

MO-G050000 Permit Requirements for Land Reclamation Projects



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-G05 authorizes wastewater, stormwater, mine dewatering and impoundment water discharges from land reclamation sites under the control of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Land Reclamation Program (LRP). This permit authorizes only the water discharges that may result from land reclamation activities. This permit requires pre-project and end of project sampling to document water quality in local streams.

MO-G05 applies only to discharges originating from the reclamation of mining land under the control of LRP. Projects are required to manage materials such as biosolids stockpiles for reclamation use 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. There are special procedures outlined within the permit pertaining to abandoned coal mine and processing area impoundments as well as metallic mineral mine shafts and impoundments. Facilities covered by MO-G05 are required to develop and maintain a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) which identifies Best Management Practices to be installed for controlling stormwater. Included in the permit are requirements for monitoring stormwater, process wastewater and mine dewatering for pollutants and reporting the test results to the department.

Projects applying for MO-G05 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. All General Permits are issued for a period of up to five (5) years. If desired, facilities may choose to terminate a general permit prior to expiration 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.