

PERMIT FACT SHEET

General Information

Permit Number:	WI-0066575-01-0
Permit Name:	Low-Impact Discharge
Permittee:	Point source dischargers in the state of Wisconsin
Discharge Location:	Land surface or surface waters in the state of Wisconsin
Receiving Water:	Surface waters or groundwater in the state of Wisconsin

WPDES Permit Program Background

Wisconsin Statutes and regulations require a Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit for the discharge of any pollutant through a point source into any waters of the state which includes surface waters and groundwater. WPDES permits are issued by the Department of Natural Resources (department) consistent with applicable federal requirements. These permits contain requirements that include pollutant discharge limitations, monitoring and reporting or record keeping requirements, best management practices and other provisions to reduce, eliminate, or minimize the risk of pollutants impacting human health and water quality.

A WPDES permit is an allowance for a facility to discharge a specified amount of a pollutant into the waters of the state under specific conditions. There are two basic types of WPDES permits:

- Individual permit. An individual permit is a permit specifically tailored to an individual facility. Once a facility submits a complete application(s), the department develops a draft permit for that particular facility based on the information contained in the permit application (e.g., type of activity, nature of discharge, receiving water quality). After a public participation process, the department may issue the permit to the facility for a specific time period (not to exceed five years) with a requirement that the facility reapply 180 days prior to the expiration date. Public notices are posted for each individual permit application and proposed individual permit permittee.
- General Permit. A general permit covers a group or category of dischargers with similar qualities within a designated area of the state under one WPDES permit. A general permit provides coverage to several dischargers. To obtain coverage under a general permit for a discharge of pollutants, an owner or operator must submit a notice of intent (NOI) requesting general permit coverage. General permits have an effective term of 5 years from the date of issuance. If a permittee submitted a complete and timely NOI to be covered by the general permit and the department approves coverage, the discharge of pollutants is then subject to all conditions of the general permit and these terms or conditions shall continue to apply until the effective date of the reissued general permit. Public notices are issued for the general permit and not for the permittee covered under the general permit. A person may apply for general permit coverage at the time a general permit is issued or a person may apply during the term of the permit.

General Permit Objective

This general permit was created to properly manage low-impact discharges to waters of the state to protect public health and water quality of groundwater and surface water within the state of Wisconsin.

General Permit Description

This permit is applicable to facilities with low-impact point source discharges to waters of the state. These discharges are relatively pollutant free wastewaters that present no or minimal impact to water quality of surface water or wetlands or groundwater quality when managed properly. Low-impact discharges covered under this permit do not contain pollutants in concentrations that cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above any applicable water quality standards or groundwater quality standards. Discharges eligible for coverage are intermittent, low volume, and/or short-term in duration. Examples of some facilities that may be regulated by this general permit include: low volume discharges of non-contact cooling water, intermittent discharges of air conditioner condensate, or other similar low-impact discharges.

General Permit Summary

This general permit establishes applicability criteria, obtaining permit coverage requirements, discharge screening requirements, discharge requirements, best management practice and plan requirements, water treatment additives requirements and standard requirements for low-impact discharges. The permit requirements are provided to protect human health and protect and maintain the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the waters of the state by eliminating or minimizing the discharge of pollutants.

Fact Sheet Organization

This fact sheet serves to explain the rationale and assumptions used in deriving the conditions and requirements set forth in the general permit. The sections that follow are taken from the permit and are numbered in this fact sheet as they are numbered in the permit.

Changes from Previous Permit

None as this is the first issuance of this permit.

1 Applicability Criteria

According to s. NR 205.08(2), Wis. Adm. Code, the department may include applicability criteria in general permits.

1.1 Discharges Covered

This permit is applicable to low-impact discharges that are discharged to surface waters or indirectly to groundwaters via seepage. The discharges must not contain pollutants in concentrations that cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above any applicable water quality standards or groundwater quality standards. The permittee must submit a complete and timely Notice of Intent (NOI) to the department and receive a letter from the department granting them coverage under this general permit. Additionally, the discharge must pass certain discharge screening levels in order to be eligible. The permittee must also submit a complete best management practice (BMP) plan to the department for approval which states BMPs that will be implemented prior to discharge to a water of the state.

This general permit may cover the following low-impact discharge activities: maple syrup derived wastewaters; outside washing of vehicles, equipment, and/or other objects; noncontact cooling waters discharged to groundwater via infiltration; air conditioning/compressor condensates; or other low-impact discharge activities that meet the applicability conditions as approved by the department.

1.2 Discharges Not Covered

According to 40 CFR 122.28(a)(4)(ii), general permits may exclude specified sources from coverage. Below is an explanation for all discharges not covered under the permit.

More Appropriately Covered under Another General Permit: If the department determines effluent limits and monitoring requirements are necessary or the discharge is more appropriately covered under another general permit or an individual permit, the applicant is no longer eligible for this general permit. The applicant must apply for the appropriate general permit or individual permit as indicated by the department.

Permeant Treatment and Plan Approval: If a discharge requires permanent treatment to be able to meet the discharge screening levels in Section 3 or water quality standards and/or the installation or construction of the treatment system requires or required review and approval by the department under s. 281.41, Wis. Stats., the discharge is not eligible under this general permit. The permanent treatment requires regular pollutant monitoring and reporting to ensure that the system is functioning properly which another general permit or individual permit will provide.

Petroleum Contaminated Water: If the any discharge comes in contact with or is contaminated with petroleum products, the discharge is not authorized by this general permit. Petroleum contaminated water contains pollutants (e.g. PAHs and Total BETX) not regulated by this general permit. Discharges of petroleum contaminated water shall be disposed of properly in accordance with Wisconsin State Law. The discharge of petroleum contaminated water may be covered by the Petroleum Contaminated Water General Permit (No. WI-0046531).

Hydrostatic Testing of Water Supply Systems: Discharges from the hydrostatic testing of water supply systems (i.e. water mains, water storage tanks, water towers) are not eligible for this permit. Hydrostatic testing of water supply systems is covered under the General Permit No. WI-0057681.

Not-for-Profit Fund-Raising Vehicle Washing Events: Washing discharges from occasional vehicle washing at not-for-profit fund-raising events are not eligible under this permit. These discharges are one-time and have a very low volume of washwater. However, on request, the department will provide anyone with a copy of the BMPs and encourage these practices.

Noncommercial Washing at Individual Residences: Washing discharges from individual residences are not eligible under this permit. These discharges are infrequent and have a very low volume of washwater. However, on request, the department will provide anyone with a copy of the BMPs and encourage these practices.

Commercial Automatic Car Washes: Discharges from automatic car washes are not covered under this permit. Because of the number of vehicles, frequency of washing, and possible long-term impacts associated with these types of operations, discharges from these facilities require review and oversight not provided by this general permit.

Subsurface Soil Absorption Systems: This general permit does not cover washing activities that are directed to subsurface soil absorption systems such as a septic tank with a drain field. Instead this general permit covers washing discharges to the ground surface that infiltrate into the soil. Regulation of pollutants in discharges to subsurface soil absorption systems are more appropriately regulated by the Industrial Liquid Waste to a Subsurface Soil Absorption System General Permit (No. WI-0055611) or an individual permit which will provide more oversight, monitoring and discharge limitations necessary to protect groundwater quality.

Nonemergency Degreasing Operations Occurring more than once a Month at a Given Site in Any Given 6-Month Period: Degreasing operations typically involve the use of steam cleaning or high-pressure water cleaning and are intended to remove accumulated petroleum products, such as oil and grease, from areas that are normally lubricated (for example, hydraulic pumps, axles, and semi-tractor fifth wheels). The concern is that when degreasing activities occur regularly at the same location, there is an increased risk of petroleum products, such as fuel oil, which will affect aquatic life in a surface water or groundwater quality via seepage. Therefore, frequent discharges from routine degreasing require more oversight than that provided for under this permit and are not covered by this permit. Moreover, many operations of cleaning engines or other oily equipment are housed in a building and connected to a wastewater treatment system which is not covered by this general permit.

Degreasing Operations Using Halogenated Hydrocarbon Degreasing Agents: Chemical degreasing with solvents, such as trichlorethylene, poses a high risk of water contamination and is not allowed under this permit.

Washing Activities Covered by Another WPDES Permit: Facilities with washing activities already addressed through another WPDES permit do not require additional coverage under this permit. This is intended to avoid duplicate permitting of washing activities. Other general permits may have already addressed or may be able to address washwater discharges, such as the Concrete Product Operations (No. WI-0046507) and Nonmetallic Mining Operations (Nos. WI-A046515 and WI-B046515).

Residential Swimming Pools and Water Attractions: This permit does not apply to discharges from swimming pools at individual private residences, which do not directly discharge through a permanent conveyance structure to surface waters. Residential swimming pools that directly discharge to surface waters will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for coverage under this permit. Residential Swimming Pool Best Management Practices can be found on our website here: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/GeneralPermits.html>.

The department believes that residential pool discharges do not pose a reasonable potential to exceed any groundwater standards and by following the proper disposal tips in the guidance provided above will prevent the runoff of the discharge into surface waters.

The department strongly recommends that residential pool owners do not directly discharge their pool water through a permeant conveyance system (i.e. direct connection with a pipe or hose) to surface

waters. Such discharges must be covered by this general permit or an individual permit. Please contact the department if you are considering discharging in this fashion.

Diatomaceous Earth Filters: Filter backwash discharges from diatomaceous earth filters are not eligible for coverage under this permit. Owners or operators of these filters are required to route the entire filter cleaning volume to a sanitary sewer system or a private on-site wastewater treatment system (POWTS) that is designed to receive the designated wastewater pursuant to s. SPS 390.16(5), Wis. Adm. Code.

Contaminated Groundwater or Stormwater: If the discharge contains any contaminated groundwater or stormwater, the discharge is not eligible for this general permit. Contaminated groundwater or stormwater will contain significant amounts of pollutants that will require another general permit or individual permit which will provide the oversight, monitoring and discharge limitations necessary to protect surface water or groundwater.

Municipal or Domestic Wastewater: Any discharge containing municipal or domestic wastewaters as described in ch. NR 210, Wis. Adm. Code, are not authorized under this permit. These discharges will contain pathogens or significant amounts of pollutants that will require an individual permit which provides the oversight, monitoring and discharge limitations necessary to protect surface water or groundwater.

Industrial Process Wastewater: Any discharge containing process wastewaters as described chs. NR 221 to NR 297, Wis. Adm. Code, are not authorized under this general permit. These discharges will contain significant amounts of pollutants that will require an individual permit which provides the oversight, monitoring and discharge limitations necessary to protect surface water or groundwater.

Landspreading and Sludge Spreading Systems: Any discharge of industrial liquid wastes, by-product solids, or sludges to a landspreading or sludge spreading system as defined under ch. NR 214, Wis. Adm. Code are not eligible for this general permit. Landspreading and sludge spreading systems require regular pollutant monitoring, pollutant loading rates, and reporting to ensure that the system is functioning properly which another general permit or individual permit will provide. Discharges to other land treatment systems defined under ch. NR 214, Wis. Adm. Code will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for coverage under this general permit.

Accidental or Unplanned Discharges: Any discharge from any accidental or unplanned release, spill, leak, or overflow to a water of state is prohibited under State and Federal Law and not authorized by this general permit. However, this general permit does provide the necessary reporting procedures in case an accidental or unplanned discharge does occur to a water of the state.

Water Treatment Additives: The discharge shall not contain any unapproved water treatment additive, other than the additives found in the source water from the public water supply. The department does not consider discharges containing unapproved additives as low-impact discharges as many additives are toxic at certain rates to fish and aquatic life and require approval by the department prior to initiating use. Some additives found in the source water can be minimized by following best management practices. Moreover, this general permit does not cover water treatment additives requiring a usage restriction and effluent limits. In order to be covered under this general permit, discharges must not contain pollutants in concentrations that cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above any applicable water quality standards or groundwater quality standards.

