore, a SPCC plan may be a component of the SPRP, but may not be sufficient to completely address the stormwater aspects of the SPRP. The common elements of the SPCC with the SPRP may be incorporated by reference into the SPRP.

4. Preventative Maintenance and Good Housekeeping Program. A preventative maintenance program shall be developed. The program shall document schedules of inspections and maintenance activities of stormwater control systems, plant equipment and systems. Inspection of material handling areas and regular cleaning schedules of these areas shall be incorporated into the program.
5. Employee Training. Training schedules shall be developed and training provided at a minimum on an annual basis on proper spill response and cleanup procedures and preventative maintenance activities for all personnel involved in any of the facility's operations that have the potential to contaminate stormwater runoff. Facility personnel (or team) responsible for implementing the training shall be identified.
6. Responsible Party. The Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan shall identify a specific position(s) responsible for the overall coordination, development, implementation, and revision to the Plan. Responsibilities for all components of the Plan shall be documented and position assignments provided.
7. Plan Amendment. The permittee shall amend the Plan whenever there is a change in design, construction, operation, or maintenance, which has a significant effect on the potential for the discharge of pollutants to surface waters. The Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan shall be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

The Director may notify the permittee when the Plan does not meet one or more of the minimum requirements of the permit. Within 30 days of such notice, the permittee shall submit a time schedule to the Director for modifying the Plan to meet minimum requirements. The permittee shall provide certification in writing (in accordance with Part III, Standard Conditions, Section B, Paragraph 5) to the Director that the changes have been made.

8. Facility Inspection Program. Facilities are required to inspect all stormwater systems on at least a semiannual schedule, once in the fall (September-November) and once during the spring (April - June). The inspection and any subsequent maintenance activities performed shall be documented, recording date and time of inspection, individual(s) making the inspection and a narrative description of the facility's stormwater control systems, plant equipment and systems. Records of these inspections shall be incorporated into the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.

Stormwater discharge characteristic monitoring as required in Part II of this permit shall be performed in addition to facility inspections.

9. Implementation. The permittee shall document all monitoring, measurements, inspections and maintenance activities and training provided to employees, including the log of the sampling data and of activities taken to implement BMPs associated with the industrial activities, including vehicle maintenance activities. Such documentation shall be kept on-site for a period of five years and made available to the Director or his authorized representative immediately upon request.

## SECTION B: ANALYTICAL MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

During the period beginning on the effective date of the permit and lasting until expiration, the Permittee is authorized to discharge stormwater subject to the provisions of this permit. Analytical monitoring of stormwater discharges shall be performed as specified below in Table 1. All analytical monitoring shall be performed during a representative storm event.

Table 1. Analytical Monitoring Requirements

Discharge Characteristics	Units	Measurement Frequency <sup>1</sup>	Sample Type <sup>2</sup>	Sample Location <sup>3</sup>
Total Suspended Solids	mg/l	Quarterly/Annually	Grab	SDO
Biochemical Oxygen Demand	mg/l	Quarterly/Annually	Grab	SDO
Product Information: <sup>4</sup> Amount of Unchipped Wood on site at the time of sampling	tons	Quarterly/Annually		
Amount of Wood Chips on site at the time of sampling	tons	Quarterly/Annually		
Total Rainfall <sup>5</sup>	inches	Each event	-	-
Event Date and Duration <sup>5</sup>	minutes	Each event	-	-
Total Flow <sup>5</sup>	MG	Each event	-	SDO

## Footnotes:

- <sup>1</sup> Measurement Frequency: During the three year term of the previous version of this General Permit facilities were to perform analytical sampling each quarter for a total of 12 quarters, some facilities were allowed to defer beginning sampling during the first quarters of the previous version of the General Permit and some other quarters were not sampled due to drought or other circumstances. Each chip mill under this General Permit shall continue sampling on a quarterly basis until a total (previous version and this version of the General Permit) of 12 quarters have been sampled. Once 12 quarters have been sampled, the sampling frequency for the remaining term of this permit is relaxed to annually (once every twelve months beginning after the last quarterly sampling).
- <sup>2</sup> If the stormwater runoff is controlled by a stormwater detention pond, a grab sample of the discharge from the pond shall be collected within the first 30 minutes of discharge. If the detention pond discharges only in response to a storm event exceeding a ten year design storm, then no analytical monitoring is required and only qualitative monitoring shall be performed.
- <sup>3</sup> Sample Location: Samples shall be collected at each stormwater discharge outfall (SDO) unless representative outfall status has been granted.

