

DRAFT ATTACHMENT J**DEWATERING REQUIREMENTS****NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES)
GENERAL PERMIT FOR STORMWATER DISCHARGES ASSOCIATED
WITH CONSTRUCTION AND LAND DISTURBANCE ACTIVITIES
(GENERAL PERMIT)****A. Authorized Construction Dewatering Discharges**

1. Dischargers with dewatering activities subject to a separate NPDES, de minimis, or low threat discharge permit for dewatering activities shall obtain coverage as required by the State or Regional Water Board.
2. Dewatering discharges authorized by this General Permit include mechanical pumping or syphoning of non-potable water from sources including, but not limited to: excavations, trenches, foundations, vaults, groundwater removal specifically related to the construction activities, and/or water collected in surface impoundments (e.g., ponds, puddles, low points on the active site, or other similar accumulation points).
3. At least 24 hours prior to the beginning of a dewatering discharge, the discharger shall:
 - a. Update the site-specific SWPPP in SMARTS with current information required in Sections A.5 below, if necessary; and
 - b. Notify the applicable Regional Water Boards of the anticipated dewatering discharge.
4. Dischargers shall comply with the following dewatering discharge requirements:
 - a. The discharge complies with receiving water limitations in Section IV.D of this General Order.
 - b. The discharge is absent of pollutants in quantities that threaten to cause pollution or a nuisance¹;
 - c. The dewatering activity takes place in an area without known (including, but not limited to information from: Geotracker, local permitting authorities, Water Boards, etc.) soil and/or groundwater

¹ 40 Code of Federal Regulations section 131.12, and State Water Board Resolution No. 68 16.

- contamination where that contamination could adversely affect the discharge and/or the receiving water;
- d. The discharger shall utilize outlet structures that withdraw water from the surface when conducting dewatering activity from sediment basins or similar impoundments, unless infeasible;
 - e. The discharge shall be analyzed for pH and turbidity at the discharge location within the first hour of discharge and daily for continuous dewatering discharges. Each sample must instantaneously comply with the numerical action levels for pH (within 6.5 - 8.5 standard pH units) and turbidity (250 nephelometric turbidity units);
 - f. The discharger shall enter results of all numeric action level exceedances through SMARTS within 10 days of field measurements (e.g., turbidity and pH);
 - g. The Qualified SWPPP Developer (QSD) shall revise the SWPPP to incorporate immediate corrective actions to prevent further exceedances of the numeric action levels for pH and turbidity, within 10 days of the exceedance. The revised SWPPP shall be uploaded as part of a Change of Information through SMARTS;
 - h. Dewatering operations with discharge(s) exceeding the numeric action levels for pH and turbidity shall immediately cease until the dewatering discharge complies with the requirements in A.4.a through A.4.h above;
 - i. The discharger shall cease discharge if necessary, as follows:
 - i. Through an automated sampling device capable of ceasing the discharge if a single sample concentration/level exceeds the numeric action level(s); or,
 - ii. By a QSP or delegate who is present during the operation of the mechanical pumping and/or syphoning of the dewatering activity and is able to halt dewatering if a numeric action level is exceeded for a single sample.
 - j. The discharger shall notify the corresponding Regional Water Board within 24 hours of a discharge occurring if an exception to the requirement to cease discharge is necessary to protect human life and health or prevent severe property damage.
5. The discharger shall describe how the following requirements are addressed in the site-specific SWPPP developed by a QSD:

- a. The discharger shall select and implement site-specific BMPs to prevent the dewatering discharge from contacting construction materials or equipment.
 - b. The discharger shall select and implement BMPs that do not use waters of the U.S. as part of the treatment area, at all areas or points where dewatering water is discharged;
 - c. The discharger shall select and implement on-site BMPs to decelerate the velocity of the dewatering discharge (e.g., check dams, sediment traps, riprap, and grouted riprap at outlets);
 - d. The discharger shall clean and maintain all dewatering devices and filter media when the pressure differential equals or exceeds the manufacturer's specifications (if applicable).
 - e. The discharger shall follow site-specific dewatering sampling protocols used to comply with requirements in Section A.4 above; and,
 - f. The discharger shall depict the dewatering activity discharge area location(s) in the site maps.
6. This General Permit does not limit the State or Regional Water Boards' authority to modify dewatering discharge requirements upon providing written notice to the discharger, including but not limited to the following:
- a. Adding constituents to be monitored;
 - b. Adding or modifying frequency of monitoring;
 - c. Requiring all or part of the discharge to be treated by an active treatment system prior to discharge; and/or,
 - d. Revoking coverage under this General Permit and requiring the discharger to obtain different NPDES permit coverage for discharges to waters of the United States.