Impaired Waters and TMDLs: This general permit is not applicable to discharges that will contain a pollutant in a measurable amount that will contribute to the impairment of a 303(d) listed impaired water or be in noncompliance with an approved Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL) for a watershed. Regulation of pollutants of concern to impaired waters or TMDLs are more appropriately

regulated by another general permit or individual permit which will provide more oversight, monitoring and discharge limitations necessary to protect these impaired waters.

Wetlands: Discharges covered under this permit shall meet the wetland protection requirements of ch. NR 103, Wis. Adm. Code, and shall not adversely impact wetlands in accordance with s. NR 106.61(1)(b), Wis. Adm. Code. For discharges that impact wetlands, a facility will need to submit information that allows the department to determine if a discharge meets code requirements.

Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Waters: Discharges to outstanding and exceptional resource waters in ch. NR 102, Wis. Adm. Code, are not authorized by this permit as specified in s. NR 106.61(1)(c), Wis. Adm. Code. Regulation of discharges to outstanding and exceptional resource waters requires an individual permit which provides the oversight, monitoring and discharge limitations necessary to protect these types of receiving waters. The permittee can use the surface water data viewer (<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater/swdv/>) to identify the outstanding and exceptional resource waters in the county where the discharge will occur.

Significant Lowering of Water Quality: In a case where a proposed discharge would result in the significant lowering of water quality in fish and aquatic life waters identified in s. NR 102.13, Wis. Adm. Code, Great Lakes system waters, and variance waters identified within ss. NR 104.05 through 104.10, Wis. Adm. Code, the discharge would not be authorized under this permit. The department requires that the applicant apply for coverage under an individual permit. The discharge will then be evaluated by the department under the antidegradation requirements of ch. NR 207, Wis. Adm. Code. The department may suggest that applicants evaluate a variety of options to ensure no significant lowering of water quality occurs in the receiving water. Options include improved wastewater treatment effectiveness, wastewater reuse, directing the discharge to a seepage area, an alternate discharge location, process changes to reduce the pollutant discharge level, pollutant prevention activities, etc.

Increased Discharges: According to s. NR 207.02(6)(a), Wis. Adm. Code, an “increased discharge” means any change in concentration, level or loading of a substance which would exceed an effluent limitation specified in a current WPDES permit. If a facility proposes an increased discharge to fish and aquatic life waters identified in s. NR 102.13, Wis. Adm. Code, Great Lakes system waters, and variance waters identified within ss. NR 104.05 through 104.10, Wis. Adm. Code, the discharge is not authorized under this permit. An evaluation of the proposed increased discharge would need to be conducted in accordance with the antidegradation requirements of ch. NR 207, Wis. Adm. Code. Regulation of increased discharges require the oversight, monitoring and discharge limitations of an individual permit as effluent limitations in a general permit cannot be modified for an individual discharger.

Hazardous Substances: Discharges of hazardous substances that are required to be reported under ch. NR 706, Wis. Adm. Code are not authorized by this permit. Exemptions for discharge of these substances require an individual permit which provides the oversight, monitoring and discharge limitations necessary to protect receiving waters. Section 292.11(2)(a), Wis. Stats., requires any person who possesses or controls a hazardous substance or who causes the discharge of a hazardous substance to notify the department **immediately** of any discharge not authorized by the permit.

Endangered and Threatened Resources: Discharges that affect endangered and threatened resources are not eligible for this permit, unless the department determines that the discharges comply with the endangered and threatened resource protection requirements of s. 29.604, Wis. Stats., and ch. NR 27, Wis. Adm. Code. Facilities with discharges that require more oversight to ensure that they do not violate these protection requirements may need to be covered by an individual permit. If the permittee has reason to believe that endangered and threatened resources will be impacted, then further Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) screening should be conducted by the permittee.

Please contact the [ER Review Program](#) if you need information about whether a proposed project may impact rare species or other sensitive resources.

Historical Properties: Discharges that will adversely affect any historic property that is listed property, or on the inventory or on the list of locally designated historic places under s. 44.45, Wis. Stats., are not eligible for this permit, unless the department determines that the discharges will not have an adverse effect on any historic property pursuant to s. 44.40(1), Wis. Stats. The department is required by law to review the project for historic preservation compliance. Please contact the [DNR Archaeologist](#) with any questions.

Discharges from Properties within Tribal Lands: The department does not issue WPDES permits within Tribal lands due to the state delegation agreement with U.S. EPA. In such instances, the Tribe or U.S. EPA regulates the discharge and would issue a discharge permit.

Surface Water Standards and Groundwater Standards: The discharges from facilities eligible for this permit shall not have a reasonable potential to exceed any applicable surface water or groundwater standards. This also includes any other applicable surface water quality standards downstream of the discharge (i.e. tribal or other states). Facilities with discharges that have a reasonable potential (as specified in ch. NR 106, Wis. Adm. Code) to violate any applicable surface water quality standards or ch. NR 140, Wis. Adm. Code, groundwater quality standards would normally require the increased oversight, monitoring and water quality limitations found in a site-specific individual permit.

1.3 Permit Exclusions

Below is an explanation for all discharges excluded from requiring coverage under this WPDES permit. This list is based on 40 CFR Part 122.3.

Holding Tanks: Any portion of the wastewater directed to a holding tank then pumped and hauled to publicly-owned wastewater treatment works (POTW) is excluded under this general permit as the POTW already has a WPDES general permit. Rather, this permit is applicable to low-impact discharges that are discharged to surface waters or indirectly to groundwaters via seepage

Publicly-Owned Treatment Works: Any portion of the wastewater directed to a publicly-owned treatment works (POTW) is excluded under this general permit as the POTW already has a WPDES general permit. Rather, this permit is applicable to low-impact discharges that are discharged to surface waters or indirectly to groundwaters via seepage

Privately-Owned Treatment Works: Any portion of the wastewater directed to a privately-owned treatment works is excluded from coverage under this general permit as these treatment works already have a WPDES general permit. Rather, this permit is applicable to low-impact discharges that are discharged to surface waters or indirectly to groundwaters via seepage.

1.4 Permit Coverage Area

In accordance with s. NR 205.08(2), Wis. Adm. Code, a general permit may cover more than one class or category of discharge, or more than one area of the state, provided the permit clearly identifies the conditions applicable to each included class or category, or each specific area of the state. Therefore, coverage under this permit may apply statewide or within a specific coverage area for applicants. Statewide coverage applies only to facilities that perform operations across the state of Wisconsin. Permittees do not need to reapply for permit coverage each time a discharge occur within the coverage area. If the discharge will occur outside of these areas, the discharger must reapply for coverage under this permit.

2 Obtaining Permit Coverage

2.1 Submittal of a Notice of Intent

In accordance with s. NR 205.08(3), Wis. Adm. Code, on a case-by-case basis the department may by letter require a discharger to submit a notice of intent (NOI) to be covered by a general permit. Additionally, general permits shall specify the deadlines for submitting NOI to be covered under the permit as specified by 40 CFR 122.28(b)(2)(iii). Therefore, the applicant must submit a complete NOI under the general permit to the department at least thirty (30) business days before the expected start date of discharge. As of December 21, 2020, all NOIs submitted in compliance with this section must be submitted electronically by the discharger in compliance with 40 CFR 122.28(b)(2)(i) and 40 CFR 127.

2.2 Incomplete NOI

In accordance with s. 283.37(6), Wis. Stats., the department may require the owner or operator to submit information regarding any discharge. Therefore, the department may require an applicant to submit data necessary to complete any deficient NOI, any additional data other than that requested in the NOI or a new complete NOI where the deficiencies are extensive or the appropriate form has not been used.

2.3 Granting of Coverage

In accordance with s. NR 205.08(3), Wis. Adm. Code, following receipt of a complete NOI, the department shall issue a determination on whether a discharger is covered by a general permit. Additionally, general permits shall specify whether a discharger that has submitted a complete and timely notice of intent to be covered in accordance with the general permit and that is eligible for coverage under the permit, is authorized to discharge in accordance with the permit upon receipt of notification of inclusion by the department pursuant to 40 CFR 122.28(b)(2)(iv). Therefore, the permit requires that the applicant receive a coverage letter from the department prior to commencing discharge to the waters of the state. Upon receipt of the coverage letter, the applicant is hereby granted coverage and authorized to discharge to the waters of the state under the general permit. If the applicant has not received a coverage letter from the department, they are not permitted to discharge.

Note: In accordance with s. NR 205.08(5), Wis. Adm. Code, if the department notifies an applicant that a discharge is ineligible for coverage under this general permit but still requires WPDES permit coverage, the applicant shall apply for and obtain coverage under an individual WPDES permit (or alternative general permit, if available) prior to discharging to the waters of the state. The necessary steps to apply for coverage under an individual permit can be found at the department website:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/PermitApplications.html>.

3 Discharge Screening Requirements

3.1 Discharge Screening Levels

The general permit may exclude specified sources from coverage in accordance with 40 CFR 122.28(a)(4)(ii). The discharge screening levels define a low impact discharge covered under this general permit. The applicant shall certify that the discharge complies with the following screening levels and narrative requirements and submit the certified discharge screening result together with in the NOI. Discharges that exceed discharge screening levels are more likely to contain high levels of pollutants which will require regular sampling and monitoring provided by another WPDES permit to protect water quality standards or groundwater quality standards. Applicants that exceed these levels shall apply for and obtain an alternative general permit (if available) or an individual WPDES permit. This permit is only applicable to discharges that do not contain pollutants in concentrations that cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above any applicable water quality standards or groundwater quality standards.

3.1.1 Discharge Sampling Requirements

The applicant shall sample the discharge for the parameters provided below. However, for certain discharge activities listed in Section 3.4, the department requires only a limited set of parameters to be sampled as part of this screening effort, as specified in Section 3.4. Applicants may use historical discharge data, if available, for screening results. The applicant shall provide the laboratory reports if the discharge sample was analyzed by a commercial laboratory.

pH Field: The pH range is between 6.0 to 9.0 standard units. This is consistent with the water quality standards pH range for waters classified for fish and aquatic life as defined in ch. NR 102.04(4)(c), Wis. Adm. Code.

Total Suspended Solids: The threshold level provided for total suspended solids (TSS) of 8.0 mg/L is one fifth the effluent limitation of 40 mg/L. The effluent limitation of 40 mg/L is achievable by applying best practicable control technology currently available for these types of discharges. This established effluent limit is based on the average of the best performance of typical treatment technologies used for TSS removal. This determination was based on best professional judgment in accordance with s. NR 220.21, Wis. Adm. Code. The one fifth of the limit method is based on reasonable potential procedures found in s. NR 106.05(6), Wis. Adm. Code.

Total BOD₅: The threshold level provided for total BOD₅ of 6.0 mg/L is one fifth the effluent limitation of 30 mg/L. The effluent limitation of 30 mg/L is achievable by applying best technology-based performance standards achievable. This established effluent level is based on the secondary treatment standards for municipal wastewater treatment facilities in s. NR 210.05(1)(a), Wis. Adm. Code for discharges to fish and aquatic life waters. This determination was based on best professional judgment in accordance with s. NR 220.21, Wis. Adm. Code. The one fifth of the limit method is based on reasonable potential procedures found in s. NR 106.05(6), Wis. Adm. Code.