- 4 Product Information: On the date of Analytical Monitoring, the facility product information for that date shall be recorded (The total amount of unchipped wood on site and the total amount of wood chips on site.)
- 5 For each sampled representative storm event the total precipitation, storm duration, and total flow must be monitored. Total flow shall be either; (a) measured continuously, (b) calculated based on the amount of area draining to the outfall, the amount of built-upon (impervious) area, and the total amount of rainfall, or (c) estimated by the measurement of flow at 20 minute intervals during the rainfall event.

Table 2 Monitoring schedule

Monitoring period	Sample Number	Start	End
Year 1 - 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter	1	January 1, 2004	March 31, 2004
Year 1 - 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter	2	April 1, 2004	June 30, 2004
Year 1 - 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	3	July 1, 2004	September 30, 2004
Year 1 - 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter	4	October 1, 2004	December 31, 2004
Year 2 - 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter	5	January 1, 2005	March 31, 2005
Year 2 - 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter	6	April 1, 2005	June 30, 2005
Year 2 - 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	7	July 1, 2005	September 30, 2005
Year 2 - 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter	8	October 1, 2005	December 31, 2005
Year 3 - 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter	9	January 1, 2006	March 31, 2006
Year 3 - 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter	10	April 1, 2006	June 30, 2006
Year 3 - 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	11	July 1, 2006	September 30, 2006
Year 3 - 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter	12	October 1, 2006	December 31, 2006
Year 4 - 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter	13	January 1, 2007	March 31, 2007
Year 4 - 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter	14	April 1, 2007	June 30, 2007
Year 4 - 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	15	July 1, 2007	September 30, 2007
Year 4 - 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter	16	October 1, 2007	December 31, 2007
Year 5 - 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter	17	January 1, 2008	March 31, 2008
Year 5 - 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter	18	April 1, 2008	June 30, 2008
Year 5 - 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	19	July 1, 2008	September 30, 2008
Year 5 - 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter	20	October 1, 2008	December 31, 2008

## SECTION C: QUALITATIVE MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Qualitative monitoring requires a visual inspection of each stormwater outfall regardless of representative outfall status and shall be performed as specified below in Table 3. Qualitative monitoring is for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SPPP) and assessing new sources of stormwater pollution. No analytical tests are required. Qualitative monitoring of stormwater outfalls does not need to be performed during a representative storm event.

The first qualitative monitoring event during the coverage of the permit must coincide with the initial analytical monitoring event (regardless of the season). All other qualitative monitoring will be performed monthly.

Table 3. Qualitative Monitoring Requirements

Discharge Characteristics	Frequency	Monitoring Location <sup>1</sup>
Color	Monthly	SDO
Odor	Monthly	SDO
Clarity	Monthly	SDO
Floating Solids	Monthly	SDO
Suspended Solids	Monthly	SDO
Foam	Monthly	SDO
Oil Sheen	Monthly	SDO
Other obvious indicators of stormwater pollution	Monthly	SDO

Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Monitoring Location: Qualitative monitoring shall be performed at each stormwater discharge outfall (SDO) regardless of representative outfall status.

#### SECTION D: PRODUCTION INFORMATION

The facility shall keep records on the total amount of wood received for chipping each week and the total amount of wood chips produced each week in addition to the amount of unchipped wood on site and the amount of wood chips on site on the day of the analytical sampling as required in Section B.

