

Benchmark Monitoring | "Can I Meet Stormwater Standards?"

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Overview

On February 29, 2008, the revised Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) general permit for the discharge of stormwater from construction sites became effective. This permit replaced an earlier general permit which had expired.

The revised general permit now applies to all construction sites greater than one acre in size, with the exception of sites located on Indian lands within the State. For these sites, a different permit, issued by U.S. EPA, applies.

This briefing provides an overview of some of the requirements under the revised ADEQ permit. Dischargers should review the general permit for specific information.

What Standards Apply To Stormwater?

All construction sites greater than one acre (or part of a larger development plan greater than one acre) need to have a permit to discharge stormwater.

What is **CONSTRUCTION?** - Construction for the purpose of this regulation "...includes clearing, grading, excavating, stockpiling of fill material and other similar activities...". Other aspects of the construction site also need to be considered, including equipment fueling areas, batch plants, material storage areas, site access roads, etc..

SITE OPERATORS must apply for permit coverage. Site operator can either be responsible for construction plans and specification or for day-to-day site operations. If the **SITE OPERATOR** changes over the course of the project, the permit coverage must be revised. This includes changes to general contractors responsible for different phases of the project.

For most projects, permit coverage is obtained 7 days after submitting a Notice of Intent (NOI) to ADEQ. However, some projects may have an extended waiting period after the NOI and other required documents are submitted.

Different Requirements Determined By Location

The requirements under the ADEQ permit will change substantially depending on the location of the project. The key criteria will be whether the site is within ¼-mile of) an impaired water or 2) a listed unique water (also known as an “Outstanding Arizona Water”, or OAW)

For project sites located within this radius, significantly more stringent permit compliance requirements may apply which include:

- Submittal of SWPPP with NOI, and extended waiting period for permit coverage
- Additional prohibitions on non-stormwater discharges
- Additional prohibitions on post-construction discharges
- Additional inspection requirements
- Stormwater monitoring

BMP Requirements

Each project must have a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that meets the requirements of the permit. The SWPPP must identify all site operators, including those responsible for only a portion of the site. The permit also requires specific maps be included in the SWPPP. The SWPPP needs to be certified by a company officer, or their duly authorized representative.

The revised ADEQ permit includes specific requirements and schedules for Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be implemented. These include:

Erosion Control Measures - including vegetation management, culvert stabilization, run-on management

Sediment Controls - including perimeter control, sediment basins, soil stockpile management

Non-structural Controls - including housekeeping, spill control, material management

The revised permit also has specific requirements for concrete washout operations. In addition to the requirements in the stormwater discharge permit, these operations may also need to be covered under and meet the requirements of a different general permit - an Aquifer Protection Permit (APP) for concrete wash-out.

The revised permit also prohibits the discharge of other types of wastewater, such as vehicle wash water. Certain types of discharges are allowable, but they need to be identified in the SWPPP and have specific BMPs implemented.

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