
ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



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2010

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 an impact to the environment does not occur, a temporary discharge permit must be obtained from the DES Water Division before the wastewater generated from rehab activities is discharged.

Applications Available

Applications for temporary discharge permits are available at (603) 271-2858 or online at www.des.nh.gov, click on A to Z List, and search for “Groundwater Discharges.” Note that applications are specific to whether you intend to discharge to groundwater or indirect discharge to surface water.

Application Requirements

A temporary discharge permit application 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 DES 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 DES.
3. DES issues a temporary discharge permit, with conditions (see below).
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 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 DES after the completion of the project.
8. Before 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 Additional Information

For more information on temporary discharge permits, please visit the DES webpage at www.des.nh.gov, click on A to Z List, and search for “Groundwater Discharges,” or call (603) 271-2858.

For additional information, please contact the Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau at (603) 271-2513 or dwgbinfo@des.nh.gov or visit www.des.nh.gov, click on A to Z List and choose Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau. All of the bureau’s fact sheets are on-line at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/dwgb/index.htm>.

Note: This fact sheet is accurate as of September 2010. Statutory or regulatory changes or the availability of additional information after this date may render this information inaccurate or incomplete.