#### SECTION E: SUBMISSION OF RESULTS

Results of samples analyzed in accordance Section B shall be submitted to the Division on Discharge Monitoring Report forms provided by the Director. Submittals shall be received by the Division no later than 30 days after the end of the quarter (or year) during which the samples were collected. The Production Information maintained in accordance with Section D shall be submitted to the Division on an annual basis, by January 31 for the report of the preceding years production. (See Part III, E., Reporting Requirements).

PART III STANDARD CONDITIONS FOR NPDES STORMWATER GENERAL PERMITS

SECTION A: COMPLIANCE AND LIABILITY

1. Compliance Schedule

The permittee shall update the existing Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan within 3 months of issuance of a Certificate of Coverage under this General Permit and updated on an annual basis thereafter

2. Duty to Comply

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

- a. The permittee shall comply with standards or prohibitions established under section 307(a) of the Clean Water Act for toxic pollutants within the time provided in the regulations that establish these standards or prohibitions, even if the permit has not yet been modified to incorporate the requirement.
- b. The Clean Water Act provides that any person who violates section 301, 302, 306, 307, 308, 318 or 405 of the Act, or any permit condition or limitation implementing any such sections in a permit issued under section 402, is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$27,500 per day for each violation. Any person who negligently violates such sections, or any permit condition or limitation is subject to criminal penalties of \$2,500 to \$25,000 per day of violation, or imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or both. In the case of a second or subsequent conviction for a negligent violation, a person shall be subject to criminal penalties of not more than \$50,000 per day of violation, or by imprisonment of not more than 2 years, or both. Any person who knowingly violates such sections, or any permit conditions or limitations is subject to criminal penalties of \$5,000 to \$50,000 per day of violation, or imprisonment for not more than 3 years, or both. In the case of a second or subsequent conviction for a knowing violation, a person shall be subject to criminal penalties of not more than \$100,000 per day of violation, or imprisonment of not more than 6 years, or both. Any person who knowingly violates such sections, or any permit conditions or limitations, and who knows at that time that he thereby places another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury, shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not more than \$250,000 or imprisonment of not more than 15 years, or both. In the case of a second or subsequent conviction for a knowing endangerment violation, a person shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$500,000 or by imprisonment of not more than 30 years, or both. An organization (as defined in section 309 of the Clean Water Act) shall, upon conviction of violating the imminent danger provision, be subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000,000 and can be fined up to \$2,000,000 for second or subsequent convictions. Also, any person who violates a permit condition may be assessed an administrative penalty not to exceed \$11,000 per violation

with the maximum amount not to exceed \$137,500. [Ref: Section 309 of the Federal Act 33 USC 1319 and 40 CFR 122.41(a).]

- c. Under state law, a daily civil penalty of not more than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) per violation may be assessed against any person who violates or fails to act in accordance with the terms, conditions, or requirements of a permit. [Ref: North Carolina General Statutes 143-215.6A]
- d. Any person may be assessed an administrative penalty by the Director for violating section 301, 302, 306, 307, 308, 318, or 405 of the Act, or any permit condition or limitation implementing any of such sections in a permit issued under section 402 of the Act. Administrative penalties for Class I violations are not to exceed \$11,000 per violation, with the maximum amount of any Class I penalty assessed not to exceed \$27,500. Penalties for Class II violations are not to exceed \$11,000 per day for each day during which the violation continues, with the maximum amount of any Class II penalty not to exceed \$137,500.

3. Duty to Mitigate

The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge in violation of this general permit which has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment.

4. Civil and Criminal Liability

Except as provided in Section C of this permit regarding bypassing of stormwater control facilities, nothing in this general permit shall be construed to relieve the permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties for noncompliance pursuant to NCGS 143-215.3, 143-215.6A, 143-215.6B, 143-215.6C or Section 309 of the Federal Act, 33 USC 1319. Furthermore, the permittee is responsible for consequential damages, such as fish kills, even though the responsibility for effective compliance may be temporarily suspended.

5. Oil and Hazardous Substance Liability

Nothing in this general 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 to under NCGS 143-215.75 et seq. or Section 311 of the Federal Act, 33 USC 1321.

6. Property Rights

The issuance of this general permit does not convey any property rights in either real or personal property, or 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.

