

HW-34

2020

## Management of Gasoline-Contaminated Waste

Waste contaminated with gasoline can be toxic and ignitable, making it hazardous to people, property and the environment. Sometimes these wastes are illegally discharged onto the ground, thrown into Dumpsters, or stored in ways that can lead to fires, explosions and releases. Under the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Hazardous Waste Rules (Env-Hw 100-1200), gasoline-contaminated wastes must be managed as hazardous unless the gasoline can be legitimately reclaimed as a fuel or analytical testing has been done to show that the waste does not have any hazardous characteristics (e.g., toxicity for benzene or ignitability). The following guidance provides options for safely and legally managing common gasoline-contaminated wastes.

### Types of Gasoline-Contaminated Waste

- **Fuel and Water Mixtures from Sumps, Spill Buckets and Tanks**

Waste gasoline or gasoline-water mixtures from tanks, fuel filters, sumps or spills that can be re-used directly as a fuel, processed to be used as a fuel or burned for energy recovery are exempt from hazardous waste requirements. If the gasoline or gasoline-water mixtures are not able to be recycled in this manner, they must be managed as hazardous waste, unless analytical testing shows that they are not hazardous. Under no circumstances may waste from sumps, spill buckets or tanks, that have been contaminated with fuel, be disposed of on the ground or to storm water systems. For more guidance, see NHDES fact sheet HW-30, "Management of Fuel and Water Mixtures."

- **Used Absorbents**

Absorbents used to clean up gasoline spills may be reused until they become too saturated to be effective. At that point, they must be managed as hazardous waste, unless analytical testing shows that they are not hazardous or they are being legitimately reclaimed. Containers holding absorbents that are reusable should be clearly marked (e.g., "Usable Absorbent," "Absorbent for Reuse," etc.) to distinguish them from waste containers. Containers of hazardous waste absorbents must be shipped off-site for proper disposal or if sent for fuel recovery, the generator must have documentation that provides proof of legitimate reclamation. Under no circumstances may hazardous absorbents be disposed of in the trash, burned, buried, or otherwise disposed of unlawfully.

- **Fuel Filters**

Gasoline fuel filters, even when properly drained, cannot be discarded in the trash without analytical testing, since they may be hazardous due to ignitability or toxicity (e.g., benzene). However, if metal filters are drained on-site of all free flowing fuel and are recycled as scrap metal through a permitted metal recycler, they are exempt from the hazardous waste regulations. Any free flowing fuel must be returned to the fuel tank, managed as fuel for reuse, or managed as hazardous waste. If the filters cannot be drained and recycled, or plastic filters are used, they must be managed as hazardous waste unless analytical testing shows that they are not hazardous.

### What Hazardous Waste Requirements Apply to Gasoline Contaminated Hazardous Waste?

If gasoline contaminated waste is to be legitimately reclaimed for fuel or analytical testing proves they are not hazardous, the hazardous waste requirements would not apply. If that is not possible or the materials fail analytical

testing, the facility that generates the hazardous waste is regulated as either a Small Quantity Generator (SQG) or Full Quantity Generator (FQG). The hazardous waste rules that apply are based on the quantity of waste your business generates on a monthly basis. SQGs are facilities that generate less than 220 pounds of hazardous waste each month and FQGs are facilities that generate 220 pounds or more in any single month.

All hazardous waste generators must ensure that their wastes are appropriately handled and managed from cradle to grave. Requirements include: obtaining an EPA ID # from NHDES (prior to any waste generation, accumulation or disposal), proper hazardous waste identification, proper waste storage, proper disposal and prevention of releases to the environment.

In some cases, facilities can contact NHDES to notify as a hazardous waste generator and obtain a temporary EPA ID#, with less stringent requirements. These temporary activations are valid for 30 days and are intended for facilities that are not generating, storing or shipping hazardous waste on a regular basis (i.e., less than once a year or due to infrequent spills, emergencies, cleanouts).

If a permanent EPA ID# is required because the gasoline contaminated waste is not exempt and is regularly generated and accumulated on site, SQGs and FQGs must comply with additional requirements. Please contact NHDES for more information on those requirements.

### **Where Can Gasoline Related Hazardous Waste Be Disposed?**

Generators of hazardous waste must ensure that their hazardous waste is being shipped to a permitted treatment, storage, or disposal facility (TSDF) and that disposal is being tracked through the use of a uniform hazardous waste manifest (manifest). When shipping hazardous waste off-site, a hazardous waste transporter, that is registered in New Hampshire, must be used to transport waste from the generator to the TSDF.

If gasoline related waste can be managed as a legitimately reclaimed fuel, but must still be shipped on a manifest due to the hazardous waste rules in the state where the waste is being shipped, the generator can enter "*Not a Hazardous Waste in NH – Fuel for Fuel*" on the manifest. This waste will not be counted toward your classification calculation as hazardous waste in New Hampshire and would not require the facility to be notified as a SQG or FQG.

### **Legitimate Reclamation**

In order for gasoline-contaminated waste to be exempt from hazardous waste regulation, it must not have any hazardous waste characteristics or must be legitimately reclaimed. Legitimate Reclamation is defined as:

1. Any gasoline-contaminated material must be burned for energy recovery or contain a recoverable quantity of fuel. The recovery facility must be able to demonstrate that fuel reclamation is occurring.
2. The material must be managed according to industry standards for fuel products at the reclamation facility and the recovered fuel product must be either used as a fuel or blended with other fuels.
3. The reclamation process should be able to recover and utilize most if not all of the fuel product from the mixture. Low recovery efficiencies indicate that the reclamation may be primarily treatment and not legitimate reclamation.
4. Any residual wastewater from the reclamation must be properly disposed of under all applicable federal, state and local wastewater discharge permit(s). Any residues from reclamation other than wastewater must be assessed as a hazardous waste or non-hazardous solid waste and managed appropriately.

### **For More Information**

Questions regarding this fact sheet should be directed to the NHDES Hazardous Waste Management Bureau at (603) 271-2942 or toll-free within New Hampshire at 866-HAZWAST (M-F 8 a.m.-4 p.m.) or email [hwcomp@des.nh.gov](mailto:hwcomp@des.nh.gov). For a complete description of the requirements, refer to the New Hampshire Hazardous Waste Rules, Env-Hw 100-1200, available from [NHDES' website](#).