
ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



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Sludge Hauling in New Hampshire

What is sludge?

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Sludge Management Rules Env-Wq 800 establishes criteria and procedures to manage the removal, transportation and disposal of sludge within the state of NH. RSA 485-A:2,XI defines sludge as “the solid or semisolid material produced by water and wastewater treatment processes, excluding domestic septage; provided however, sludge disposed of at solid waste facilities permitted by the department is considered solid waste and regulated under RSA 149-M.” Sludge also includes industrial sludge and sludge mixed with another sludge or another material.

When is a permit required to haul sludge?

Any person or entity wishing to haul derived from human waste that has been generated, processed transferred, stored, used or disposed of in the State of New Hampshire must first apply for a permit through the NHDES Wastewater Engineering Bureau. One permit is required for each individual vehicle proposed to be used to transport sludge on public roads. A permit is not required for hauling within a private facility or the interstate hauling of sludge that does not originate within and is not disposed of in New Hampshire.

What Are Permit Applicants Required to Submit?

1. *General Applicant Information.* This includes the name, mailing address and daytime telephone number of the applicant and owner (if an individual); the name, address and telephone number of the applicant’s business and contact person; and any telephone numbers to be used in case of emergency.
2. *Vehicle Information.* This includes the make, model and year; vehicle identification number (VIN); the license plate number for each vehicle that will be used to transport containers carrying sludge.
3. *Applicant Signature.* This certifies that
 - All vehicles and tanks proposed to transport sludge have met all federal and state motor vehicle requirements for septage transportation;
 - The applicant assumes responsibility for ensuring that all persons who will be transporting sludge with the applicant’s vehicle(s) are familiar with Env-Wq 800 (NHDES’ Sludge Management Rules); and
 - The applicant has not been convicted of a misdemeanor under any statute administered by the department within five years prior to the date of application or of a felony in any state or federal court during the ten years prior to the date of application.

What is the permit process?

Applications are reviewed for completeness and adherence with the Administrative Rules Env-Wq 800. All necessary signatures, fees and attachments must accompany applications submitted to NHDES.

Any hauler who has been issued a permit shall:

- Display the hauler's name, principal place of business, and telephone number on both sides of the vehicle or tank used to transport sludge, in permanent lettering that complies with 49 CFR§ 390.21, specifically lettering that is:
 - a) In a color that contrasts sharply in color with the background on which the letters are placed; And
 - b) Legible during daylight hours from a distance of 50 feet, equivalent to 15.24 meters, while the vehicle is stationary.
- Maintain a copy of the specific vehicle permit in the vehicle.
- Maintain all containers used to transport sludge so as not to create unreasonable malodors or a public health hazard.
- All containers transporting liquid sludge shall additionally meet the following conditions:
 - All piping, valves and rigid or flexible connections shall be accessible and capable of being cleaned;
 - All inlet and outlet connections shall be constructed and maintained such that no material will leak, spill, or run out of the container during transfer or transportation; and
 - All discharge outlets shall be designed to control the flow of discharge without spraying or flooding the receiving area.

Sludge hauler permits have a maximum timeframe of two years and expire on January 31 of odd-numbered years. Persons wishing to renew a sludge hauler permit shall submit an application to NHDES prior to expiration of the permit.

How do I obtain additional information?

Additional information related to Septage and Sludge can be found at [NHDES Wastewater Engineering Residuals Management](#) page. Including the [The Sludge Management Rules, Env-Wq 800](#) and the [Septage and Sludge Hauler Application Form](#).