7. Severability

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

8. Duty to Provide Information

The permittee shall furnish to the Director, within a reasonable time, any information which the Director may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, or terminating the certificate of coverage issued pursuant to this general permit or to determine compliance with this general permit. The permittee shall also furnish to the Director upon request, copies of records required to be kept by this general permit.

9. Penalties for Tampering

The Clean Water Act provides that any person who falsifies, tampers with, or knowingly renders inaccurate, any monitoring device or method required to be maintained under this general permit shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 per violation, or by imprisonment for not more than two years per violation, or by both. If a conviction of a person is for a violation committed after a first conviction of such person under this paragraph, punishment is a fine of not more than \$20,000 per day of violation, or by imprisonment of not more than 4 years, or both.

10. Penalties for Falsification of Reports

The Clean Water Act provides that any person who knowingly makes any false statement, representation, or certification in any record or other document submitted or required to be maintained under this general permit, including monitoring reports or reports of compliance or noncompliance shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 per violation, or by imprisonment for not more than two years per violation, or by both.

**SECTION B: GENERAL CONDITIONS**

1. General Permit Expiration

The permittee is not authorized to discharge after the expiration date. In order to receive automatic authorization to discharge beyond the expiration date, the permittee shall submit forms and fees as are required by the agency authorized to issue permits no later than 180 days prior to the expiration date. Any permittee that has not requested renewal at least 180 days prior to expiration, or any permittee that does not have a permit after the expiration and has not requested renewal at least 180 days prior to expiration, will be subjected to enforcement procedures as provided in NCGS §143-2153.6 and 33 USC 1251 et. seq.

2. Transfers

The certificate of coverage issued pursuant to this general permit is not transferable to any person except after notice to and approval by the Director. The Director may require modification or revocation and reissuance of the certificate of coverage to change the name and incorporate such other requirements as may be necessary under the Clean Water Act. Permittee is required to notify the Division in writing in the event the permit is sold or closed. **Permittee is required to notify the Division in the event the permitted facility is sold or closed.**

3. When an Individual Permit May be Required

The Director may require any owner/operator authorized to discharge under a certificate of coverage issued pursuant to this general permit to apply for and obtain an individual permit or an alternative general permit. Any interested person may petition the Director to take action under this paragraph. Cases where an individual permit may be required include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. The discharger is a significant contributor of pollutants;
- b. Conditions at the permitted site change, altering the constituents and/or characteristics of the discharge such that the discharge no longer qualifies for a general permit;
- c. The discharge violates the terms or conditions of this general permit;
- d. A change has occurred in the availability of demonstrated technology or practices for the control or abatement of pollutants applicable to the point source;
- e. Effluent limitations are promulgated for the point sources covered by this general permit;
- f. A water quality management plan containing requirements applicable to such point sources is approved after the issuance of this general permit.
- g. The Director determines at his own discretion that an individual permit is required.

4. When an Individual Permit May be Requested

Any permittee operating under this general permit may request to be excluded from the coverage of this general permit by applying for an individual permit. When an individual permit is issued to an owner/operator the applicability of this general permit is automatically terminated on the effective date of the individual permit.

5. Signatory Requirements

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

- a. All notices of intent to be covered under this general permit shall be signed as follows:
- (1) For a corporation: by a responsible corporate officer. For the purpose of this Section, a responsible corporate officer means: (a) a president, secretary, treasurer or vice president of the corporation in charge of a principal business function, or any other person who performs similar policy or decision making functions for the corporation, or (b) the manager of one or more manufacturing production or operating facilities employing more than 250 persons or having gross annual sales or expenditures exceeding 25 million (in second quarter 1980 dollars), if authority to sign documents has been assigned or delegated to the manager in accordance with corporate procedures.
  - (2) For a partnership or sole proprietorship: by a general partner or the proprietor, respectively; or
  - (3) For a municipality, State, Federal, or other public agency: by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official.
- b. All reports required by the general permit and other information requested by the Director 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:
- (1) The authorization is made in writing by a person described above;
  - (2) The authorization specified either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated facility or activity, such as the position of plant manager, operator of a well or well field, superintendent, a position of equivalent responsibility, or an individual or position having overall responsibility for environmental matters for the company. (A duly authorized representative may thus be either a named individual or any individual occupying a named position.); and
  - (3) The written authorization is submitted to the Director.
- c. Any person signing a document under paragraphs a. or b. of 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 fines and imprisonment for knowing violations."

