
ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301 • (603) 271-3503 • www.des.nh.gov

WD-DWGB-22-7

2019

Temporary Discharge Permits for Well Rehabilitation

Permits Required

Rehabilitation of public water supply wells to restore pumping capacity often involves the addition of acids, disinfectants and other chemicals to clean, redevelop and disinfect the wells. When water containing these treatment chemicals is pumped from the well, the chemicals need to be neutralized before being discharged to the environment. In order to ensure a detrimental impact to the environment does not occur, a temporary discharge permit must be obtained from the NHDES Water Division before the wastewater generated from rehab activities is discharged.

Applications Available

Applications for temporary discharge permits are available online from the NHDES' Groundwater Discharge Permitting and Registrations page. The applications are specific to whether you intend to discharge to groundwater or indirectly discharge to surface water.

Application Requirements

An application for a temporary discharge permit requires the following:

- Complete description of the project.
- Site plan.
- Location map.
- Description of the neutralization and dechlorination process and erosion control measures to be used.

Procedure for Temporary Discharge Permits

1. Under state law, no discharges are allowed into Class A surface water bodies (high-quality waters); and NHDES issues temporary discharge permits, for discharges to Class B surface water bodies only.
2. The applicant submits two copies of the completed permit application – one to the municipality and one to NHDES.
3. NHDES issues a temporary discharge permit, with conditions.
4. The discharge may not contain any contaminant concentrations in excess of surface water quality standards or ambient groundwater quality standards, as applicable.
5. For a surface water discharge, the permittee must establish the background pH level in the receiving water.
6. The wastewater will be discharged to a holding tank or settling basin prior to final discharge. In the holding tank or settling basin, the wastewater will be neutralized to a pH between 6.5 and

8.0 (if the ambient pH is less than 6.5, the permittee may neutralize to this pH if no harm will come to the receiving stream). For indirect surface water discharges, chlorine must be completely neutralized prior to discharge.

7. Samples of the holding tank or settling basin water must be collected and analyzed before discharge. More frequent sampling is required at the beginning of a discharge. The permittee must maintain records of sampling times, sampling results, and discharges. This information must be submitted to NHDES after the completion of the project.
8. Before indirectly discharging to a stream, the wastewater must be filtered through baled hay, a vegetative filter strip, a vegetated channel, or similar filter to trap sediment. Dependent on the discharge mechanism, other erosion control measures may be required.
9. Open pipe direct discharge to surface water is not allowed.

For More Information

Please contact the Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau at (603) 271-2513 or by email at dwgbinfo@des.nh.gov

Note: This fact sheet is accurate as of June 2019. Statutory or regulatory changes or the availability of additional information after this date may render this information inaccurate or incomplete.