



Sand and Gravel General Permit

Washington State requires a permit to discharge wastewater to waters of the state. Since wastewater includes stormwater and waters of the state include groundwater as well as surface water, nearly all facilities require a discharge permit. The sand and gravel general permit provides permit coverage for discharges of process water, stormwater, and mine dewatering water associated with sand and gravel operations, rock quarries, and similar mining operations, including stockpiles of mined materials. It also provides coverage for concrete batch operations and hot mix asphalt operations.

The permit authorizes wastewater discharges to waters of the state of Washington subject to the permit conditions. Permit conditions require the permit holder to provide environmental protection through best management practices and wastewater treatment.

Best management practices (BMPs) are physical, structural, or managerial practices designed to prevent or reduce pollutants in the discharge. Typical BMPs include channeling stormwater to prevent mixing with process water, coverage of chemicals, and containment of spills.

Wastewater treatment alters the character of the wastewater before discharge and it is required as necessary to achieve compliance. Examples of treatment often used to comply with permit conditions include pH adjustment of concrete wastewater and solids settling of stormwater before discharge to surface water.

Permit Required

Those facilities with activities designated by the following Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes are subject to coverage under the sand and gravel general permit:

- 0811 Timber Tracts (sand and gravel point source activities)
- 1411 Dimension Stone
- 1422 Crushed and Broken Limestone
- 1423 Crushed and Broken Granite
- 1429 Crushed and Broken Stone, Not Elsewhere Classified
- 1442 Construction Sand and Gravel

- 1446 Industrial Sand
- 1455 Kaolin and Ball Clay
- 1459 Clay, Ceramic, and Refractory Minerals, Not Otherwise Classified
- 1499 Miscellaneous Nonmetallic Minerals, Except Fuels
- 2411 Logging (sand and gravel point source activities)
- 2951 Asphalt Paving Mixtures and Blocks
- 3273 Ready-Mixed Concrete

The types of facilities included are sand and gravel mines, rock quarries, clay mines, silica mines, diatomite mines, olivine mines, dolomite mines, hot mix asphalt plants, and concrete batch plants. Some facilities may require coverage for stormwater only.

Coverage for timber tracts and logging activities (SIC codes 0811 and 2411) only includes those mining activities associated with the forestry industry that classify as silvicultural point source. Silvicultural point source activities are limited to rock crushing or gravel washing operations that use a discernible, confined and discrete conveyance (e.g. ditch, pipe) to discharge pollutants to surface waters of the state.

Facilities Not Covered

Since a general permit is designed to provide environmental protection under conditions typical for the covered industry group, it will not be appropriate in every situation. Environmental protection can not always be

assured when site specific conditions at a facility are not typical of the industry group or are beyond the scope of the proposed general permit. Facilities that are ineligible for coverage under the general permit will typically require an individual permit.

Any facility that falls within the covered activities (SIC codes) should apply for coverage. Ecology will determine if the general permit is appropriate or not. You will be notified and provided with the appropriate application form if conditions require an individual permit.

Why A General Permit

A general permit is very similar to an individual wastewater discharge permit except it is written for a group of facilities that are very similar in processes and wastewater characteristics. A single permit that looks the same for all facilities is produced rather than a separate permit tailored to each individual facility. This results in savings of time and money for both Ecology and for the permitted facility.

Permit Fees

Washington State law requires Ecology to collect permit fees to cover the costs of wastewater discharge permit administration. Permit fees are set by rule development and are found in chapter 173-224 WAC. Since fee amounts can change with time, please consult the WAC or call Ecology for the current amount.

The fee rule also includes a provision for fee reduction based on economic hardship. Criteria for fee reduction and the amount of the reduction may change over time. You are encouraged to consult the fee rule, chapter 173-224 WAC or call Ecology to determine if your operation is eligible for a fee reduction based on economic hardship.

Application For Coverage

The sand and gravel general permit has an application for coverage and instructions designed specifically for this permit. Please contact the "Permit Coordinator" at the appropriate Ecology Regional Office (see below) to obtain the application. Be sure to request the application for the sand and gravel general permit.

Additional Information

Ecology has prepared brochures on the following topics:

- Coverage for Portable Operations
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
- Erosion & Sediment Control Plan
- Spill Plan
- Monitoring Plan and Sampling
- Implementing BMPs
- Employee Training

Contact the Permit Coordinator to request a brochure or visit the sand and gravel web site. Additional information and forms are also available at the web site:

www.wa.gov/ecology/wq/sand

Northwest Regional Office

Water Quality Program
Permit Coordinator
3190 - 160th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452
(425) 649-7000

For: King, Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, San Juan, Kitsap, and Island Counties

Southwest Regional Office

Water Quality Program
Permit Coordinator
PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
(360) 407-6300

For: Thurston, Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, Mason, Pierce, Lewis, Skamania, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Clark, and Pacific Counties

Central Regional Office

Water Quality Program
Permit Coordinator
15 West Yakima Avenue, Suite 200
Yakima, WA 98902-3401
(509) 575-2490

For: Yakima, Benton, Klickitat, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, and Okanogan Counties

Eastern Regional Office

Water Quality Program
N. 4601 Monroe, Suite 100
Spokane, WA 99205-1295
(509) 456-2926

For: Spokane, Grant, Adams, Whitman, Ferry, Franklin, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Garfield, Columbia, Asotin, Lincoln, and Walla Walla Counties