6. General Permit Modification, Revocation and Reissuance, or Termination

The issuance of this general permit does not prohibit the Director from reopening and modifying the general permit, revoking and reissuing the general permit, or terminating the general permit as allowed by the laws, rules, and regulations contained in Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 122 and 123; Title 15A of the North Carolina Administrative Code, Subchapter 2H .0100; and North Carolina General Statute 143-215.1 et. al.

After public notice and opportunity for a hearing, the general permit may be terminated for cause. The filing of a request for a general permit modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination does not stay any general permit condition. The certificate of coverage shall expire when the general permit is terminated.

7. Certificate of Coverage Actions

The certificate of coverage issued in accordance with this general permit may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause. The notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not stay any general permit condition.

**SECTION C: OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF POLLUTION CONTROLS**

1. Proper Operation and Maintenance

The permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) which are installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the conditions of this general permit. Proper operation and maintenance also includes adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of back-up or auxiliary facilities or similar systems which are installed by a permittee only when the operation is necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of the general permit.

2. Need to Halt or Reduce 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 condition of this general permit.

3. Bypassing of Stormwater Control Facilities

Bypass is prohibited and the Director 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; and

- b. There were no feasible alternatives to the bypass, such as the use of auxiliary control facilities, retention of stormwater or maintenance during normal periods of equipment downtime or dry weather. This condition is not satisfied if adequate backup controls 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 Section F of this permit.

If the Director determines that it will meet the three conditions listed above, the Director may approve an anticipated bypass after considering its adverse effects.

#### **SECTION D: MONITORING AND RECORDS**

##### 1. Representative Sampling

Samples collected and measurements taken, as required herein, shall be characteristic of the volume and nature of the permitted discharge. Analytical sampling shall be performed during a representative storm event. Samples shall be taken on a day and time that is characteristic of the discharge. All samples shall be taken before the discharge joins or is diluted by any other waste stream, body of water, or substance. Monitoring points as specified in this permit shall not be changed without notification to and approval of the Director.

##### 2. Recording Results

For each measurement, sample, inspection or maintenance activity performed or collected pursuant to the requirements of this general permit, the permittee shall record the following information:

- a. The date, exact place, and time of sampling, measurements, inspection or maintenance activity;
- b. The individual(s) who performed the sampling, measurements, inspection or maintenance activity;
- c. The date(s) analyses were performed;
- d. The individual(s) who performed the analyses;
- e. The analytical techniques or methods used; and
- f. The results of such analyses.

##### 3. Flow Measurements

Where required, appropriate flow measurement devices and methods consistent with accepted scientific practices shall be selected and used to ensure the accuracy and reliability of measurements of the volume of monitored discharges.

4. Test Procedures

Test procedures for the analysis of pollutants shall conform to the EMC regulations published pursuant to NCGS 143-215.63 et. seq, the Water and Air Quality Reporting Acts, and to regulations published pursuant to Section 304(g), 33 USC 1314, of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as Amended, and Regulation 40 CFR 136.

To meet the intent of the monitoring required by this general permit, all test procedures must produce minimum detection and reporting levels and all data generated must be reported down to the minimum detection or lower reporting level of the procedure.

5. Representative Outfall

If a facility has multiple discharge locations with substantially identical stormwater discharges that are required to be sampled, the permittee may petition the Director for representative outfall status. If it is established that the stormwater discharges are substantially identical and the permittee is granted representative outfall status, then sampling requirements may be performed at a reduced number of outfalls.

6. Records Retention

Visual monitoring shall be documented and records maintained at the facility along with the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan. Copies of analytical monitoring results shall also be maintained on-site. The permittee shall retain records of all monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation, and copies of all reports required by this general permit for a period of at least 5 years from the date of the sample, measurement, report or application. This period may be extended by request of the Director at any time.

