



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

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Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities

Overview

Stormwater runoff from construction activities can have a significant impact on water quality. As stormwater flows over a construction site, it picks up pollutants like sediment, debris, and chemicals. Polluted stormwater runoff can harm or kill fish and other wildlife. Sedimentation can destroy aquatic habitat and high volumes of runoff can cause stream bank erosion.

The NPDES Stormwater program requires operators of construction sites one acre or larger (including smaller sites that are part of a larger common plan of development) to obtain authorization to discharge stormwater under an NPDES construction stormwater permit.

The development and implementation of stormwater pollution prevention plans is the focus of NPDES stormwater permits for regulated construction activities.

Most states are authorized to implement the [Stormwater NPDES permitting program](#). EPA remains the permitting authority in a few states, territories, and on most land in Indian Country. For construction (and other land disturbing activities) in areas where EPA is the permitting authority, operators must meet the requirements of the EPA [Construction General Permit \(CGP\)](#).

The National Energy Policy Act of 2005 amended language in the Clean Water Act (CWA) relating to oil and gas construction activities. The statutory changes effectively exclude oil and gas construction activities from the requirement to obtain NPDES permit coverage. This exclusion applies to all oil and gas construction sites regardless of the area disturbed. EPA has published a [proposed rulemaking](#) that would codify these statutory changes in the CWA into the existing NPDES regulations.

General Information and Guidance for Construction Activities

- [EPA's Construction General Permit](#)
- [EPA's Construction General Permit Factsheet](#)
- [EPA's Construction General Permit FAQs](#)
- [Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan Development](#)
- [Stormwater and the Construction Industry Poster](#) [PDF Format]
- [Construction Industry Compliance Assistance Web Site](#) **EXIT disclaimer** >
- In early 2002, EPA's Office of Compliance established a national work group to address issues related to the construction industry. The



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