



FACTS ABOUT:

FOR THE DISCHARGE OF TREATED GROUND WATER FROM OIL CONTAMINATED GROUND WATER SOURCES TO SURFACE OR GROUND WATERS OF THE STATE

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 discharges of treated ground water which have been previously contaminated by oil as the result of leaks or spills. Both federal (40 CFR Part 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 effluent concentration of the oil product contamination following treatment of the contaminated ground water. The limits are based on what has been demonstrated to be technologically achievable. Self-monitoring is required to verify compliance.

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 the reinjection or infiltration of treated water directly to groundwater of the State without specific approval from the Department;
- authorize the discharge of treated water into a municipal sanitary system; or
- interfere with evaluation and monitoring requirements for testing ground water monitoring wells prior to treatment and which are part of a site's cleanup activities.

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

