



## FACTS ABOUT:

### FOR DISCHARGES OF STORM WATER AND HYDROSTATIC TEST WATER FROM OIL TERMINALS TO SURFACE OR GROUND WATERS OF THE STATE

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General discharge permits are discharge permits issued for classes of discharges. These discharges are generally the result of a particular operation or treatment process and are very similar in effluent characteristics. Each general permit provides effluent limitations and conditions that the dischargers must meet, and is subject to the same enforcement actions as individual discharge permits. General permits improve the efficiency of the Maryland Department of the Environment in issuing permits to cover certain types of discharges and at the same time provide a service to the regulated community by reducing the time necessary to obtain a permit.

This general permit has been developed to address oil terminal discharges of:

- storm water from storage tank dikes and loading rack areas; and
- hydrostatic test water.

Federal (40 CFR 122) and State (COMAR 26.08.04) regulations require discharge permits for this activity. Specifically, State regulations require that discharges of any wastes or wastewater regardless of volume be authorized by a discharge permit. This applies to discharges to surface or ground waters. Federal regulations address discharges to surface waters only, requiring a permit for the discharge of pollutants. The permit sets numerical limits on the concentration of the petroleum product contamination following treatment of the storm water or hydrostatic test water. The limits are based on what has been demonstrated to be technologically achievable.

**This permit authorizes the discharge of treated ground water from oil contaminated ground water sources to surface or ground waters of the State.** State and federal regulation of these discharges is required due to the effluents having the potential to cause localized problems in the receiving waters. In addition, these regulations require quality control of all wastewaters by the best available treatment or pollution prevention technology.

This permit does not authorize discharges from oil terminals:

- having a total aggregate storage capacity of at least 5 million gallons of oil and which have marine or pipeline transfer capabilities; or
- of industrial process wastewater.

Contact telephone number is (410) 537-3442 for any questions or further information.

