



General Permits

*NC Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Water Resources*



General Permits

- Use of AFO General Permits in NC
- Benefits / Challenges
- Permit Structure
- Permit Development Process
- Application / Renewal Process
- Compliance
- Reporting Requirements
- Coverage for needed Facilities



General Permits

Single Permitting Document that contains all regulatory requirements that can be applied broadly to a defined class of similar facilities/operations.



General Permits – North Carolina

Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) General Permits:

- NC G.S. 143-215.10C
 - “intent of the General Assembly that most animal waste management systems be permitted under a general permit.”*
- North Carolina Administrative Code (NCAC) Title 15A Subchapter 02T Animal Waste Management Systems.
 - Non-Discharge permit allows for the application of wastes to the land surface
 - No discharge to waters of the state

First AFO General Permits issued 1997

5 – year Renewal Cycle



General Permits – North Carolina

- 3 State General Permits – 10/1/2019 – 9/30/2024
 - AWG100000 – Swine
 - AWG200000 – Cattle/Dairy
 - AWG300000 – Poultry with Liquid Waste Management System
- 3 State Farm Digester General Permits – 7/1/2022 – 9/30/2024
 - AWG400000 – Swine
 - AWG500000 – Cattle/Dairy
 - AWG600000 – Poultry with Liquid Waste Management System
- 3 NPDES General Permits – 7/1/2022 – 6/30/2027
 - NCA200000 – Swine
 - NCA300000 – Cattle/Dairy
 - NCA400000 – Poultry with Liquid Waste Management System



General Permits – North Carolina

Benefits

- Consistency
 - Permit Requirements
 - Compliance and Enforcement
- Renewal – Uniform and Efficient
- Transparency
- Public Engagement

Challenges

- Processing all in short time!



General Permits – Structure

Certificate of Coverage

- Site Specific
- Owner
- Operation Type and Capacity
- Facility Location
- Regional Office
- National Weather Service Office
- Other special notations



General Permits – Structure

Preamble

- I. Performance Standards
- II. Operation and Maintenance
- III. Monitoring and Reporting
- IV. Inspection and Entry
- V. General Conditions
- VI. Penalties
- VII. Definitions

**** NPDES General Permits have Public Notice Section**



Structure – Regulatory References

I. Performance Standards

5. Any violation of the COC or the CAWMP shall be considered a violation of this Permit and subject to enforcement actions. A violation of this Permit may result in the Permittee having to take immediate or long-term corrective action(s) as required by the Division or the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These actions may include, but are not limited to, modifying the CAWMP; ceasing land application of waste; removing animals from the facility; or reopening and modifying, revoking and reissuing, and/or terminating the COC. – [40 CFR 122.41(a); 15A NCAC 02T .1305(e)]

V. General Conditions

5. The annual permit fee shall be paid by the Permittee within thirty (30) days after being billed by the Division. Failure to pay the fee accordingly constitutes grounds for revocation of the COC to operate under this General Permit. – [G.S. §143-215.10G and 15A NCAC 02T .0105(e)(2)]

General Permits Development Process

12 – 18 months

Multiple opportunities for public input

Stakeholder Process

- Technical Workgroup Sessions
- Public Input Session
- Accepted oral and written comments

Draft General Permits online for public review

Public Comment Period – *required by State Regs*

- Public meeting(s)
- Accept oral, written, and electronic comments
- Report of Proceedings

Finalize Permits

12-18 months



General Permits – Renewal Process

- Development of New General Permit
- Send out Renewal Applications – pre-populated
- Application Submittal
 - At least 180 days prior to expiration
 - Paper
 - Electronic – via email Animal.Operations@deq.nc.gov
- Application Processing / Review
 - Full Application and Supporting Documents
 - Review 100%
- Issue new permits / COCs at one time



General Permits – Applications

Application Form (NOI)

Include Certified Animal Waste Management Plan

- Nutrient Management Plan
- Site Map
- Emergency Action Plan
- Odor Control Checklist
- Insect Control Checklist
- Mortality Management Plan
- Operation & Maintenance Plan
- Lagoon / Waste Structure Capacity Documentation

Required for New Permits and for Renewals



General Permits – Compliance

Annual Compliance Inspections

- EVERY permitted AFO
- Records Audit
- Site Inspection

Self Reporting Requirements

Other Inspections

Aerial Surveillance

Complaints

Tiered Enforcement Policy



General Permits – Reporting

On-farm Records

Annual Compliance Inspection

Mandatory Self Reporting

Consistent Enforcement for failure to report

Press Release / Public Notice of discharge

Limited Compliance Reports



General Permits – Coverage Assurance

Permit Thresholds in Statute – 1995

Consistent regulatory presence

Interagency cooperation

Outreach to industry – integrators, commodity groups

Active community groups / NGOs



General Permits – North Carolina

www.deq.nc.gov/animalpermits2024

Christine Lawson

Email: Christine.Lawson@deq.nc.gov

Phone: 919-707-3664

Mail: Animal Feeding Operations
NC Division of Water Resources
1636 Mail Service Center
Raleigh NC, 27699-1636