7. Inspection and Entry

The permittee shall allow the Director, or an authorized representative (including an authorized contractor acting as a representative of the Director), or in the case of a facility which discharges through a municipal separate storm sewer system, an authorized representative of a municipal operator or the separate storm sewer system receiving the discharge, upon the presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to;

- a. Enter upon the permittee's premises where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted, or where records must be kept under the conditions of this general permit;

- b. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that must be kept under the conditions of this general permit;
- c. Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this general permit; and
- d. Sample or monitor at reasonable times, for the purposes of assuring general permit compliance or as otherwise authorized by the Clean Water Act, any substances or parameters at any location.

## **SECTION E: REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

### 1. Discharge Monitoring Reports

Samples analyzed in accordance with the terms of this permit shall be submitted to the Division on Discharge Monitoring Report forms provided by the Director. Submittals shall be received by the Division no later than January 31 for the previous year in which sampling was required to be performed.

Documentation of the initial qualitative monitoring event shall be included with the required analytical monitoring submittal for the first year of the permit term.

Analytical results from sampling during the final year of the permit term shall be submitted with the permit renewal application.

### 2. Submitting Reports

Duplicate signed copies of all reports required herein, shall be submitted to the following address:

Central Files  
Division of Water Quality  
1617 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1617

### 3. Availability of Reports

Except for data determined to be confidential under NCGS 143-215.3(a)(2) or Section 308 of the Federal Act, 33 USC 1318, all reports prepared in accordance with the terms shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the Division of Water Quality. As required by the Act, analytical data shall not be considered confidential. Knowingly

making any false statement on any such report may result in the imposition of criminal penalties as provided for in NCGS 143-215.6B or in Section 309 of the Federal Act.

4. Non-Stormwater Discharges

If the storm event monitored in accordance with this general permit coincides with a non-stormwater discharge, the permittee shall separately monitor all parameters as required under the non-stormwater discharge permit and provide this information with the stormwater discharge monitoring report.

5. Planned Changes

The permittee shall give notice to the Director as soon as possible of any planned changes at the permitted facility which could significantly alter the nature or quantity of pollutants discharged. This notification requirement includes pollutants which are not specifically listed in the general permit or subject to notification requirements under 40 CFR Part 122.42 (a).

6. Anticipated Noncompliance

The permittee shall give notice to the Director as soon as possible of any planned changes at the permitted facility which may result in noncompliance with the general permit requirements.

7. Bypass

- 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 days before the date of the bypass; including an evaluation of the anticipated quality and affect of the bypass.
- b. Unanticipated bypass. The permittee shall submit notice within 24 hours of an unanticipated bypass.

8. Twenty-four Hour Reporting

The permittee shall report to the central office or the appropriate regional office any noncompliance which may endanger health or the environment. Any information shall be provided orally within 24 hours from the time the permittee became aware of the circumstances. A written submission shall also be provided within 5 days of the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances.

The written submission shall contain a description of the noncompliance, and its causes; the period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times, and if the noncompliance has not been corrected, the anticipated time compliance is expected to continue; and steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent reoccurrence of the noncompliance.

The Director may waive the written report on a case-by-case basis if the oral report has been received within 24 hours.

9. Other Noncompliance

The permittee shall report all instances of noncompliance not reported under 24 hour reporting at the time monitoring reports are submitted.

10. Other Information

Where the permittee becomes aware that it failed to submit any relevant facts in a Notice of Intent to be covered under this general permit or in any report to the Director, it shall promptly submit such facts or information.

## **PART IV      LIMITATIONS REOPENER**

This general permit shall be modified or alternatively, revoked and reissued, to comply with any applicable effluent guideline or water quality standard issued or approved under Sections 302(b) (2) (c), and (d), 304(b) (2) and 307(a) of the Clean Water Act, if the effluent guideline or water quality standard so issued or approved:

- a.      Contains different conditions or is otherwise more stringent than any effluent limitation in the general permit; or
- b.      Controls any pollutant not limited in the general permit.

