

SUBCHAPTER 7. REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGES TO GROUNDWATER (DGW)

7:14A-7.1 Purpose

This subchapter establishes NJPDES permit requirements for persons who discharge pollutants to ground waters of the State. The purpose of the NJPDES discharge to ground water permit is to restore, enhance, and maintain the ground water quality of the State, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 58:10A-1 et seq. and the Ground Water Quality Standards (GWQS) in N.J.A.C. 7:9C.

Administrative correction.
See: 37 N.J.R. 4245(a).

7:14A-7.2 Requirement to discharge in compliance with a valid NJPDES permit

(a) Persons responsible for discharges to ground water shall comply with all applicable NJPDES regulations.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in N.J.A.C. 7:14A-7.4 and 7.5, no person shall discharge to ground water prior to obtaining a discharge to ground water permit.

(c) All discharges to ground water permits existing on May 5, 1997 shall continue in full force and effect until renewed or terminated in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

7:14A-7.3 Scope and applicability

(a) Persons responsible for discharges to ground water shall comply with all the requirements of this subchapter, except those persons listed under (c), (d), and (e) below, and in N.J.A.C. 7:14A-7.4.

(b) Persons responsible for the activities, pollution sources, or regulated units listed at (b)1 through 7 below shall comply with the requirements of this subchapter. Persons responsible for discharges not listed below are not exempt from the requirement to obtain a discharge to ground water permit. The list is intended only to be illustrative and is not exhaustive:

1. Surface impoundments;
2. Spray irrigation;
3. Overland flow;
4. Infiltration/percolation lagoons;
5. Residuals surface impoundments;
6. Injection wells; and
7. Land disposal of dredged spoil.

(c) Persons responsible for discharges to ground water from sanitary landfills as provided for in N.J.A.C. 7:26 shall conduct ground water monitoring in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:14A-9.

(d) Persons responsible for discharges to ground water from hazardous waste facilities as defined in N.J.A.C. 7:26G, shall conduct ground water monitoring in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:14A-10.

(e) Persons responsible for discharges to ground water associated with land application of residual shall comply with N.J.A.C. 7:14A-20.

Administrative correction.
See: 29 N.J.R. 3822(a).
Amended N.J.A.C. references.
Administrative correction.
See: 38 N.J.R. 5153(a).

7:14A-7.4 Exemptions

(a) Persons responsible for the following discharges are exempt from the requirement to obtain a discharge to ground-water permit:

1. Discharges from single family residential subsurface sewage disposal systems that are designed, constructed, installed and operated in compliance with the Realty Improvement Sewerage and Facilities Act, N.J.S.A. 58:11-23 et seq., and Standards for Individual Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems, N.J.A.C. 7:9A;

2. Return flows from irrigated agriculture;

3. Discharges that occurred prior to May 5, 1997, except existing permitted discharges identified in N.J.A.C. 7:14A-7.2(c);

4. Any discharge not to exceed 60 calendar days and in compliance with the instructions of a Department on-scene coordinator or remedial project manager pursuant to 40 CFR 300 (the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan) or 33 CFR 153.10(e) (Pollution by Oil and Hazardous Substances), and the Spill Compensation and Control Act, N.J.S.A. 58:10-23.11; and

5. The following stormwater discharges, if such discharges are not through underground injection regulated under N.J.A.C. 7:14A-8, and do not require a permit under N.J.A.C. 7:14A-24.2(a)9:

i. Stormwater discharges from municipal separate storm sewers that are not identified under N.J.A.C. 7:14A-25.2(a) or (b);

ii. Stormwater discharges from residential areas (including residential streets, parking lots, easements, and open space), or from commercial areas (other than areas of high pollutant loading), unless N.J.A.C. 7:14A-25.2(a) or (b) requires the operating entity to apply for a NJPDES permit for the discharge. For purposes of this subparagraph and N.J.A.C. 7:14A-8.5(b)9 and 24.2(c)3, high pollutant loading areas are commercial areas where solvents and/or petroleum products are loaded/unloaded, stored, or applied; commercial areas where pesticides are loaded and/or unloaded or stored; commercial areas where hazardous materials are expected to be present in greater than "reportable quantities" as defined by the

USEPA at 40 C.F.R. 302.4; commercial areas where recharge would be inconsistent with a remedial action work plan approved pursuant to the Administrative Requirements for the Remediation of Contaminated Sites rules, N.J.A.C. 7:26C, or a landfill closure plan; and commercial areas where the risk for spills of toxic material is high, such as gas stations and vehicle maintenance facilities; and

iii. Stormwater discharges from animal feeding operations that do not require NJPDES permits under N.J.A.C. 7:14A-2.5(d) or 2.13.

Amended by R.2004 d.47, effective February 2, 2004.

