

3.1.1 Overview of the Permit/Types of Permits/ Site-Specific Permits

Applicability:

A site-specific permit is an operating permit (NPDES permit) tailored for an individual facility.

Content:

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) is the program administered by the U.S EPA for issuing, modifying, revoking and reissuing, terminating, monitoring and enforcing permits, and imposing and enforcing pretreatment requirements for industries discharging contaminants to publicly owned sewer systems. A permit is an authorization, license, or equivalent control document issued by EPA or an "approved State" to implement the NPDES requirements.

The national program responsibilities can be delegated by U.S. EPA to "approved states", as is the case in Missouri. The Department of Natural Resources, Water Protection Program manages the NPDES program in Missouri. The central component of the program is to issue state operating permits, that are NPDES Permits, to persons or organizations that operate, use or maintain any water contaminant source, point source or wastewater treatment facility that discharges to waters of the state.

A site-specific permit, termed an individual permit by EPA, is tailored to the characteristics of and conditions at a particular facility. The department develops a permit for a new facility based largely on the information contained in the permit application. A permit for an existing facility is based on the application, operating records, inspection and monitoring reports, water quality studies and related information. The permit specifically addresses the type of activity at the facility, the nature of its discharge and the characteristics of the receiving water. The permit is issued for a specific period of time not to exceed five years with the requirement to reapply prior to the expiration date.

The limits and conditions in a site-specific permit are customized for the facility. However, the process used to develop the limits and conditions and issue the permit follows a common set of steps. The steps involved in issuing a site-specific permit include:

- Receive the application
- Review application for completeness and accuracy
- Develop technology-based effluent limits based on the application and other information
- Develop water quality-based effluent limits based on the application and other information
- Compare the two types of limits and select the more stringent
- Develop monitoring requirements
- Develop special conditions
- Apply appropriate standard conditions
- Consider variances and other rules for applicability
- Prepare fact sheets and supporting documentation

- Issue public notice
- Complete the review process
- Issue the permit
- Document the process
- Inspect, monitor and enforce permit requirements

Legal References:

Missouri Clean Water Law, Chapter 644

- [644.026.1\(13\)](#) Powers and duties of commission--rules, procedure.
- [644.051.2](#) 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\(1\), \(2\), \(3\), \(5\), \(7\), \(8\) and \(10\)](#) Construction and Operating Permits -
 (1) General
 (2) Permit Applications
 (3) Continuing Authorities
 (5) Operating Permits (CP)
 (7) Schedule of Compliance
 (8) Permit Terms and Conditions
 (10) Operating Permit Renewal and Expiration Dates

Code of Federal Regulations

- [40 CFR Part 122](#) EPA Administered Programs: The [NPDES](#)
- [40 CFR Parts 123](#) State Program Requirements

Federal Clean Water Act

- [402\(b\), \(c\) and \(d\)](#)

Other Links:

[U.S. EPA NPDES Permit Writers' Manual](#), especially Chapter 3

Key Words:

Site-specific permit, operating permit, NPDES permit, individual permit

Page ID: 3.1.1 Site-Specific Permits

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