

MO-G840000 Permits for Clay Mining, Processing and Stockpiles



The Clean Water Act (CWA) passed by Congress in 1972 created the basic framework for regulating the discharge of pollutants from industry (point source pollution) into rivers and streams. The CWA gives the EPA the authority to establish the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) to develop effluent limits using both Technology Based Effluent Limitations (TBELs) and Water Quality Based Effluent Limitations (WQBELs). This allows states, territories and tribes to develop effluent limits and to permit discharges based on the best available treatment technology and pollution prevention measures. State regulations, called water quality criteria, also aid the department in setting limits based on scientifically defensible standards that ensure the protection of designated uses of a receiving water. The most protective value of TBEL or WQBEL is always used to set permit limits.

MO-G84 authorizes process wastewater, mine dewatering, and stormwater discharges associated with clay mining, processing, and stockpiles. This permit does not authorize any mining activity, only water discharges that result from the activity. This permit does not authorize the disposal of coal combustion residuals or ash.

Stormwater and wastewater regulations use the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system to determine if an industry is regulated under the law. This classification system was devised to cover all economic activities. Facilities having the SIC codes of 1455 (kaolin and ball clay) and 1459 (clay, ceramic, and refractory minerals, not elsewhere classified) may need to apply to the department for Missouri State Operating Permit MO-G84 to discharge to waters of the state.

Facilities applying for MO-G84 must submit "Form E - Application for General Permit" (MO 780-0795), which can be found at www.dnr.mo.gov/forms/780-0795-f.pdf, along with the appropriate fees. After issuance of the permit, fees will be assessed annually. A permit may be transferred to a new owner by submitting "Application for Transfer of Operating Permit" (MO 780-1517), which can be found at www.dnr.mo.gov/forms/780-1517-f.pdf, along with the appropriate fees.

MO-G84 applies only to discharges originating from the mining of clay and incidental materials associated with the mining of clay. Facilities are required to manage materials such as products, stockpiles, and waste piles to ensure that they are not transported off-site or into a water of the state during a high water event and must take precautions to ensure activities do not cause or contribute to an alteration of a stream channel. Facilities covered by MO-G84 are required to develop and maintain a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) which identifies Best Management Practices to be installed for controlling stormwater. Included are requirements for monitoring stormwater, process wastewater, and mine dewatering for pollutants and reporting the test results to the department. There is an option to operate as a no discharge facility by land application of process wastewater however,

the land application system must be inspected regularly during the land application process to check for runoff and equipment malfunctions.

All General Permits are effective for a period of up to five (5) years, but may be terminated early when activities covered by the permit have ceased and no significant materials are stored in such a way as to come into contact with stormwater. When general permit termination is sought, the permittee must submit "Form H – Request for Termination of a General Permit" (MO 780-1409), which can be found at www.dnr.mo.gov/forms/780-1409-f.pdf.

For more information contact the Department of Natural Resources Water Protection Program, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0176. Phone: 800-361-4827 or 573-751-1300. Fax: 573-526-1146. dnr.mo.gov/env/wpp/index.html.