See: 35 N.J.R. 169(a), 35 N.J.R. 1331(a), 36 N.J.R. 813(a).

In (a), added 5.

Special amendment, R.2009 d.361, effective November 4, 2009 (to expire May 4, 2011).

See: 41 N.J.R. 4467(a).

In (a)5ii, deleted "Department approved" preceding "remedial", inserted "approved pursuant to the Administrative Requirements for the Remediation of Contaminated Sites rules, N.J.A.C. 7:26C," and inserted "a" preceding "landfill".

7:14A-7.5 Authorization of discharges to ground water by permit-by-rule

(a) Any person responsible for any of the following discharges to ground water is deemed to have a permit-by-rule:

1. Discharges to ground water from underground injection activities that are eligible for a permit-by-rule under N.J.A.C. 7:14A-8.5;

2. Discharges to ground water from activities associated with the flushing or cleaning of potable water mains and fire water systems, including hydrants and sprinklers;

3. Discharges to ground water from activities associated with the development of potable water wells;

4. Discharges to ground water from activities associated with the installation, development and sampling of monitoring wells in accordance with a NJPDES permit or, for activities not included in a NJPDES permit, in accordance with the Technical Requirements for Site Remediation, including, but not limited to, the requirements of N.J.A.C. 7:26E-3.7(c)2 and 6.4(d)3; and

5. Discharges to ground water from wells, other than discharges that occur during the course of a remediation pursuant to (b)3 below, that occur during aquifer tests for the purpose of obtaining hydrogeologic data, provided that such discharges do not exceed 30 calendar days in duration.

(b) Any person responsible for the discharges to ground water listed in (b)3i through vii below is deemed to have a permit-by-rule if the discharge occurs when:

1. A contaminated site, as defined in N.J.A.C. 7:26E-1.8, is being remediated pursuant to the rules at N.J.A.C. 7:14B implementing the Underground Storage of Hazardous Substances Act (N.J.S.A. 13:1K-6 et seq.), the requirements of the Industrial Site Recovery Act (N.J.S.A.

13:1K-6 et seq.), the requirements of the Spill Compensation and Control Act (N.J.S.A. 58:10-23.11), or the Administrative Requirements for the Remediation of Contaminated Sites rules at N.J.A.C. 7:26C; and

2. The person is in receipt of written approval of the discharge from the Department;

3. The following ground water discharges are authorized by a permit-by-rule under this subsection:

i. Discharges to ground water, not to exceed 180 calendar days, from pilot treatment plants to obtain engineering design data;

ii. Discharges to ground water related to biotreatability studies where the discharge will not exceed 180 calendar days;

iii. Discharges to ground water, not to exceed 30 calendar days, from wells to test aquifers for the purpose of obtaining engineering and hydrogeologic design data;

iv. Discharges to ground water, not to exceed 180 calendar days, from any other facility or equipment associated with engineering studies, remedial action selection, or design studies and associated monitoring;

v. Discharges to ground water to remediate contamination from discharges of heating oil as defined at N.J.A.C. 7:14A-1.2, at a residential building of four units or less;

vi. Discharges to ground water, not to exceed 180 calendar days, related to dewatering at a contaminated site or regulated underground storage tank facility; and

vii. Discharges to ground water, other than those listed in (b)3i through vi above, that occur during the course of a site remediation that is being conducted in accordance with the Technical Requirements for Site Remediation, N.J.A.C. 7:26E, including the requirements of N.J.A.C. 7:26E-6.1 and 6.3(c).

(c) The Department shall invalidate any permit-by-rule under this section and require any person responsible for the discharge for which the permit-by-rule had been approved to apply for and obtain an individual discharge to ground water permit if:

1. The discharge is likely to contravene the ground water quality standards at N.J.A.C. 7:9C;

2. The discharge may result in violation of the Surface Water Quality Standards at N.J.A.C. 7:9B.

Amended by R.2005 d.222, effective July 5, 2005.

See: 37 N.J.R. 405(a), 37 N.J.R. 2499(a).

In (a), rewrote 4 and 5; rewrote (b).

Administrative correction.

See: 37 N.J.R. 4245(a).

Special amendment, R.2009 d.361, effective November 4, 2009 (to expire May 4, 2011).

See: 41 N.J.R. 4467(a).

In (b)1, updated the first N.J.A.C. reference, substituted "Administrative Requirements for" for "Procedures for Department Oversight of" and inserted "rules" following "Sites".

7:14A-7.6 Ground Water Protection Program (GWPP)

(a) Each discharge to ground water permit, except those identified in N.J.A.C. 7:14A-7.3(c), (d) and (e), and those

permitted by rule pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:14A-7.5, shall include an approved Ground Water Protection Program to ensure that the discharge does not contravene the ground