

5.1 Effluent Limits/Overview

Applicability:

Provides the permit writer with an overview of how effluent limitations are developed for Missouri's waters.

Content:

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) was authorized by the Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1972. NPDES limits the amount of contaminants discharged to waters of the United States. Missouri was granted (delegated) authority to administer the NPDES program by the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA).

Water contaminant sources in Missouri must meet minimum treatment standards and/or technologies established by US EPA and codified in federal and state rules. Permit limits developed through application of these treatment standards are termed 'technology- based' and are discussed in Section 5.3 of the Permits Manual.

For those situations where application of a technology-based limit may threaten or degrade in-stream water quality, limits must be developed to ensure compliance with Missouri's Water Quality Standards. Permit limits derived through application of water quality standards are termed 'water quality-based effluent limitations ' (WQBELs) and are discussed in Section 5.4.

The development of certain permits requires that the permit writer generate both technology-based effluent limits and WQBELs to determine which apply. Where both WQBELs and technology-based limits are identified, the more stringent of the two limits must be placed in the permit.

Legal References:

Missouri Clean Water Law, Chapter 644

- [644.026.1\(13\) and \(17\)](#) Powers and duties of commission--rules, procedure.
- [644.051.2 and .3](#) Prohibited acts--permits required, when, fee--bond required of permit holders, when--permit application procedures--rulemaking--limitation on use of permit fee moneys.

Code of State Regulations:

- [10 CSR 20-2.010](#) Definitions
- [10 CSR 20-6.010\(8\)\(B\)](#) Construction and Operating Permits - Permit Terms and Conditions - Effluent Limits, Monitoring and other Conditions

Code of Federal Regulations

- [40 CFR Part 122.44](#) EPA Administered Programs: The NPDES - Establishing limitations, standards, and other permit conditions
- [40 CFR Parts 125](#) Aquaculture projects
- [40 CFR 131](#) Water Quality Standards

Other Links:

[US EPA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System](#)

Key Words:

Effluent Limit, NPDES, technology-based limits, water quality based limits, WQBEL,

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