The general permit as modified or reissued under this paragraph shall also contain any other requirements in the Act then applicable.

## **PART V      ADMINISTERING AND COMPLIANCE MONITORING FEE REQUIREMENTS**

The permittee must pay the administering and compliance monitoring fee within 30 (thirty) days after being billed by the Division. Failure to pay the fee in timely manner in accordance with 15A NCAC 2H .0105(b)(4) may cause this Division to initiate action to revoke the Certificate of Coverage.

## **PART VI      DEFINITIONS**

1.      Act

See Clean Water Act.

2.      Arithmetic Mean

The arithmetic mean of any set of values is the summation of the individual values divided by the number of individual values.

3.      Allowable Non-Stormwater Discharges

This permit regulates stormwater discharges. Non-stormwater discharges which shall be allowed in the stormwater conveyance system are:

- (a)      All other discharges that are authorized by a non-stormwater NPDES permit.

- (b) Uncontaminated groundwater, foundation drains, air-conditioner condensate without added chemicals, springs, discharges of uncontaminated potable water, waterline and fire hydrant flushings, water from footing drains, flows from riparian habitats and wetlands.
- (c) Discharges resulting from fire-fighting.

4. Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Measures or practices used to reduce the amount of pollution entering surface waters. BMPs may take the form of a process, activity, or physical structure.

5. Bypass

A bypass is the known diversion of stormwater from any portion of a stormwater control facility including the collection system, which is not a designed or established operating mode for the facility.

6. Bulk Storage of Liquid Products

Liquid raw materials, manufactured products, waste materials or by-products with a single above ground storage container having a capacity of greater than 660 gallons or with multiple above ground storage containers located in close proximity to each other having a total combined storage capacity of greater than 1,320 gallons.

7. Certificate of Coverage

The Certificate of Coverage (COC) is the cover sheet which accompanies the general permit upon issuance and lists the facility name, location, receiving stream, river basin, effective date of coverage under the permit and is signed by the Director.

8. Clean Water Act

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act, also known as the Clean Water Act (CWA), as amended, 33 USC 1251, et. seq.

9. Division or DWQ

The Division of Water Quality, Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

10. Director

The Director of the Division of Water Quality, the permit issuing authority.

11. EMC

The North Carolina Environmental Management Commission.

12. Grab Sample

An individual samples collected instantaneously. Grab samples that will be directly analyzed or qualitatively monitored must be taken within the first 30 minutes of discharge.

13. Hazardous Substance

Any substance designated under 40 CFR Part 116 pursuant to Section 311 of the Clean Water Act.

14. Landfill

A disposal facility or part of a disposal facility where waste is placed in or on land and which is not a land treatment facility, a surface impoundment, an injection well, a hazardous waste long-term storage facility or a surface storage facility.

15. Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

A stormwater collection system within an incorporated area of local self-government such as a city or town.

16. Notice of Intent

The state application form which, when submitted to the Division, officially indicates the facility's notice of intent to seek coverage under a general permit.

17. Overburden

Any material of any nature, consolidated or unconsolidated, that overlies a mineral deposit, excluding topsoil or similar naturally-occurring surface materials that are not disturbed by mining operations.

18. Permittee

The owner or operator issued a certificate of coverage pursuant to this general permit.

19. Point Source Discharge of Stormwater

Any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance including, but not specifically limited to, any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, or discrete fissure from which stormwater is or may be discharged to waters of the state.

20. Representative Storm Event

A storm event that measures greater than 0.1 inches of rainfall and that is preceded by at least 72 hours in which no storm event measuring greater than 0.1 inches has occurred. A single storm event may contain up to 10 consecutive hours of no precipitation. For example, if it rains for 2 hours without producing any collectable discharge, and then stops, a sample may be collected if a rain producing a discharge begins again within the next 10 hours.

21. Representative Outfall Status

When it is established that the discharge of stormwater runoff from a single outfall is representative of the discharges at multiple outfalls, the DWQ may grant representative outfall status. Representative outfall status allows the permittee to perform analytical monitoring at a reduced number of outfalls.

