

CSWGP SAMPLING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

MAJOR CHANGES

A change under the 2010 general permit is that Permittees must submit monthly discharge monitoring reports (DMRs) electronically using Ecology's secure online system, WAWebDMR unless you have been approved for a waiver. To sign up for WAWebDMR go to:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/permits/paris/webdmr.html>. The waiver request form is available at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/construction/index.html>. If you have questions, contact Charles Gilman at charles.gilman@ecy.wa.gov, or 360-407-6437.

SAMPLING DOCUMENTATION

1. How often do I sample?

Once you disturb the soil, you must conduct sampling at least once every calendar week when stormwater (or authorized non-stormwater) flows off of the site, otherwise referred to as having a "discharge."

2. Where do I sample?

You must take samples from all discharge points where stormwater (or authorized non-stormwater such as de-watering water) flows off-site. For more information on authorized and prohibited discharges, please refer to Special Condition S1.C and D in the permit.

3. When stormwater leaves my site from more than one location, what do I need to do?

- a. Submit a report (either via WAWebDMR or a paper DMR) for each location where stormwater is discharged from the site.
- b. Enter a unique name or description of the monitoring location (for example: Pond 1; or West Ditch). You must use the **same** monitoring location name each month for the duration of your project.
- c. Identify all sampling point(s) on the map in your Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). You must also clearly mark each sample point in the field with a flag, tape, stake or other visible marker.

4. What if I don't have a discharge off site for an entire week?

If there was no discharge during **a calendar week**, you need not take a sample. Mark an X in the "No Discharge" column for that week on the DMR form. If there was no discharge **during a calendar month**, mark the "No Discharge" box at the bottom of the table. You are still required to send in your DMR reports every month, whether or not you had a discharge that month.

5. If it rains at 3 AM on my site, do I have to get up and sample at that hour?

You need not sample outside of normal working hours or during unsafe conditions. If you are unable to sample during a monitoring period, you must include a brief explanation in the "Comment/Explanation" box of the DMR.

6. What kind of stormwater turbidity/transparency sampling do I have to do?

If construction activity disturbs 5 acres or more, the permit requires you to use a turbidity meter when conducting turbidity sampling. If construction activity disturbs greater than or equal to 1 acre, but less than 5 acres, you may use either a transparency tube **or** a turbidity meter. You must enter turbidity (NTU) or transparency (cm) values collected each week on the DMR.

7. What if my turbidity result is greater than 250 NTU or my transparency is less than 6 centimeters (cm)?

As indicated in detail in Special Condition S4 of the permit, if any discharge is greater than 250 NTU or less than 6 centimeters (cm) transparency, you must begin daily sampling. You must also record the values in the attached sampling log (on page 2). Write the date, sampling result (value), and unit (NTU or cm).

Continue to sample daily until:

- a. Turbidity is 25 NTU (or lower); or

- b. Transparency is 31 cm (or greater); or
- c. The CESCL has determined compliance with the water quality standard for turbidity:
 - 1. No more than 5 NTU over background turbidity, if background is less than 50 NTU, or
 - 2. No more than 10% over background turbidity, if background is 50 NTU or greater; or
- d. The discharge stops or is eliminated.

8. When do I have to sample for pH?

a. Definitions:

- o *Significant Concrete Work* means greater than 1,000 cubic yards poured or recycled concrete used over the life of the project.
- o *Engineered Soils* means the use of soil amendments including, but not limited to, Portland cement treated base (CTB), cement kiln dust (CKD), or fly ash to achieve certain desirable soil characteristics.

b. For *significant concrete work*, pH monitoring begins when the concrete is first exposed to precipitation and continues weekly until stormwater pH is between 6.5 and 8.5 standard units prior to discharge.

c. For sites with engineered soils, the pH monitoring period begins when the soil amendments are first exposed to precipitation and continues until the area of engineered soils is fully stabilized.

d. During the pH monitoring period, the Permittee must obtain a representative sample of stormwater and conduct pH analysis at least once per week.

e. The Permittee must monitor pH in the sediment trap/pond(s) or other locations before discharge from the site.

f. The benchmark value for pH is between 6.5 and 8.5 standard units. Any time sampling indicates that pH is outside this range, the Permittee must:

- 1. Prevent water that has a pH outside of the 6.5 to 8.5 su range from entering the storm sewer systems or surface waters; and
- 2. If necessary, adjust or neutralize the water's pH using an appropriate treatment BMP such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) sparging or dry ice. The permittee must obtain written approval from Ecology before using any form of chemical treatment other than CO₂ sparging or dry ice. Information on CO₂ sparging / dry ice BMP can be found on Ecology's web site at:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater.

g. The Permittee shall perform pH analysis on site with a calibrated pH meter, pH test kit, or wide-range pH indicator paper. The Permittee must record pH monitoring results in the site log book.

9. What do the treatment BMP letter codes on the form mean?

For any discharge, report the type of treatment Best Management Practices (BMP) applied to the stormwater (or non-stormwater) before discharge from the site. Use the letter code (for example, P for Pond) that corresponds to the type of BMP used for the specific discharge. BMP codes are listed on the DMR. If multiple treatment BMPs are used, list the letter code for each type of BMP.

10. What if I haven't started clearing or grading my site?

If you have not begun initial soil disturbing activity, mark an X in the applicable box. Indicate the estimated construction start date, and continue to submit the DMR each month.

11. Who should sign the report?

A. This report must be signed as follows:

- 1. Corporations: by a responsible corporate officer of at least the level of vice president of a corporation or a duly authorized representative;
- 2. Partnerships: by a general partner of a partnership or a duly authorized representative;
- 3. Sole proprietorships: by the proprietor or a duly authorized representative; or
- 4. Municipal, state, or other public facility: by either a principal executive officer, ranking elected official or a duly authorized representative.

B. A person is a duly authorized representative only if:

- 1. The authorization is made in writing by a person described above and submitted to Ecology.
- 2. The authorization specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated facility or having overall responsibility for environmental matters.

C. Changes to authorization:

If an authorization is no longer accurate, submit a new authorization to Ecology before (or together with) any reports, information, or applications to be signed by an authorized representative.

ADDITIONAL SAMPLING

1. What if I take additional samples or have more information to submit?

You can submit any additional information on separate sheets of paper or scan and upload additional information into WAWebDMR. Please sign, date, and write the site information on those sheets (including permit number) so we can place them in your file.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Mail WAWebDMR waiver request and DMRs to:

**Department of Ecology
Water Quality Program- Construction Stormwater
P.O. Box 47696
Olympia, WA 98504-7696**

2. Keep all site inspection reports and lab results on site. You do not need to submit these to Ecology but they must be available to Ecology inspectors.

3. Who can I call for assistance?

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Ecology's Water Quality Reception Desk at (360) 407-6600. Please have your site name, location, and permit number available when calling.

For more information, additional forms and/or additional copies of the permit; please visit our web site:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/construction>.