Total Residual Chlorine: The total residual chlorine threshold level of 0.019 mg/L is based the acute water quality standard in Table 1 of s. NR 105.06, Wis. Adm. Code. However, test methods for total residual chlorine are unable to consistently achieve detections lower than the effluent limit. Therefore, the permittee may also demonstrate that if the chlorine levels are less than the limit of detection (LOD) using an acceptable analytical method that produces the lowest LOD and LOQ available then they meet the screening value. This screening method for chlorine is

consistent the limitations below the level of detection or quantification requirements in s. NR 106.07(6), Wis. Adm. Code.

The permittee shall not be adding chlorine or chlorine-based additives to the water as this addition will more than likely require permanent treatment to meet chlorine limits if discharging to surface water.

Oil & Grease: The threshold level for oil & grease of 3.0 mg/L is one fifth the effluent limitation of 15 mg/L. The effluent limitation of 15 mg/L is achievable by applying best practicable control technology currently available for these types of discharges. This established effluent limitation is based on the ability of simple oil/water separator equipment to easily remove oil and grease from the discharge to concentrations below 15 mg/L. This determination was based on best professional judgment in accordance with s. NR 220.21, Wis. Adm. Code. Permittees shall either use the hexane extractable material (HEM) or silica gel treated HEM test methods as provided in ch. NR 219, Wis. Adm. Code. The Freon Oil & Grease test method is no longer listed in ch. NR 219 as an approved method and therefore shall not be used anymore. The one fifth of the limit method is based on reasonable potential procedures found in s. NR 106.05(6), Wis. Adm. Code.

Maximum Temperature: These parameters were added to check that the temperature will not be harmful to humans (120 °F) for discharges to groundwater and will not impact aquatic life based on water quality temperature standards in ch. NR 102, Wis. Adm. Code. The discharge shall not have reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality standards for temperature based on applicable procedures in s. NR 106.56, Wis. Adm. Code.

Dissolved Oxygen: The permittee shall meet the dissolved oxygen criteria for discharges to surface water as specified in ss. NR 102.04(4)(a) and (b), Wis. Adm. Code.

Chloride: The chloride threshold level of 79 mg/L is one fifth the effluent limitation of 395 mg/L. The effluent limitation of 395 mg/L is based on the chronic water quality standard in Table 5 of s. NR 105.06, Wis. Adm. Code. The one fifth of the limit method is based on reasonable potential procedures found in s. NR 106.05(6), Wis. Adm. Code. The level of 79 mg/L only applies to surface water discharges. The chloride level of 125 mg/L is based on the groundwater preventative action limit (PAL) in Table 2 of s. NR 140.12, Wis. Adm. Code.

Total Phosphorus: The discharge shall not have reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality standards for phosphorus as specified in s. NR 102.06, Wis. Adm. Code. Total phosphorus reasonable potential procedures are found in s. NR 217.15, Wis. Adm. Code.

Ammonia: The ammonia levels shall not impact aquatic life based on water quality ammonia standards in ch. NR 105, Wis. Adm. Code. The discharge shall not have reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality standards for ammonia based on applicable procedures in s. NR 106.33, Wis. Adm. Code.

3.1.2 Discharge Narrative Requirements

The applicant shall certify that the discharge complies with the following narrative requirements in the NOI. The applicant shall evaluate the discharge based on data or knowledge of discharge collected by the applicant or on behalf of the applicant. During the permit term, the permittee shall evaluate the discharge narrative requirements based on visual inspection of the discharge.

All discharge narrative requirements in the permit are to ensure that narrative water quality standards will be met in accordance with ss. NR 102.04 and NR 103.03, Wis. Adm. Code and groundwater quality standards will be met in ch. NR 140, Wis. Adm. Code.

3.2 Submittal of Discharge Screening Results Prior to Expiration

According to s. 283.37(6), Wis. Stats., the department may require the owner or operator to submit information regarding any discharge for permit application. Discharge screening results submitted with the NOI are only valid for the term of the permit. Pursuant to s. 283.53(3)(a), Wis. Adm. Code, any permittee who wishes to continue to discharge after the expiration date of this general permit shall submit the screening results for the parameters listed in Section 3.1 within 180 days (~6 months) prior to the expiration date. Existing permittees may not submit historical discharge data for screening results pursuant to s. 283.53(3)(b)2., Wis. Stats.

3.3 Changes in Facility Operations

In accordance with s. NR 205.07(3)(c), Wis. Adm. Code, the permittee shall report to the department when they make any changes in their facility operations that may affect the discharge. If the changes do affect the discharge, the permittee shall resample the discharge for the parameters in Section 3.1 and submit the discharge screening results to the department. The department will then determine whether the facility may remain covered under this general permit based on the new discharge screening results.

3.4 Sampling for Certain Discharge Activities

In accordance with s. NR 205.08(3), Wis. Adm. Code, on a case-by-case basis the department may by letter require a discharger to submit information regarding a wastewater discharge which is to be covered by a general permit. At a minimum, applicants shall sample the discharge for the parameters listed in this subsection based on their discharge activity and discharge location. The applicant shall contact the department prior to submittal of NOI to request a waiver from sampling for certain discharge screening parameters. The list will help define the applicable sampling for certain discharge activities covered by the general permit and eliminate any unnecessary sampling for some dischargers. This list will also assist department staff in making an appropriate decision on what sampling a discharger needs to conduct for discharge screening.

3.5 Sampling for Statewide Operations

For facilities that perform statewide operations, this general permit allows the applicant to only collect one set of samples for the parameters listed in Section 3.4 from one discharge event that will be representative of all discharges occurring from standard operating procedures during the term of the permit.

4 Discharge Requirements

Permittees shall comply with the following discharge requirements.

4.1 Surface Water Discharge Requirements

Surface water discharges means any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance system including but not limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, swale or storm sewer that will carry wastewater to creeks, streams, ponds, marshes, bays, reservoirs, rivers, lakes, or other surface water within the state of Wisconsin. The following surface water discharge requirements are based on surface water narrative criteria to prevent exceedance of surface water standards.

Objectionable Deposits: The discharge shall not contain pollutants that will cause objectionable deposits on the shore or in the bed of a body of water in such amounts as to interfere with public rights in waters of the state based on s. NR 102.04(1)(a), Wis. Adm. Code.

Floating or Submerged Material: The discharge shall not contain pollutants that will cause floating or submerged debris, oil, scum or other material in such amounts as to interfere with public rights in waters of the state based on s. NR 102.04(1)(b), Wis. Adm. Code.

Un sightliness: The discharge shall not contain pollutants that will produce color, odor, taste or unsightliness in such amounts as to interfere with public rights in waters of the state based on s. NR 102.04(1)(c), Wis. Adm. Code.

Toxic Substances: The discharge shall not contain substances in concentrations or combinations which are toxic or harmful to humans in amounts found to be of public health significance, nor shall substances be present in amounts which are acutely harmful to animal, plant or aquatic life pursuant to s. NR 102.04(1)(d), Wis. Adm. Code.

Discharge Rate: The discharge flow rate shall be controlled along the discharge path to prevent the addition of sediment or turbidity from entering the receiving surface water. This is a practice to control industrial activities so that the conditions stated for objectionable deposits, floating or submerged material, unsightliness, and toxic substances are met at all times and under all flow and water level conditions pursuant to s. NR 102.04(1), Wis. Adm. Code.

Erosion Control: The discharge flow rate shall be controlled to prevent erosion at the end of pipe and within the receiving water. This is a practice to control industrial activities so that the conditions stated for objectionable deposits, floating or submerged material, unsightliness, and toxic substances are met at all times and under all flow and water level conditions pursuant to s. NR 102.04(1), Wis. Adm. Code.

Visible Oil Sheen or Film: The discharge shall not contain any visible oil sheen or film. This is a practice to control industrial activities so that the conditions stated for objectionable deposits, floating or submerged material, unsightliness, and toxic substances are met at all times and under all flow and water level conditions pursuant to s. NR 102.04(1), Wis. Adm. Code.

Visible Solids or Foam: The discharge shall not contain any visible solids or foam. This is a practice to control industrial activities so that the conditions stated for objectionable deposits, floating or submerged material, unsightliness, and toxic substances are met at all times and under all flow and water level conditions pursuant to s. NR 102.04(1), Wis. Adm. Code.

4.2 Groundwater Discharge Requirements

Groundwater discharge means any wastewater that is allowed to infiltrate or seep into the soil from a permeable surface including but not limiting to any drain field, agricultural field, ditch, swale, depression, trench or pit, adsorption pond, infiltration pond, rain garden, prairie, or vegetative area that may impact groundwater quality. The following groundwater discharge requirements are based on practices used by similar land treatment activities provided in ch. NR 214, Wis. Adm. Code. The provided practices will help prevent the runoff of the discharge into surface waters.

Discharge Location: The groundwater discharge shall occur on grass, soil, gravel areas, or seepage areas to the extent possible and infiltration of the discharge shall be maximized. This practice is based on s. NR 214.14(2)(a), Wis. Adm. Code.

Discharge Rate: The discharge flow rate shall be limited to a rate that can infiltrate into the soil surface as it is discharged. This practice is based on s. NR 214.14(2)(a), Wis. Adm. Code.

Runoff Control: The discharge flow rate shall be controlled to prevent runoff from the site into surface waters. This practice is based on s. NR 214.17(4)(d)3., Wis. Adm. Code.

Rainfall Events: The water may not be discharged during any rainfall events that cause runoff from the site into surface waters except if the infiltration area is located such that runoff from the area cannot enter a surface water. This practice is based on s. NR 214.14(3)(f), Wis. Adm. Code.

Erosion Control: The discharge flow rate shall be limited to prevent erosion when the vegetative cover has not developed sufficiently to anchor the soil and create the filter mat necessary for effective infiltration. This practice is based on s. NR 214.15(3)(d), Wis. Adm. Code.

Winter Operations: Discharges to groundwater may be allowed during frozen conditions provided infiltration is adequate to prevent long term ponding or pooling of water. Since infiltration decreases in the winter, the department may require storage during cold weather when feasible. This practice is based on s. NR 214.15(3)(e), Wis. Adm. Code.

Toxic Substances: The discharge shall not contain substances in concentrations or combinations which are toxic or harmful to humans in amounts found to be of public health significance, nor shall substances be present in amounts that will have a significant damaging effect on groundwater quality. This is based on s. NR 140.02(4), Wis. Adm. Code.

Groundwater Quality: The concentration of any wastewater parameter that may impact groundwater quality shall be limited at the point of discharge to a value that will minimize the concentration of the substance in the groundwater to the extent technically and economically feasible and prevent exceedance of the preventive action limit (PAL) in the groundwater. This condition is based on s. NR 214.14(3)(b), Wis. Adm. Code.

4.3 Wetland Discharge Requirements

Wetland discharge means any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance system including but not limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, swale, or storm sewer that will carry wastewater to wetlands within the state of Wisconsin. The following wetland discharge requirements are based on wetland narrative criteria to prevent exceedance of wetland water quality related functional values or uses.

No Practical Alternative Disposal: No practicable alternative disposal exists which would avoid discharge to the wetlands based on s. NR 103.08(4)(a)1., Wis. Adm. Code.

All Practical Measures to Minimize Impacts: All practicable measures to minimize adverse impacts of the affected wetlands have been taken based on s. NR 103.08(4)(a)2., Wis. Adm. Code.

Liquids, Fill or Other Solids: The discharge shall not contain any liquids, fill or other solids or gas present in such amounts which may cause significant adverse impacts to wetlands based on s. NR 103.03(2)(a), Wis. Adm. Code.

Floating or Submerged Material: The discharge shall not contain pollutants that will cause floating or submerged debris, oil, scum or other material in such amounts as to interfere with public rights or interests or which may cause significant adverse impacts to wetland based on s. NR 103.03(2)(b), Wis. Adm. Code.

