

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF WATER & WASTE MANAGEMENT
601 57th Street SE
Charleston, WV 25304-2345**

**FACT SHEET, INFORMATION, AND RATIONALE
FOR
WV/NPDES GENERAL PERMIT
FOR HYDROSTATIC TESTING WATERS
IN WEST VIRGINIA**

1. NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT

Any establishment with discharges composed entirely of hydrostatic test water from the testing of newly constructed, or cleaned and certified PCB-free, pipeline and/or storage tanks agreeing to be regulated under the terms of this proposed General Permit.

2. GENERAL WV/NPDES PERMIT NO.: WV0113069

3. COUNTY: Any WV County RECEIVING STREAM: Any WV stream

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: February 21, 2022 – April 1, 2022

5. SIC CODES: Primarily 4922 — Natural Gas Transmission. Others could be applicable.

6. DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT'S FACILITY OR ACTIVITY:

The main activity is primarily transmission and/or distribution of natural gas. Other activities including crude or refined oil transmission and distribution may also be eligible for coverage.

7. DESCRIPTION OF DISCHARGES:

Discharges covered under this General Permit will primarily be from the hydrostatic testing of newly constructed, or cleaned and certified PCB-free, pipeline and/or storage tanks. When a new pipeline is constructed or a section of existing pipeline is replaced, it is necessary to pressure test the pipeline to insure safe operation. Typically, this is accomplished by filling the pipeline with water and applying pressure. The pressure is monitored over time, then the water is discharged. Normally the source water for the testing is the receiving stream or other waters of the State. In some instances, it is necessary to use a potable water supply as source water. Special restrictions have been included in this General Permit to cover this event. Since this general permit covers only waters from hydrostatic testing of newly constructed, or cleaned and certified PCB-free, pipeline and/or storage tanks, the source water should not be chemically or physically altered prior to discharge. Also, special requirements are included in this General Permit specifying the need for an approved Sediment and Erosion Control Plan to prevent excessive erosion and siltation in the receiving stream.

8. COVERAGE UNDER THE GENERAL PERMIT

This General Permit proposes to provide coverage for any establishment with discharges composed entirely of waters from hydrostatic testing of newly constructed, or cleaned and

certified PCB-free, pipeline and/or storage tanks and agreeing to be regulated under the terms of the General Permit.

Projects proposing the hydrostatic testing of pipeline that will convey chemicals other than crude oil, refined oil, or natural gas will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for coverage under this general permit.

For this General Permit, the term establishment shall be construed to mean certain pipeline replacement and/or construction projects electing to be regulated by said permit.

9. PROPOSED EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS:

All projects covered by this general permit will be required to sample, analyze and submit Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) for the designated parameters once per discharge.

10. WHEN TO APPLY

State NPDES rules require permit applications to be filed at least 180 days prior to the commencement of the activity. The Agency is attempting, through this General Permit process, to streamline the permitting of this activity. Therefore, projects which may potentially obtain coverage under this General Permit, and which submit complete site registration application forms, shall make that submission at least sixty (60) days prior to the anticipated date of discharge.

11. RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED DISCHARGE LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING

Section A. This portion of the permit establishes the discharge limitations and the monitoring requirements for permittees.

The following three (3) parameters have been identified as baseline parameters that generally form the foundation for the different monitoring requirements in the permit:

A. Oil and Grease is a common industrial pollutant and can readily be expected to be associated with the discharge. This is expected since new pipeline is coated with a light mineral oil to prevent corrosion prior to use. Through conversation with another State's permitting agency, it was learned that the levels of oil and grease associated with these discharges have not been excessive and have not caused problems. Most of the data shows non-detectable levels of oil and grease with some discharges containing up to 3 - 5 mg/l oil and grease. Also, through discussions with field personnel, it was determined that the discharges have not been causing any problems in the State as well. Therefore, it is proposed to require only monitoring for oil and grease.

B. Total Suspended Solids (TSS) is a common pollutant found in surface waters that reflects sediment disturbances in the withdrawal of source waters. It is expected that most the TSS levels associated with these discharges can be attributed to the stream characteristics. Therefore, monitoring only is proposed for TSS.

C. pH limitations are proposed to prevent source waters of low pH being discharged to receiving streams of high pH (or vice versa). The proposed limit of 6.0 to 9.0 S.U. is in accordance with the Water Quality Standards of Title 47, Series 2 of the West Virginia Legislative Rules (WVLR). This restriction is necessary since some hydrostatic tests involve different source and receiving streams. Also, if a public potable water supply is utilized as source water, the pH limitation will assure that water quality violations do not occur.

Section A.1. — Projects utilizing water of the State as source waters.

No additional effluent limitations or monitoring requirements are proposed beyond the baseline parameters.

Section A.2. — Projects utilizing chlorinated potable water supply as source water with discharge to trout waters.

In addition to the baseline parameters, it is proposed to prohibit chlorinated discharges in accordance with the Water Quality Standards of Title 47, Series 2 of the WVLR.

The sampling location requirement specifies two (2) methods readily available for chlorine removal. The permittee may elect to use a de-chlorination unit or, if space allows, may elect to construct a temporary holding pond to allow for chlorine dissipation. Either method is deemed satisfactory, if complete removal of chlorine is achieved.

Section A.3. — Projects utilizing chlorinated potable water supply as source water with discharges to warm water fisheries.