22. Rinse Water Discharge

The discharge of rinse water from equipment cleaning areas associated with industrial activity. Rinse waters from vehicle and equipment cleaning areas are process wastewaters and do not include washwaters utilizing any type of detergent or cleaning agent.

23. Secondary Containment

Spill containment for the contents of the single largest tank within the containment structure plus sufficient freeboard to allow for the 25-year, 24-hour storm event.

24. Section 313 Water Priority Chemical

A chemical or chemical category which:

- a. Is listed in 40 CFR 372.65 pursuant to Section 313 of Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986, also titled the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986;
- b. Is present at or above threshold levels at a facility subject to SARA title III, Section 313 reporting requirements; and
- c. That meet at least one of the following criteria:
  - (1) Is listed in appendix D of 40 CFR part 122 on either Table II (organic priority pollutants), Table III (certain metals, cyanides, and phenols) or Table IV (certain toxic pollutants and hazardous substances);
  - (2) Is listed as a hazardous substance pursuant to section 311(b)(2)(A) of the CWA at 40 CFR 116.4; or

- (3) Is a pollutant for which EPA has published acute or chronic water quality criteria.

25. Severe Property Damage

Means substantial physical damage to property, damage to the control 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.

26. Significant Materials

Includes, but is not limited to: raw materials; fuels; materials such as solvents, detergents, and plastic pellets; finished materials such as metallic products; raw materials used in food processing or production; hazardous substances designated under section 101(14) of CERCLA; any chemical the facility is required to report pursuant to section 313 of Title III of SARA; fertilizers; pesticides; and waste products such as ashes, slag and sludge that have the potential to be released with stormwater discharges.

27. Significant Spills

Includes, but is not limited to: releases of oil or hazardous substances in excess of reportable quantities under section 311 of the Clean Water Act (Ref: 40 CFR 110.10 and CFR 117.21) or section 102 of CERCLA (Ref: 40 CFR 302.4).

28. Stormwater Runoff

The flow of water which results from precipitation and which occurs immediately following rainfall or as a result of snowmelt.

29. Stormwater Associated with Industrial Activity

The discharge from any point source which is used for collecting and conveying stormwater and which is directly related to manufacturing, processing or raw material storage areas at an industrial site. Facilities considered to be engaged in "industrial activities" include those activities defined in 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14). The term does not include discharges from facilities or activities excluded from the NPDES program.

30. Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan

A comprehensive site-specific plan which details measures and practices to reduce stormwater pollution and is based on an evaluation of the pollution potential of the site.

31. Ten Year Design Storm

The maximum 24 hour precipitation event expected to be equaled or exceeded on the average once in ten years. Design storm information can be found in the State of North Carolina Erosion and Sediment Control Planning and Design Manual.

32. Total Flow

The flow corresponding to the time period over which the sample collection occurs. The total flow can be calculated based on the size of the area draining to the outfall, the amount of the built-upon (impervious) surfaces within the drainage area, and the total amount of rainfall occurring during the sampling period.

33. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

TMDLs are written plans for attaining and maintaining water quality standards, in all seasons, for a specific waterbody and pollutant. (A list of approved TMDLs for the state of North Carolina can be found at

**[http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/tmdl/General\\_TMDLs.htm](http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/tmdl/General_TMDLs.htm)**)

34. Toxic Pollutant

Any pollutant listed as toxic under Section 307(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

35. 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 or control facilities, inadequate treatment or control facilities, lack of preventive maintenance, or careless or improper operation.

36. Vehicle Maintenance Activity

Vehicle rehabilitation, mechanical repairs, painting, fueling, lubrication, vehicle cleaning operations, or airport deicing operations.

37. Visible Sedimentation

Solid particulate matter, both mineral and organic, that has been or is being transported by water, air, gravity, or ice from its site of origin which can be seen with the unaided eye.

38. 25-year, 24 hour storm event

The maximum 24-hour precipitation event expected to be equaled or exceeded, on the average, once in 25 years.