Unsightliness: The discharge shall not contain pollutants that will produce color, odor, taste or unsightliness in such amounts which may cause significant adverse impacts to wetlands based on s. NR 103.03(2)(c), Wis. Adm. Code.

Toxic Substances: The discharge shall not contain substances in concentrations or combinations which are toxic or harmful to humans, animal or plant life and be present in such amounts which individually or cumulatively may cause significant impacts to wetlands based on s. NR 103.03(2)(d), Wis. Adm. Code.

Hydrological Conditions: Based on s. NR 103.03(2)(e), Wis. Adm. Code, the discharge shall be controlled to protect hydrological conditions necessary to support the biological and physical characteristics naturally present in wetlands and to prevent significant adverse impacts on the following:

1. Water currents, erosion or sedimentation patterns;
2. Water temperature variations;
3. The chemical, nutrient and dissolved oxygen regime of the wetland;
4. The movement of aquatic fauna;
5. The pH of the wetland; and
6. Water levels or elevations

Wetland Habitats, Animals, and Vegetation: Based on s. NR 103.03(2)(f), Wis. Adm. Code, the discharge shall be controlled to maintain existing habitats and the populations of wetland animals and vegetation by:

1. Protecting food supplies for fish and wildlife,
2. Protecting reproductive and nursery areas, and
3. Preventing conditions conducive to the establishment or proliferation of nuisance organisms.

5 Best Management Practice (BMP) Requirements

Explanation of Requirements

Clean Water Act (CWA) sections 402(a)(1) and (2) gives the permitting authority the ability to include BMPs in permits on a case-by-case basis to carry out the provisions of the CWA. CWA section 402(p) authorizes permits for stormwater discharges to include BMPs. But the discharges covered under this general permit do not include stormwater discharges. Section NR 205.10, Wis. Adm. Code provides that best management practices to control or abate the discharge of pollutants shall be included in a permit in all of the following cases:

- a. **When the permit is authorized under section 33 USC 1314(e) for the control of toxic pollutants and hazardous substances from ancillary industrial activities.**

Discharges covered under this general permit do not contain toxic pollutants and hazardous substance from ancillary industrial activities. Therefore, this general permit does not meet the requirement under s. NR 205.10(1), Wis. Adm. Code.

- b. **Numeric effluent limitations are infeasible.**

Discharges covered by this general permit are not to contain pollutants in concentrations that cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above any applicable water quality standards in chs. NR 102, NR 103, NR 104, NR 105, NR 106, NR 207, and NR 217 Wis. Adm. Code or any applicable groundwater quality standards in ch. NR 140, Wis. Adm. Code. Although numeric effluent limitations are not necessary, it does not mean that numeric effluent limitations are infeasible. However, numeric effluent limitations may be infeasible for some processes covered by this general permit and the BMPs in this general permit would serve as effluent limitations for that process. Many low-impact discharges are very small or infrequent. The pollutant concentration and loading and volume of the water from these discharges would be quite variable over time. Ultimately the concentrations and volumes of wastewater would be difficult to measure in a way that provides useful chemical analyses. Additionally, it may be hard to get a sample that is representative of the actual discharge to surface water as many discharges are indirect. For example, the discharge occurs on the ground prior to reaching surface water or in a lengthy storm sewer pipe before reaching an outfall into the surface water. It may be challenging to develop effluent guidelines or water quality based effluent limitations from any provided data.

- c. **The practices are reasonably necessary to achieve effluent limitations and standards or carry out the purpose and intent of the CWA.**

Implementation of the developed BMPs in this general permit may provide reasonable control of the discharges covered to achieve concentrations that do not cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above any applicable water quality standards in chs. NR 102, NR 103, NR 104, NR 105, NR 106, NR 207, and NR 217 Wis. Adm. Code or any applicable groundwater quality standards in ch. NR 140, Wis. Adm. Code. Therefore, the developed BMPs for low-impact discharges would be reasonably necessary to achieve effluent limitations and standards.

Since Part b. and c. are true, the permit shall contain BMPs to control or abate low-impact discharges to the waters of the state.

The BMPs listed in this section were developed and based on general guidance contained in the publication entitled *Guidance Manual for Developing Best Management Practices (BMPs)*, EPA 833-B-93-004, www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/owm0274.pdf.

5.1 Facility Site Evaluation and Assessment

The permittee shall identify potential pollutant sources at the facility site which could release pollutants during discharge and identify appropriate preventive measures. The facility site evaluation and assessment can provide a focus for the range of BMPs being considered on those activities and areas of a facility where the risks (considering the potential for release and the hazard posed) are the greatest. In some cases, the assessment may be performed based on experience and knowledge of the substances and circumstances involved. In other cases, more detailed analyses may be necessary to provide the correct focus, and release assessments may then rely on some of the techniques of risk assessment (e.g., pathway analysis, toxicity, relative risk). Understanding the dangers of releases involves both an understanding of the hazards each potential pollutant poses to human health and the environment, as well as the probability of release due to the facility's methods of storage, handling, and/or transportation.

5.2 Inspection Program

The inspection program act as oversight mechanisms to ensure that selected BMPs are being implemented and allow the permittee to determine if the discharge will be consistent with the discharge requirements in Section 4. Inspections are also particularly effective in evaluating the good housekeeping and preventative maintenance programs that will be implemented at the facility.

Inspections implemented as part of the BMP plan should cover those equipment and facility areas identified during the facility site evaluation and assessment as having the highest potential for environmental releases. Since inspections may vary in scope and detail, an inspection program should be developed to prevent redundancy while still ensuring adequate oversight and evaluation.

Many facilities may be currently conducting inspections, but in a less formalized manner. Security scans, site reviews, and facility walk throughs conducted by plant managers and other such personnel qualify as inspections. These types of reviews, however, are often limited in scope and detail. To ensure the objectives of the BMP plan are met, these types of reviews should be conducted concurrently with periodic, in-depth inspections as part of a comprehensive inspection program.

5.3 Security Plan

The security program as part of the BMP plan should be designed to meet two goals. First, the security plan should prevent security breaches that result in the release of hazardous or toxic chemicals to the environment. The second goal is to effectively utilize the observation capabilities of the security plan to identify actual or potential releases to the environment.

As part of the BMP plan, the security program should focus on the areas that result in environmental releases. Typically, these areas have been identified in the facility site evaluation and assessment step. In many cases, the findings of this step may indicate a need to change the focus or broaden the scope of the security program to include areas of the facility addressed by the BMP plan. Since the security program may not be common knowledge, general BMP committee members may not be able to recommend changes. As a result, security personnel should be involved in the decisions made by the committee, with one person possibly serving as a member.

5.4 Employee BMP Training Program

Employee training conducted as part of the BMP plan is a method used to instill in personnel, at all levels of responsibility, a complete understanding of the BMP plan, including the reasons for developing the plan, the positive impacts of the plan, and employee and managerial responsibilities under the BMP plan. The employee training program should also educate employees about the general importance of preventing the release of pollutants to water, air, and land.

Employee training conducted as part of the BMP plan should focus on those employees with direct impact on plan implementation. This may include personnel involved with manufacturing, production, waste treatment and disposal, shipping/receiving, or materials storage; areas where processes and materials have been identified as being of concern; and preventative maintenance, security, and inspection programs. Training programs, which include all appropriate personnel, should include instruction on spill response, containment, and cleanup. Generally, the employee training program should serve to improve and update technical, managerial, or administrative skills; increase motivation; and introduce incentives for BMP plan implementation.

5.5 Good Housekeeping Program

Good housekeeping is essentially the maintenance of a clean, orderly work environment. Maintaining an orderly facility means that materials and equipment are neat and well-kept to prevent releases to the environment. The permittee shall implement good housekeeping program to prevent the discharge of pollutants to a water of the state.

Some examples of commonly implemented good housekeeping measures include the orderly storage of bags, drums, and piles of chemicals; prompt cleanup of spilled liquids to prevent significant runoff to receiving waters; expeditious sweeping, vacuuming, or other cleanup of accumulations of dry chemicals to prevent them from reaching receiving waters; and proper disposal of toxic and hazardous wastes to prevent contact with and contamination of storm water runoff.

5.6 Preventative Maintenance Program

Preventive maintenance (PM) is a method of periodically inspecting, maintaining, and testing BMPs, and plant equipment and systems to uncover conditions which could cause breakdowns or failures. As part of a BMP plan, PM focusses on preventing environmental releases. Most facilities have existing PM programs. It is not the intent of the BMP plan to require development of a redundant PM program. Instead, the objective is to have personnel evaluate their existing PM program and recommend changes, if needed, to address concerns raised as part of the facility site evaluation and assessment and the inspection program. Ultimately, this will result in the focus of preventive maintenance on the areas and pollutants determined to be of most concern. Where no re-focusing is necessary, the PM program suggested as part of the BMP plan and the existing PM program can be identical. Ultimately, a well operated PM program devised to support the BMP plan should produce environmental benefits of decreased releases to the environment, as well as reducing total maintenance costs and increasing the efficiency and longevity of equipment, systems, and structures.

5.7 Erosion and Sediment Control Practices

These practices are added to control the flow rate velocity to prevent the pollutants from entering a water of the state from runoff or erosion during discharge. These practices are based on erosion control best management practices used at construction sites for stormwater in ch. NR 216.46(8), Wis. Adm. Code.

5.8 Dechlorination Methods

The permittee shall implement dechlorination methods that will reduce the chlorine concentration already found in the source water from public water supply prior to discharge to surface waters. Chlorine concentrations in public water supply are known to exceed the water quality standards for chlorine (0.019 µg/L). However, the concentration in the source water should be low enough where chlorine can be dissipated by nature means. The nature dissipation of chlorine will only occur in situations where the effluent is exposed to the atmosphere. Therefore, the chlorine concentration entering a surface water may be significantly lower if the effluent first runs over the ground surface or enters a storm sewer system prior to entering the surface water in question. Moreover, the system in which the water is used may reduce the chlorine level. If the source water is groundwater from private

wells located at the facility, dechlorination is not necessary. To remain covered under this general permit, permittees shall not be adding any chlorine or chlorine-based compounds to the source water as this addition will more than likely require permanent treatment to meet chlorine limits if discharging to surface water.

5.9 Treatment Control Practices

If treatment is necessary to correct the discharge inconsistency observed in Section 5.2, the permittee shall implement temporary treatment practices that will control the effluent quality prior to discharge to a water of the state. At a minimum, the temporary treatment practices shall meet the discharge screening levels in Section 3.

5.10 Contingency Plan

The permittee shall develop a contingency plan to minimize the duration of discharge during system failures (i.e. line breaks, leaks, or overflows) or spills. The permittee shall train employees on the contingency plan. This general permit does not authorize discharges from any accidental or unplanned release, spill, leak, or overflow to a water of the state.

5.11 Recordkeeping and Reporting Procedures

As part of a BMP plan, recordkeeping focuses on maintaining records that are pertinent to actual or potential environmental releases. These records may include the background information gathered as part of the BMP plan, the BMP plan itself, inspection reports, PM records, employee training materials, and other pertinent information.

Maintenance of records is ineffective unless a program for the review of records is set forth. In particular, a system of reporting actual or potential problems to appropriate personnel must be included. Reporting, as it relates to the BMP plan, is a method by which appropriate personnel are kept informed of BMP plan implementation such that appropriate actions may be determined and expeditiously taken. Reporting may be verbal or follow a more formal notification procedure.

Reports maintained in the recordkeeping system can be used in evaluating the effectiveness of the BMP plans, as well as when revising the BMP plan. Additionally, these records provide an oversight mechanism which allows the BMP committee to ensure that any detected problem has been adequately resolved.

5.12 BMPs for Outside Washing of Vehicles, Equipment, and other Objects

The following BMPs are specific to discharges from outside washing of vehicles, equipment, and other objects.