In addition to the baseline parameters, it is proposed to limit the discharge of total residual chlorine to 11 µg/1 (WQBEL - Chronic Aquatic Life criteria) in accordance with the Water Quality Standards of Title 47, Series 2 of the WVLR.

Section A.4. — Projects utilizing chlorinated potable water supply as source water with discharges to Public 'A' waters.

In addition to the baseline parameters, it is proposed to limit the discharge of chloroform to 60 µg/1 (WQBEL – Human Health criteria Public 'A' waters) in accordance with the Water Quality Standards of Title 47, Series 2 of the WVLR. This water quality standard was changed from 5.7 µg/1 to 60 µg/1 in the 2021 triennial review, and passed into effect on May 22, 2021, by the WV State Legislature.

Section B. — Other Requirements

This section encompasses the requirements specific to hydrostatic testing discharges and those projects subject to regulation under the General Permit.

Section B.1. This paragraph details how applicants/permittees are to submit applications for coverage under this GP.

Section B.2. This paragraph defines, for the purposes of this General Permit, what constitutes an individual outlet. It also details the provision for representative outlet designation.

Section B.3. This paragraph defines the sample collection requirements. It is proposed to require multi-grab samples for TSS and chloroform because they will provide representative data of the entire discharge. It is also proposed to require one (1) individually analyzed sample for oil and grease. A grab sample taken in the first 15 minutes of discharge should provide the necessary data. Multi-grab composites would not provide representative data for this parameter because some of the pollutants would remain in the containers used to collect the individual grabs.

Section B.4. This paragraph requires adequate notice of discharge to the appropriate field inspector so they may be present at discharge to ensure that Sediment and Erosion Control measures are properly used.

Section B.5. This paragraph establishes the Sediment and Erosion Control Plan as an enforceable part of the permit. This will help ensure that the proposed measures are in fact used thereby helping to prevent degradation to the receiving stream

Section B.6. Self-explanatory.

Section B.7. This paragraph requires the permittee to notify the DWWM of the completion of testing and provides for termination of permit coverage.

Section B.8. This paragraph delineates the requirements for discharge to a stream for which a TMDL has been developed.

Section B.9. Self-explanatory.

Section B.10. This paragraph provides notification that coverage under an individual permit may be required and delineates how that will transpire.

Section B.11. Self-explanatory.

Section B.12. This paragraph contains the standard reopener clause for development of effluent limitations under the Clean Water Act after reissuance of the general permit

Section B.13. Due to 15-minute holding time for TRC, most all TRC monitoring are conducted via field test kits/devices. According to the manufacturer of these field devices, the reported MDL's for these TRC methods is only achievable in a lab under ideal conditions, and the true test limit in practice will allow for detection down to 100 ug/l. Therefore, a facility covered under treatment categories A.2 and A.3 shall be considered in compliance if chlorine is not detected with the 100ug/l field test device.

Section B.14. This paragraph protects against potential negative issues relative to inter-basin transfer of water used for hydrostatic testing.

Section B.15. This paragraph requires the use of DEP' s Water Withdrawal guidance tool prior to the withdrawal of water for hydrostatic testing from a stream.

Section B.16. This paragraph states the discharge will comply with Appendix A.1. Management Conditions: Appendix A.1.12 Water Quality

Section B.17. This section is standard reopener clause for water quality protection.

Section B.18. This sentence states that this permit does not allow other pollutants not named in this permit to be discharged.

Section B.19. This paragraph states approval to discharge under this General Permit protect permittee or waive any liability for environmental damage to streams or property.

Section B.20. This sentence states that this General Permit does not supersede other environmental statues, regulations or laws.

ANTIDEGRADATION

The proposed activity is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development. Most of the facilities covered under this General Permit only discharge once per outlet per permit registration. The hydrostatic testing of these pipes and tanks help prevent leaks and spills of petroleum products and natural gases. New permit registrations would help maintain the water quality and air quality of their respective areas. Therefore, an exemption shall be granted to the facilities covered under this general permit. Consistent with WV Legislative Rule Title 60 Series 5-3.7.

FACT SHEET

WV/NPDES Permit No. WV0113069

Page 6 of 6

The State of West Virginia, Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Water and Waste Management, has made a tentative decision for a State NPDES Permit as listed on this Fact Sheet. To provide public participation on the proposed issuance of the required permit, the following information is being supplied in accordance with Title 47, Series 10, Section 11.3.e.2 and 3 of the West Virginia Legislative Rules.

Any interested persons may submit written comments on the Draft Permit and may request a public hearing by addressing such to the Director of the DWWM within 30 days of the date of the public notice. Comments will be accepted until April 1, 2022. They should be addressed to:

Director, Division of Water and Waste Management
Department of Environmental Protection
601 57th Street, SE
Charleston, WV 25304
Attention: Melissa Atkins
Phone: (304) 926-0499, Extension 43857
Fax: (304) 926-0496
E-mail: Melissa.Atkins@wv.gov

All comments received within this period will be considered prior to acting on the Draft General Permit. Correspondence should include the name, address and telephone number of the writer and a concise statement of the nature of the issues being raised.

All applicable information concerning any permit application and the tentative decisions is on file and may be inspected, by appointment, or copies obtained, at a nominal cost, at the offices of the Division of Water and Waste Management, 601 57th Street, SE, Charleston, West Virginia 25304, Monday through Friday (except State holidays) between 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Requests for additional information should be directed to Melissa Atkins at (304) 926-0499, Extension 43857.