

3.05 GROUND WATER DISCHARGE PERMIT (Municipal or Industrial)

❑ *Question: Will I discharge any wastewater to the groundwaters of the State?*

Why do I need this approval?

Ground Water Discharge Permits control the disposal of treated municipal or industrial wastewater into the State's ground water via spray irrigation and other land-treatment applications, as well as into the subsurface by a drainfield or seepage pit. A groundwater discharge permit will contain the limitations and requirements deemed necessary to protect public health and protect ground water quality.

What laws or regulations give MDE the legal authority to issue this approval?

FEDERAL: 40 CFR Part 144
STATE: Environment Article, Title 9, Subtitle 3;
COMAR 26.08.01 through 26.08.04 and 26.08.07.

What is the process to get this approval?

- 1) The applicant submits a complete permit application.
- 2) The Department performs a preliminary site evaluation.
- 3) The applicant performs a hydrogeological study.
- 4) The Department publishes notice of permit application and provides an opportunity for an informational meeting.
- 5) The Department holds an information meeting, if requested.
- 6) The Department reviews and approves the hydrogeological report.
- 7) The Department drafts the permit and issues a notice of tentative determination.
- 8) The Department holds a public hearing, if requested.
- 9) The Department prepares the final determination with additional public notice, if any adverse comments are received at public hearing.
- 10) The Department issues the permit if the final determination is not contested.
- 11) If contested, administrative procedures for the appeal process are followed.

Before I apply for this approval, do I need to get any approvals from the local or federal government?

Proposed municipal projects must be included in county water and sewer plans before the Department can process a permit. Locally issued permits for activities such as building and sediment control may be needed for these projects but are not required for the Department to process a ground water discharge permit.

Is this approval directly related or contingent on other approvals?

No.

Are there any other requirements?

Pre-application review:

- 1) Favorable results from a preliminary site evaluation by the Department;
- 2) Municipal projects must be identified in a current county water and sewerage plan; and
- 3) Depending on the size of the projects, a copy of a hydrogeological study of the proposed site submitted to the Department for review and approval.

Post Approval: A Water and Sewerage Construction Permit (3.07) may be needed.

How long should I expect it to take to get this approval once I submit a complete application?

Type of Facility	Turnaround Time
New minor facilities	9 months
Renewal minor facilities	14 months

Also see Predictable Permitting Services: [Fee](#) and [Non-Fee](#).

Once I get this approval, how long will it last?

Maximum of five years

How much will this approval cost?

Type of Fee	Fee
Application fee (for industrial)	\$50 to \$20,000 depending on the volume of discharge, the type of industry, and how the water is used.
Annual permit fee (for industrial)	\$100 to \$5,000 depending on the volume of the discharge.
Municipal permits	No fee.

Who do I contact with additional questions?

Ching-Tzone Tien
Groundwater Permits Division
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Related link:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Permits/WaterManagementPermits/Pages/waterpermits.aspx>