5.12.1 Washing Location

Solids and particulates are a primary concern for discharges to surface waters. Solids and particulates can cover stream beds and affect fish and plant life as well as being unsightly. Solids and particulates are not a significant concern when it comes to discharges to groundwater since soils serve as a natural filter to remove these contaminants. Therefore, the preferred BMP for handling washwater containing solids and particulates, is to direct washwater to a seepage area, such as a grassy area, so that solids are trapped by the soil as the washwater seeps to groundwater.

5.12.2 Washing on Impervious Surfaces

If washing occurs on impervious surfaces, washwater shall be properly managed to prevent discharge to surface waters or go through solids removal prior to discharge to surface waters. BMPs for solids removal are designed to separate the solids from the washwater by (1) slowing

down the velocity of the washwater or holding the washwater for a period of time to allow solids to settle out or (2) trapping the solids in a filter prior to discharge to surface waters. Settling can be accomplished in a number of ways. Temporary settling basins can be constructed of sandbags or straw bales, a temporarily blocked off storm drain, or a low spot in the terrain. A settling tank is an example of a more permanent settling basin. When the same site is used to wash many vehicles over an extended period of time, a permanent settling basin will probably be easier to manage. Removal of solids by filtration usually entails the use of a silt fence or other similar structure. Collected solids must be periodically removed from settling and filtration areas to ensure continued settling and filtration capacity and to avoid solids to be carried over to surface waters during periods of high flow.

5.12.3 Building Washing

For building washing, washwater shall be properly managed to prevent discharge to surface waters or go through solids and paint removal prior to discharge to surface waters. Paint chips removed from buildings with high-pressure water must be settled from washwater prior to discharge and disposal in a sanitary landfill. When lead-based paint is peeled from a building with high-pressure water, special precautions are necessary to collect the lead paint chips and washwater. Contact local health officials or this Department for special requirements for lead based paint removal.

5.12.4 Washing of Oily Equipment or Objects

A discharge of oil and grease poses an environmental concern to both surface waters and groundwater. Some of the concerns for surface waters include the impairment of activities of aquatic plants and animals. For groundwater, the concern is the petroleum products will not be filtered out by the soil and will eventually seep into the groundwater. Very small amounts of petroleum can negatively impact groundwater. Therefore, there is no real preferred discharge option for washwater contaminated with oil and grease. Treatment must be provided to remove the oil and grease prior to discharge. Once the oil and grease has been removed, the washwater can be discharged to groundwater or surface waters.

There are two primary methods of removing oil and grease. A good system will be able to remove all visible oil to the point where there is no visible oil sheen floating on the surface of the washwater. This would be equivalent to 15 mg/L oil and grease or less in a laboratory analysis. One system is a gravity oil/water separator, which provides a tank where washwater slows down and allows oil, grease, and other petroleum products to float to the top. The petroleum then can be skimmed off, collected, and disposed of properly while the treated washwater is discharged to groundwater or surface waters. Another method is to use an absorbent material that will selectively absorb petroleum from water. This material could be placed directly in the water channel through which the washwater is discharged or placed directly on the surface of the washwater where the oil and grease has accumulated prior to discharge to surface waters or seepage to groundwater.

Oil/water separator devices need to be serviced periodically to removed collected oil and grease. Absorbent materials will need periodic servicing which could mean replacing the media or squeezing out the collected oil so that the material is rejuvenated. Wastes collected from the servicing of oil and grease treatment systems must be disposed of at a Department regulated operation. The local Department Waste Management Specialist can provide the best information on how to dispose of this type of waste.

Washwater with an oil and grease sheen resulting from incidental contact with an engine or oily piece of equipment not from intentional degreasing, is most easily treated with an oil absorbent material, such as an oil/water boom, although an oil/water separator device can be used.

Incidental contact should not result in significant amount of oil and grease being present in the washwater.

Washwater from degreasing operations (nonemergency or emergency steam or high-pressure water degreasing of engines or oily pieces of equipment) can contain a large amount of oil and grease. Since nonemergency degreasing can be planned, it shall occur on an impermeable surface (concrete, asphalt, thick plastic sheeting, or other impermeable barrier) so that the water can be collected or containerized. Given that emergency degreasing occurs without notice and under varying site conditions, it is recognized that an impermeable surface may not always be available. Washwater from emergency degreasing shall be collected or containerized to the maximum extent possible, most likely by using thick plastic sheeting. If possible, water that could not be collected or containerized and forms puddles of water should be treated with an oil absorbent material if oil sheen is present.

A possible discharge option is to haul containerized degreasing washwater to a POTW, if allowed by the POTW. Any collected/containerized washwater that is discharged to groundwater or surface waters shall be treated with an oil/water separator or oil absorbent material, such as an oil/water boom, prior to discharge.

5.12.5 Detergents

Comments received from affected parties have indicated that it does not seem workable or practical to prohibit the use of detergents for cleaning and impractical to treat surfactant removal. As such, BMPs for detergents include: (1) requiring the use of biodegradable detergents and (2) limiting the use or amount of detergent to the maximum extent possible. Most detergents used in washing activities contain a surfactant and may contain small quantities of phosphorus. Phosphorus contributes to algae growth in surface waters, thus making it important to limit the amount of phosphorus discharged to lakes and streams. Surfactants can be detrimental to surface waters because even biodegradable surfactants reduce the dissolved oxygen concentration in the surface water as they degrade. Although surfactants can impact groundwater quality, the preferred method of discharge for washwater containing detergents is to direct washwater to a seepage area, such as a grassy area. However, if discharging to seepage is not an option, in addition to the BMPs listed above, only low phosphate, less than 0.5%, or non-phosphate detergents can be used in washing operations with discharges to surface waters. The discharge shall be free of visible foam. The Department recommends that if a high-volume washing operation requires detergents or other cleaning chemicals, the wastewater should be directed to a sanitary sewer or some other type of wastewater treatment system.

5.12.6 Degreasing Chemicals

Degreasing chemicals that contain halogenated hydrocarbon cannot be used in conjunction with this permit. Chemical degreasing with solvents, such as trichlorethylene, poses a high risk of water contamination and is not allowed under this permit. These chemicals should not be discharged to any plumbing system; rather wiping off and disposal as a solid waste is preferred. Moreover, the use of a biodegradable paint or varnish stripper does not mean this material is safe to be washed down a storm drain. The resulting material that is washed off will contain whatever was removed and will need to be collected and disposed of in a sanitary sewer.

5.12.7 Chemical Brighteners/Cleaners

Comments received from truck washers explained that it is common practice to spray acid and other chemical cleaners on the outwardly visible metal components of semi-trailers during the washing operation in order to loosen dirt and enhance appearance. The Department is concerned that mismanagement of these types of chemical brighteners could cause metal ions to be washed

off in the washwater and/or significantly change the pH of the washwater discharge. However, it is believed that with careful chemical management (which is to be accomplished by limiting application of the brighteners to only the aforementioned metal components and limiting quantities of brighteners applied), the discharge will be acceptable. A significant change in the wastewater pH indicates excessive use of cleaning chemicals. The operator is encouraged to periodically monitor the pH of the wastewater during this phase of the washing process and to develop a plan to minimize the use of chemical brighteners. The pH limits in the permit are based on water quality standards for waters classified as fish and aquatic life in s. NR 102.04(4)(c), Wis. Adm. Code.

5.12.8 Road Deicing Agents

One of the primary reasons for washing vehicles and equipment in the winter is to remove road salt, which is generally sodium chloride, and other road deicing agents that have accumulated on the bodies of the vehicle and equipment. This can result in a significant quantity of chloride ions being dissolved in the washwater. Chloride ions cannot be removed by settling or filtering and there is no effective way of removing them from washwater. Chloride ions can have a detrimental effect on both surface waters and groundwater. A concentration of 757 mg/L is the level of concern for discharges to surface waters. This is approximately the concentration at which chloride can be toxic to aquatic life as a result of short-term exposure (acute toxicity). Impact on aquatic life associated with long term exposure (chronic toxicity) to chloride is lower than 757 mg/L, but since washing operations are intermittent, chronic toxicity is not considered a significant concern. The chloride limit is based on acute toxicity criteria in Table 1 of s. NR 105.06, Wis. Adm. Code.

For discharges to groundwater from washing operations, 250 mg/L is the level of concern based on the enforcement standard for drinking water which is groundwater quality standard from ch. NR 140, Wis. Adm. Code. This assumes that there will be no dilution of the washwater as it percolates down through the soil and mixes with groundwater. More study is needed to determine if chlorides discharged from vehicle washing are near these concentration levels. Operators are encouraged to discharge washwater with high chloride concentrations to a POTW, if allowed by the POTW. Where this is not possible, reducing the amount of chloride discharged to surface waters or groundwater can be accomplished by limiting the frequency and number of vehicles and equipment washed at a site. In addition, vehicles and equipment associated with road deicing should have deicing agents removed from areas where they have accumulated, typically by sweeping. The removed deicing agents shall be collected and handled in accordance with ch. TRANS 277, Wis. Adm. Code.

5.13 BMPs for Statewide Coverage

The following BMPs are specific to facilities who perform statewide operations.

5.13.1 Discharge Management Practices

Statewide operations may involve discharge to various locations like wetlands, surface waters, or groundwater via infiltration. Therefore, permittees that perform statewide operations shall develop discharge management practices for all discharge types. The practices will ensure that the permittee is complying with all discharge requirements provided in this general permit. The permittee shall include the discharge management practices in the BMP plan.

5.13.2 Impaired Waters, Wetlands, Outstanding or Exceptional Resource Waters

Statewide operations may encounter impaired waters, wetlands, outstanding resource waters, and exceptional resource waters as potential discharge locations. However, this general permit does not allow direct discharge to outstanding or exceptional resource water. Nor does this general permit allow discharge to wetlands or impaired waters unless approved by the Department. Therefore, permittees who perform statewide operations shall develop procedures to properly identify and screen for impaired waters, wetlands, outstanding resource waters, and exceptional resource waters. The permittee shall include the impaired waters, wetlands, outstanding resource waters, and exceptional resource waters identification procedures in the BMP plan. The permittee may use the surface water data viewer (<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater/swdv/>) to identify wetlands or outstanding and exceptional resource waters in the county where the discharge will occur.

5.13.3 Alternative Disposal Procedures

This general permit does not allow direct discharge to outstanding or exceptional resource water. Nor does it allow discharge to impaired waters and wetlands unless approved by the Department. Therefore, permittees who perform statewide operations shall develop alternative disposal procedures to avoid discharging to impaired waters, wetlands, outstanding resource waters, and exceptional resource waters. The permittee may discharge to wetlands if the wetland discharge requirements in this general permit are met. The permittee may discharge to impaired waters if the discharge does not contain a pollutant of concern that will significantly contribute to the impairment of the impaired water or be in noncompliance with the approved TMDL. The permittee shall include the alternative disposal procedures in the BMP plan.

5.13.4 Seven (7)-Day Discharge Notification

Permittees that have statewide coverage for discharges under this permit, the permittee shall notify the department at least seven (7) calendar days prior to discharge to the waters of state. This notification will keep the department informed of discharge activities happening throughout state in case of the need for inspection or complaints. The method of notification (phone message, email, letter, etc.) will be a process agreed upon by the permittee and the department. The notification shall include a description of their discharge strategies and discharge location pursuant to s. 283.37(6), Wis. Stats. The best management practice plan shall contain a description of this seven-day notification and the agreed upon method of notification. On a case-by-case basis the department may by letter require the permittee to submit additional information regarding a wastewater discharge which is covered by a general permit in accordance with s. NR 205.08(3), Wis. Adm. Code. The permittee shall also notify the department seven (7) calendar days after discontinuing the discharge.

6 Best Management Practice (BMP) Plan Requirements

The BMP plan requirements listed in this section were developed and based on general guidance contained in the publication entitled *Guidance Manual for Developing Best Management Practices* (BMPs), EPA 833-B-93-004, www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/owm0274.pdf

6.1 Implementation

The permittee shall develop and implement a best management practice (BMP) plan for their discharge(s) to a water of the state. Alternatively, permittees with statewide coverage for temporary discharges, or entities with coverage at multiple facilities with continuous/recurring discharges at a single site may need only to prepare one BMP plan if the BMP plan includes all applicable discharge types (i.e. groundwater, surface waters, and wetlands). The permittee shall operate the facility consistent with a department approved BMP plan and in accordance with subsequent amendments to the plan.

6.2 Purpose

Through implementation of the BMP plan the permittee must prevent or minimize the generation and the potential for the release of pollutants from the facility to the waters of the state through normal operations and ancillary activities.

6.3 Objective

The permittee shall develop and amend the BMP plan consistent with the following objectives:

- a. The number and quantity of pollutants and the toxicity of effluent generated, discharged, or potentially discharged at the facility shall be minimized or eliminated by the permittee to the extent technically and economically feasible by managing each waste stream in the most appropriate manner.
- b. Under the BMP plan, and any Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) included in the plan, the permittee shall ensure proper operation and maintenance of all facilities and systems of treatment and control as required by Section 8.3.7.
- c. The permittee shall establish and document specific BMPs from the BMP requirements in Section 5 to ensure the discharge is consistent with the discharge requirements in Section 4 and meets the discharge screening levels in Section 3.

6.4 BMP Plan Committee

The permittee shall establish a BMP plan committee that will be responsible for establishing and carrying out the BMP plan. A BMP plan committee should be comprised of interested staff within the facility's organization. The committee will represent the company's interests in all phases of BMP plan development, implementation; oversight, and plan evaluation. Personnel selected to BMP plan committee may represent all affected facility areas. Members might also be selected based on their areas of expertise (e.g., industrial processes). Generally, the size selection process outlined below presents a good rule of thumb:

- For small facilities, a single committee member is acceptable as long as that person has the necessary knowledge and authority.
- For larger facilities, selection of six to eight people as permanent members of the committee should be ideal.

6.5 BMP Plan Submittal

According to s. 283.37(6), Wis. Stats., the department may require the owner or operator to submit information regarding any discharge. Applicants shall submit a complete BMP plan with the submittal of the NOI to the department for approval. The department permit coverage letter will explicitly indicate the approval of the BMP plan

6.6 BMP Plan Content

The BMP plan shall, at a minimum, describe the information required in the permit under this section. The information provided in the BMP plan will help the department determine and track compliance with the requirements in the permit. Additionally, the information will help the permittee properly operate and manage all discharge activities.

6.7 Documentation

The permittee shall maintain a copy of the BMP plan at the facility and must make the plan available to department inspection or submitted to the department upon request. All offices of the permittee, which are required to maintain a copy of the general permit, must also maintain a copy of the BMP plan. The permittee shall ensure that on-site personnel directly involved with discharge activities have access to the BMP plan at all times while at the discharge location(s).

6.8 BMP Plan Review

The operations at an industrial facility are expected to be dynamic and therefore subject to periodic change. As such, the BMP plan cannot remain effective without modifications to reflect facility changes. At a minimum, the BMP plan shall be revisited annually by the BMP plan committee to ensure that it fulfills its stated objectives and remains applicable. This time-dated approach allows for the consideration of new perspectives gained through the implementation of the BMP plan, as well as the reflection of new directives, emerging technologies, and other such factors.

6.9 BMP Plan Modification

The permittee shall amend the BMP plan whenever there is a change in the facility, or in the operation of the facility, that materially increases the generation of pollutants or their release or potential release to the receiving waters. The permittee must also amend the plan, as appropriate, when plant operations covered by the BMP plan change. Any such changes to the BMP plan shall be consistent with this general permit. The permittee shall notify the department when the BMP plan is amended to determine if the amendment requires department approval.

6.10 Modification for Ineffectiveness

If at any time the BMP plan proves to be ineffective in achieving the general objective of preventing, eliminating, or minimizing the generation of pollutants and their release and potential release to the waters of the state and/or the specific requirements in this general permit, the general permit and/or the BMP plan shall be subject to modification to incorporate revised BMP requirements.

7 Water Treatment Additives

7.1 Use of Water Treatment Additives

Permittees shall not add any substance or water treatment water treatment additive to the discharge unless the use of the water treatment additive is reviewed and approved, in writing, by the department. Examples of water treatment water treatment additives include biocides (i.e. algaecides, microbicides, fungicides, molluscicides, etc.), water quality conditioners (i.e. scale and corrosion inhibitors, pH adjustment chemicals, oxygen scavengers, conditioning agents, and water softening compounds, etc.), erosion control products, and clarifying agents.

7.2 Approval of Water Treatment Additives Usage

On April 23rd, 2015, the department released guidance entitled “Water Quality Review Procedures for Additives” (3400-2015-03), which is available at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/Guidance.html>. This guidance supports the authority of s. 283.31(3)(d)1., ss. NR 102.04, NR 103.03, NR 105.02(3), NR 105.05, and NR 106.05(1)(b), Wis. Adm. Code, to protect Wisconsin’s water resources from such products. This guidance document establishes procedures to calculate secondary acute and chronic values for water-applied or land-applied additives pursuant to ss. NR 105.05 and 105.06, Wis. Adm. Code. Secondary acute values are the concentrations of a pollutant in surface water that protect aquatic life from adverse short-term effects. Therefore, facilities shall submit information regarding the toxicity of any added substances or additives to the discharge as specified in the permit, so the department can determine if it is allowable and will not negatively impact aquatic life or human health. The department shall also be informed of significant changes in additive usage or new additives that would raise the potential for negative impacts on aquatic life or human health.

For each water treatment additive used, the permittee shall submit a copy of the Additive Review Worksheet (Form 3400-213) to the department. Upon approval, the permittee shall comply with the conditions specified in the approval. An additive review is not required for additives with active ingredients consisting of chlorine, hypochlorite, sulfuric acid, hydrochloric acid or sodium hydroxide. Moreover, chemicals used in an industrial process generating wastewater that eventually receives treatment or chemicals added as part of wastewater treatment process (such as ferric chloride, alum or pickle liquor) are not considered water treatment additives and need not require an additive review.

7.3 Water Treatment Additive Usage Record

Facilities are required to maintain records of additive use for department inspection. Recording additive use will provide documentation for the facility and the department to verify that the additive is being used and discharged in accordance with the permit requirements.

8 Standard Requirements

The new permit provides a Standard Requirements section that contains conditions and requirements that are, for the most part, applicable to all industrial permittees.

8.1 Reporting Requirements

According to s. NR 205.08(2), Wis. Adm. Code, the department may include reporting requirements in general permits. The reporting requirements are included by reference from ss. NR 205.07(1) and (3), Wis. Adm. Code.

8.2 General Conditions for General Permits

According to s. NR 205.08(2), Wis. Adm. Code, the department may include general conditions in general permits. The general conditions for general permits are included by reference from 40 CFR Parts 122.28(b)(2)(i), 122.61(b) and 122.64(c), and s. NR 205.07(1)(i), Wis. Adm. Code.

8.3 General Conditions for WPDES Permits

The general conditions for WPDES permits are included by reference from chs. NR 106.07(6m), NR 205.07(1) and (3), NR 219.037, Wis. Adm. Code, and 33 US 1251.

9 Summary of Reports Due

A summary of reports due has been added for informational purposes for permittee and to be consistent with individual WPDES permits.

Attachments

- A. Definitions
- B. Notice of Intent Form
- C. Best Management Practice (BMP) Plan Form

Prepared by:

Trevor J. Moen
Wastewater Engineer
Bureau of Water Quality

Date: 02/17/2020

Attachment A – Definitions

The definitions of terms used in this general permit are based on their applicability to the type of operations and activity covered under this general permit. The definitions of these terms are included by reference from 40 CFR 122.2 and chs. NR 103, NR 106, NR 200, NR 110, NR 211, and NR 205, Wis. Adm. Code. Definitions not specifically outlined in this section can be found in Wisconsin Administrative Code, Wisconsin Statutes, or 40 CFR. Each term is provided with its code reference. If the terms below are found to be inconsistent with the definition in code, permittees shall refer to the code definition.

Best Management Practices

Best management practices or BMPs means schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the pollution of waters of the state. BMPs also include treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices to control plant site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw material storage. (40 CFR 122.2)

Business Days

Business days means each day except Saturday; Sunday; January 1; the third Monday in January, which shall be the day of celebration for January 15; the last Monday in May, which shall be the day of celebration for May 30; July 4; the first Monday in September; the 4th Thursday in November; December 24; December 25; December 31; and the day following if January 1, July 4 or December 25 falls on Sunday. (s. NR 200.02(1), Wis. Adm. Code)

Contaminated Storm Water

Contaminated storm water means a point source discharge of storm water which the department has identified as a significant contributor of pollution. (s. NR 205.03(9), Wis. Adm. Code)

Domestic Wastewater

Domestic wastewater means the type of wastewater normally discharged from plumbing facilities in private dwellings or commercial domestic establishments and includes, but is not limited to, sanitary, bath, laundry, dishwashing, garbage disposal and cleaning wastewaters. (s. NR 205.03(14), Wis. Adm. Code)

Groundwater

Groundwater means the portion of subsurface water which is within the zone of saturation and includes but is not limited to perched water tables, shallow regional groundwater tables, and aquifers or zones that are seasonally, periodically or permanently saturated. (s. NR 205.03(17), Wis. Adm. Code)

Limit of Detection

Limit of detection or LOD means the lowest concentration level that can be determined to be significantly different from a blank for that analytical test method and sample matrix. (s. NR 106.03(8), Wis. Adm. Code)

Limit of Quantitation

Limit of quantitation or LOQ means the concentration of an analyte at which one can state with a degree of confidence for that analytical test method and sample matrix that an analyte is present at a specific concentration on the sample tested. (s. NR 106.03(9), Wis. Adm. Code)

Municipal Wastewater

Municipal wastewater means the mixture of domestic, process and other wastewater tributary to any given municipal sanitary sewage or treatment system. (s. NR 205.03(19), Wis. Adm. Code)

Process Wastewater

Process wastewater means any water which, during manufacturing or processing, comes into direct contact with or results from the production or use of any raw material, intermediate product, finished product, byproduct, or waste product, and is likely to contain in solution or suspension various components of such raw materials or products. (*s. NR 205.03(30), Wis. Adm. Code*)

Publicly-Owned Treatment Works

Publicly-owned treatment works or POTW means a treatment works which is owned by a municipality and any sewers that convey wastewater to such a treatment works. This definition includes any devices or systems used by a municipality in the storage, treatment, recycling, and reclamation of municipal sewage or liquid industrial wastes. The term also means the municipality or local unit of government which has jurisdiction over the indirect discharges to, and the discharges from, such a treatment works. (*s. NR 211.03(11), Wis. Adm. Code*)

Privately-Owned Treatment Works

Privately-Owned Treatment Works means those facilities which are owned and operated by nonmunicipal entities or enterprises such as mobile home parks, restaurants, hotels, motels, country clubs, resorts, etc., which are permitted under ch. 283, Wis. Stats. (*s. NR 210.03(9), Wis. Adm. Code*)

Storm Water

Storm water means runoff from precipitation including rain, snow, ice melt or similar water that moves on the land surface via sheet or channelized flow. (*s. NR 216.002(33), Wis. Adm. Code*)

Surface Waters

Surface waters means waters of the state except wells and other groundwater. Cooling lakes, farm ponds and facilities constructed for the treatment of wastewaters are also excluded from this definition. (*s. NR 200.02(18), Wis. Adm. Code*)

Waters of the State

Waters of the state means those portions of Lake Michigan and Lake Superior within the boundaries of Wisconsin, all lakes, bays, rivers, streams, springs, ponds, wells, impounding reservoirs, marshes, water courses, drainage systems and other surface or groundwater, natural or artificial, public or private within the state or under its jurisdiction, except those waters which are entirely confined and retained completely upon the property of a person. (*s. NR 205.03(44), Wis. Adm. Code*)

Wetlands

Wetlands mean an area where water is at, near or above the land surface long enough to be capable of supporting aquatic or hydrophytic vegetation and which has soils indicative of wet conditions. (*s. NR 103.02(5), Wis. Adm. Code*)

Attachment B – Notice of Intent Form

Notice: Pursuant to chs. NR 200 and 205, Wis. Adm. Code, this notice of intent (NOI) is required to request coverage under the Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) Permit No. WI-0066575-01-0 for low-impact discharges to waters of the state of Wisconsin. Failure to complete this form in its entirety may result in a returned NOI or a denied NOI. Personal information collected will be used for administrative purposes and may be provided to requestors to the extent required by Wisconsin Open Records law [ss. 19.31-19.39, Wis. Stats.].

Please indicate the type of WPDES permit coverage being requested:

- ☐ Single Site coverage for temporary discharges
☐ Single Site coverage for continuous/recurring discharges
☐ Statewide coverage for temporary operational discharges

SECTION I: WPDES PERMITTEE RESPONSIBLE FOR POLLUTANT DISCHARGE

WPDES Permittee (Municipality, Industry, or Other)

Permittee Authorized Representative (First and Last Name)	Title	Company	
Mailing Address (i.e. PO BOX, Street, or Route)	Municipality	State	ZIP Code
Email Address	Phone No. (include area code)	Alternative Phone No.	

SECTION II: APPLICANT INFORMATION

☐ Check if same as authorized representative

Applicant Name (First and Last Name)	Title	Company	
Mailing Address (i.e. PO Box, Street, or Route)	Municipality	State	ZIP Code
Email Address	Phone No. (include area code)	Alternative Phone No.	

SECTION III: DISCHARGE MONITORING CONTACT

Discharge Monitoring Contact (First and Last Name)	Title	Company	
Mailing Address (i.e. PO Box, Street, or Route)	Municipality	State	ZIP Code
Email Address	Phone No. (include area code)	Alternative Phone No.	

SECTION IV: CONTRACTOR INFORMATION

☐ Check if not applicable and skip this section

Role: ☐ Consultant ☐ Contractor ☐ Other — Specify: _____

Contact Name (First and Last Name)	Title	Company	
Mailing Address (i.e. PO Box, Street, or Route)	Municipality	State	ZIP Code
Email Address	Phone No. (include area code)	Alternative Phone No.	

SECTION V: FACILITY LOCATION INFORMATION

☐ Check if statewide operations and skip this section

Facility Name	County (of facility/project location)	☐ City ☐ Town ☐ Village of
Physical Address (Street, Road, Route, or other)		
Public Land Survey System (PLSS)		
QQ of _____ Q of _____ Section _____ Township _____ N Range _____	☐ E ☐ W	Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Note: PLSS can be identified on the Surface Water Data Viewer here: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater/Swdv/>.

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SECTION VI: FACILITY ACTIVITY

☐ Check if statewide operations and skip this section

1. Other Environmental Permit or Approvals - Has the facility received or applied for coverage under any WPDES general permit or any other environmental permits, such as for management of hazardous wastes, emission of air pollutants or underground injection?

☐ No. **Proceed to question 2.**

☐ Yes. Please give the permit number(s) and briefly describe the permit activity. **Proceed to question 2.**

Permit #	Description of Permit Activity

2. Nature of Business - Provide a brief description of the facility operations and activities:

Proceed to question 3.

3. Sanitary Wastes - Where are sanitary wastes (wastewaters from restrooms, washrooms, lunch/break room sinks, showers, etc.) discharged?

☐ In a septic tank system and/or subsurface absorption system

☐ In a privately-owned treatment system owned by you or operated by: _____

☐ In a publicly-owned treatment system operated by: _____

☐ Other - Specify: _____

Proceed to question 4.

4. Water Supply - What are the facility's sources of water?

Source Type	Name of Source	Average Volume or Flow rate (include units)
Municipal Supply		
Surface Water Intake		
Private Well		
Other (specify): _____		
Other (specify): _____		

Proceed to question 5.

5. Removed Substances – Do treatment processes at the facility/project result in the removal and generation of solids, sludges, or other substances from the treatment of source waters or wastewaters?

☐ No. **Proceed to Section VII.**

☐ Yes. Please provide the disposal method of the removed solids, sludges, or other substances. **Proceed to Section VII.**

☐ Land Application

☐ Landfill

☐ Hauled to another permitted facility

Facility Name: _____

WPDES Permit No. WI- _____

☐ Other - Specify: _____

SECTION VII: DISCHARGE CHARACTERIZATION ☐ Check if statewide operations and skip this section

1. Type of Wastewater Discharged – Please specify each type of wastewater discharged at the facility and the outfall number, average daily flow in gallons per day (gpd), discharge location, discharge duration, and surface water name (if necessary) of each type of wastewater discharged at the facility. **Proceed to Section VIII.**

Type of Wastewater	Outfall # (001, 002, etc..)	Average Daily Flow (gallons per day)	Discharge Duration	Discharge Location	Surface Water Discharge Only	
					☐ Check if not applicable	
					Surface Water Name	WBIC*

Note: Type of wastewater: The applicant shall state each wastewater type that is discharged to a water of the state.

Outfall: For this general permit an outfall is the point where the wastewater will leave your facility and drain into the ground, a pond, a surface water, or storm sewer. The applicant should state each separate discharge point located at the site with an outfall number starting at 001.

Average Daily Flow: For new applicants when no flow data is available, the applicant shall approximate the highest expected average daily wastewater volume discharged. For existing permittees, the average daily flow shall be determined by the average daily wastewater volume discharged from the previous 24 months.

Discharge Duration: The applicant shall specify the duration of discharge from the facility/project. Discharge duration may include: continuous, noncontinuous, or seasonal.

Discharge Location: The applicant shall specify the location of the discharge. The applicant may consider the discharge locations below:

- **Groundwater Discharge** means any wastewater discharge that is allowed to infiltrate or seep into the soil from a permeable surface including but not limited to any drain field, agricultural field, ditch, swale, depression, trench or pit, adsorption pond, infiltration pond, rain garden, prairie, or vegetative area that may impact groundwater quality.
- **Surface Water Discharge** means any wastewater discharge via any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance system including but not limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, swale, or storm sewer to a creek, stream, pond, marsh, bay, reservoir, river, lake, or other surface water within the state of Wisconsin.
- **Wetland Discharge** means any wastewater discharge via any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance system including but not limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, swale, or storm sewer to a wetland. Wetland means an area where water is at, near or above the land surface long enough to be capable of supporting aquatic or hydrophytic vegetation and which has soils indicative of wet conditions.

Surface Water Name: If the discharge is to a surface water, the applicant shall provide the name of the surface water. Surface waters can be identified on the Surface Water Data Viewer here: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater/Swdv/>.

WBIC: If the discharge is to surface water, the applicant shall provide the Water Body Identification Code (WBIC) for that specific surface water, the WBIC can be found here: <http://dnr.wi.gov/water/waterSearch.aspx>

Proceed to Section VIII.

SECTION VIII: DISCHARGE SCREENING

1. Please provide the sample results for the parameters listed below (attach laboratory reports to this NOI if the discharge sample was analyzed by a commercial laboratory):

Parameter	Value	Units
pH Field		s.u.
Suspended Solids, Total		mg/L
BOD ₅ , Total		mg/L
Chlorine, Total Residual		mg/L
Oil & Grease (Hexane)		mg/L

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Maximum Temperature		°F
Dissolved Oxygen		mg/L
Chloride		mg/L
Phosphorus, Total		mg/L
Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH ₃ -N) Total		mg/L

Note: The sampling parameters for certain discharge activities can be found in Section 3.4 of the general permit. Applicants may use historical discharge data, if available, for screening results. The applicant shall contact the department prior to submittal of NOI to request a waiver from sampling for certain parameters

Proceed to question 2.

2. Please certify that the discharge will comply with following narrative discharge requirements:

- A. The discharge(s) are absent any visible oil sheen or film: ☐ Yes ☐ No
- B. The discharge(s) are not objectionable (offensive) for odor and color: ☐ Yes ☐ No
- C. The discharge (s) are absent any floating solids, submerged solids, foam, scum debris, or other indicators of pollution:
☐ Yes ☐ No
- D. The discharge(s) do not contain any unapproved water treatment additives except those already found in the source water:
☐ Yes ☐ No
- E. The discharge(s) are absent any bacteria/coliform organisms associated with humans and animal wastes: ☐ Yes ☐ No
- F. The discharge(s) are absent any toxic metals found in chs. NR 105 and NR 140, Wis. Adm. Code: ☐ Yes ☐ No
- G. The discharge(s) are absent any bioaccumulative chemicals of concern (e.g. mercury, PCBs, or PFAs): ☐ Yes ☐ No
- H. The discharge (s) are absent any other toxic or hazardous substances: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Proceed to Section IX

SECTION IX: ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST

1. Will all the wastewater be discharged from and/or to properties within tribal lands (i.e. land owned by or held in trust for the tribes and land within recognized reservation boundaries)?

- ☐ Yes. **Your discharge is not eligible for this General Permit.** *If all discharges from your facility go to or come from properties in tribal lands, you do not require regulation under a WPDES discharge permit. Therefore, skip the rest of the NOI and sign the last page. We will remove you from our tracking system. The Tribe or United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates discharges within tribal lands.*
- ☐ No. **Proceed to question 2.**
- ☐ N/A. I am applying for statewide coverage but will contact the Tribe or EPA if the discharge occurs within tribal lands. **Proceed to question 2.**

Note: Tribal lands can be identified on the Surface Water Data Viewer here: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater/Swdv/>.

2. Will all the wastewater be discharged to a sanitary sewer that conveys the wastewater to a publicly or privately-owned treatment works? A septic system is not considered a sanitary sewer. Please contact the owner of the treatment works for approval prior to discharging to the sanitary sewer.

- ☐ Yes. **Your discharge is exempt from the need of a WPDES Permit.** *If all discharges from your facility go to a sanitary sewer, you do not need a WPDES discharge permit. Therefore, skip the rest of the NOI and sign the last page. We will remove you from our tracking system. If at some point in the future operations at your facility result in a direct discharge to a water of the state, you will need to inform the Department.*
- ☐ No. **Proceed to question 3.**
- ☐ N/A. I am applying for statewide coverage but will contact the owner of the treatment works for approval prior to discharge if the wastewater is discharged to a sanitary sewer system. **Proceed to question 3.**

3. Will the discharge to surface water or groundwater contain any of the following wastewaters: contact cooling water, cooling tower blowdown, air compressor condensate contaminated with oil and grease, contaminated groundwater or stormwater, municipal wastewater, petroleum contaminated water, domestic wastewater, process wastewaters from the production of any material or product, or other wastewater that may be more appropriately covered by another general permit?

- ☐ Yes. **Your discharge is not eligible for this General Permit.** *Skip the rest of the NOI and complete the certification on last page. Contact the Department to obtain application for another general permit or individual WPDES discharge permit.*
- ☐ No. **Proceed to question 4.**

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4. If the proposed discharge will be directly to a surface water, is the surface water classified as an exceptional resource water (ERW) or outstanding resource water (ORW) as defined in ch. NR 102, Wis. Adm. Code?

- ☐ Yes. **Your discharge is not eligible for this General Permit.** Skip the rest of the NOI and complete the certification on last page. Contact the Department to obtain application for an individual WPDES discharge permit.
- ☐ No. **Proceed to question 5.**
- ☐ N/A. **The discharge will be to groundwater via seepage or a wetland. Proceed to question 5.**
- ☐ N/A. I am applying for statewide coverage but will provide procedures of identifying ERWs or ORWs and alternative disposal methods to encountered ERWs or ORWs in the best management practice plan. **Proceed to question 5.**

Note: ERWs or ORWs can be identified on the Surface Water Data Viewer here: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater/Swdv/>.

5. Wetlands

A. Will the proposed discharge be to a wetland?

- ☐ Yes. **Proceed to question 5B.**
- ☐ No. **Proceed to question 6.**
- ☐ N/A. I am applying for statewide coverage but will provide procedures of identifying wetlands and alternative disposal methods to encountered wetlands in the best management practice plan. **Proceed to question 6.**

B. Does no practicable alternative disposal exist which would avoid discharge to the wetlands in accordance with ch. NR 103, Wis. Adm. Code (Practicable alternatives means available and capable of being implemented after taking into consideration cost, available technology and logistics in light of overall project purposes)?

- ☐ Yes. **Proceed to question 5C.**
- ☐ No. Please contact the department to discuss practicable alternative disposal options and eligibility under this General Permit. **Proceed to question 6.**

C. Will all practicable measures to minimize adverse impacts of the affected wetlands be taken?

- ☐ Yes. **Proceed to question 6.**
- ☐ No. **This NOI will be considered incomplete and returned to you.**
- ☐ N/A. I am applying for statewide coverage but will provide procedures of identifying wetlands and alternative disposal methods to encountered wetlands in the best management practice plan. **Proceed to question 6.**

Note: Wetlands can be identified on the Surface Water Data Viewer here: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater/Swdv/>.

6. Impaired and TMDL Waters

A. Will the discharge be to a 303(d) listed impaired water or a watershed with a State and EPA approved Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL)?

- ☐ Yes. **Proceed to question 6B.**
- ☐ No. **Proceed to question 7.**
- ☐ N/A. I am applying for statewide coverage but will provide procedures of identifying a 303(d) listed impaired water or a watershed with a State and EPA approved Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL) and alternative disposal methods to encountered impaired waters in the best management practice plan. **Proceed to question 7.**

B. Will the discharge contain a pollutant of concern (e.g. total suspended solids and total phosphorus) that will significantly contribute to the impairment of the impaired water or be in noncompliance with the approved TMDL?

- ☐ Yes. **Your discharge is not eligible for this General Permit.** Skip the rest of the NOI and complete the certification on last page. Contact the Department to obtain application for another general permit or individual WPDES discharge permit.
- ☐ No. **Proceed to question 7.**

Note: Wisconsin's 303(d) listed impaired waters or waters with approved TMDLs can be found at <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/impairedwaters/>.

7. Will the discharge contain water treatment additives (e.g. biocides such as microbicides, fungicides, molluscicides, and chlorine) or water quality conditioners (e.g. scale and corrosion inhibitors, pH adjustment chemicals, oxygen scavengers, conditioning agents, water softening compounds, settling agents, and polymers) that may enter surface water or groundwater without receiving wastewater treatment or that are used in a water treatment process but are not expected to be removed by wastewater treatment?
- ☐ Yes. **For each additive used, please complete and attach an Additive Review Worksheet (Form 3400-213).** *Additive Review Worksheets must be completed to receive coverage under this general permit. The Additive Review Worksheet is not required for additives with active ingredients consisting of chlorine, hypochlorite, sulfuric acid, hydrochloric acid or sodium hydroxide. Also, chemicals used in an industrial process generating wastewater that eventually receives treatment or chemicals added as part of wastewater treatment process (such as ferric chloride, alum or pickle liquor) are not considered water treatment additives and need not require an additive review. Proceed to question 8.*
- ☐ No. **Proceed to question 8.**
- ☐ N/A. I am applying for statewide coverage but will provide the Additive Review Worksheet to department for approval if an additive is used prior to discharge. **Proceed to question 8.**
8. Please prepare a best management practice (BMP) plan consistent with Section 6 of the general permit and attach the BMP plan to this NOI.
- ☐ Yes. The BMP plan is attached to this NOI. **Proceed to question 9.**
- ☐ No. The BMP plan is not attached to this NOI. **This NOI will be considered incomplete and returned to you.**
- Note:** A fillable BMP plan form (Form 3400-240) is available on the general permits webpage (<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/GeneralPermits.html>). Applicants may complete and submit this fillable form to satisfy the BMP plan requirement, or applicants may prepare their own BMP plans without using the forms; use of the forms is optional.
9. Please prepare a site map or plan that shows the facility location and the location of each outfall in relation to the receiving water and attach it to this NOI
- ☐ Yes. The site map is attached to this NOI. **Proceed to section X.**
- ☐ No. The site map is not attached to this NOI. **This NOI will be considered incomplete and returned to you.**
- ☐ N/A. I am applying for statewide coverage but will notify the Department in accordance with Section 5.14.4 of permit of the discharge location. **Proceed to Section X.**

SECTION X: COMMENTS

SECTION XI: CERTIFICATION

This form must be signed by a responsible executive or municipal officer, manager, partner or proprietor as specified in s. 283.37(3), Wis. Stats., or a duly authorized representative of the officer, manager, partner or proprietor that has been delegated signature authority pursuant to s. NR 205.07(1)(g)2., Wis. Adm. Code. To delegate signatory authority to a duly authorized representative, please complete and attach a Delegation of Signature Authority (DSA) form (Form 3400-220) to this NOI.

I certify under penalty of law that these documents 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 fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Authorized Representative Print Name	Title
Authorized Representative Signature	Date Signed
Applicant Print Name (If different from Authorized Representative)	Title
Applicant Signature	Date Signed

Please print and sign this certification page. Scan and email the completed form, certification page and any other supporting information to the department regional general permit reviewer at least thirty (30) business days before the expected start date of discharge. A listing of the general permit reviewers for each region with mailing addresses and phone numbers can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/GeneralPermits.html>. Please scroll to the "How to Apply" section and click the department region of the discharge location for the appropriate general permit contact.

Attachment C – Best Management Practice (BMP) Plan Form

**Best Management Practice (BMP) Plan
Low-Impact Discharge**

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Please specify the type and frequency of visual inspections that will be conducted on equipment and facility areas identified as a potential pollutant source at the facility site (attach a facility inspection log):

Please specify the type and frequency of visual inspections that will be conducted on the discharge (attach a discharge inspection log):

Note: The visual inspection frequency of the discharge may not be less frequent than monthly.

Please specify any temporary treatment practices that will be implemented in case of any observed indicators of pollution in the permitted discharge:

Please specify or attach a security plan that describes how to prevent accidental or intentional entry to the facility which might result in vandalism, theft, sabotage, or other improper or illegal use of the facility:

Note: The security plan shall cover security in a general fashion and discuss in detail only the practices that focus on preventing environmental releases.

Please specify any good housekeeping practices that will be conducted at the facility site and discharge location to maintain a clean and orderly work environment:

Please specify or attach a preventative maintenance plan that describes a method of periodically inspecting, maintaining, and testing BMPs, equipment and systems at the facility and discharge location to uncover conditions that may cause breakdowns or failures.

Note: The preventative maintenance plan as a part of the BMP plan shall evaluate any existing preventative maintenance program and recommend changes, if needed, to address concerns raised from equipment and facility areas identified as a potential pollutant source at the facility site and any results from inspections.

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Please specify any measures that will be implemented at the facility to dissipate or slow the energy/velocity of the discharge flow to prevent erosion that may be caused by the discharge:

Please specify any dechlorination methods that will be utilized to reduce the chlorine concentration in the discharge:

Note: Dechlorination is only necessary if the source water is from a chlorinated public water supply or if adding chlorine-based compounds to the water and discharging to surface waters or wetlands. If the source water is groundwater from private wells located at the facility and chlorine-based compounds are not added to the water, then dechlorination is not necessary. Moreover, dechlorination is not necessary if the discharge is to a seepage area that infiltrates to groundwater.

Please specify or attach a contingency plan that describes procedures to minimize the discharge duration during system failures (e.g. line breaks, leaks, and overflows) or spills:

Note: The general permit does not authorize discharges from any accidental or unplanned release, spill, leak, or overflow to a water of the state.

Please specify the recordkeeping and reporting program for the facility below. The program shall describe the system to keep and maintain records that are relevant to discharge activities and any environmental releases and a system to report actual or potential problems, violations, or noncompliance to appropriate personnel and regulatory agencies.

Note: The recordkeeping and reporting program shall be consistent with the requirements in Section 8.1 and Section 8.3.5. Records to be kept and maintained shall include the notice of intent, any discharge screening results, information gathered for the BMP plan, the BMP plan, inspection reports, preventative maintenance records, employee training materials, and other relevant information. Records shall be made available for department inspection and submitted to the department upon request.

For discharges from washing activities, please specify how the washing operations will be conducted at the site and specify any BMPs that will be implemented during washing:

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For statewide operations, please specify how the discharge location for each project site will be identified and screened for impaired waters, wetlands, outstanding resource waters (ORW) and exceptional resource waters (ERW):

Note: The permittee may use the surface water data viewer (<https://dnrm.wi.gov/H5/?Viewer=SWDV>) to identify impaired waters, wetlands, ORWs, and ERWs in the county where the discharge will occur.

For statewide operations, if the proposed discharge will be to a wetland, please specify all practical measures that will be implemented to minimize adverse impacts of the affected wetlands:

Note: Discharges to wetlands are not allowed under the general permit unless the requirements in Section 4.3 of the general permit are met.

For statewide operations, if the proposed discharge will be to an impaired water, please specify all practical measures that will be implemented to minimize any pollutant of concern (i.e. total suspended solids or phosphorus) that may contribute to the impairment of the water body:

Note: Discharge to an impaired water is not allowed under the general permit unless the discharge does not contain a pollutant in a measurable amount for which the water is identified as impaired.

For statewide operations, if the project will be located near an ORW or ERW, please specify all practical alternative disposal methods that will be implemented to avoid discharge to the ORWs or ERWs (e.g. discharge to groundwater via infiltration):

Note: Discharges to ORWs or ERWs are not allowed under this general permit.

For statewide operations, if the proposed discharge will be to a surface water, please specify all practical measures that will be implemented to minimize adverse impacts of the affected surface water:

For statewide operations, if the proposed discharge will be to a groundwater via seepage, please specify all practical measures that will be implemented to minimize adverse impacts on groundwater quality:

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For statewide operations, please specify the method of notifying the department at least seven (7) calendar days prior to discharge to the waters of the state and seven (7) calendar days after discontinuing the discharge to the waters of state.

Note: The agreed upon notification shall include a description of the discharge and discharge location as required in Section 5.14.4 of the general permit.

BMP Plan Review

The BMP plan will be reviewed at least _____ by the BMP plan committee or by _____.

The BMP plan committee or _____ will evaluate the need to update or modify the BMP plan and evaluate the effectiveness of the BMP plan in preventing and mitigating releases of pollutants. The BMP plan committee or _____ will notify the department when the BMP plan is modified to determine if the modification requires department approval.

Certification

I certify that this document, to the best of my knowledge and belief, is true, accurate, and complete.

Signature of Plan Preparer

Date