

B. How and to whom do I submit comments?

You may submit comments as provided in the **ADDRESSES** section. Please ensure that your comments are submitted within the specified comment period. Comments received after the close of the comment period will be marked "late." EPA is not required to consider these late comments.

If you submit an electronic comment, EPA recommends that you include your name, mailing address, and an email address or other contact information in the body of your comment and with any disk or CD ROM you submit. This ensures that you can be identified as the submitter of the comment and allows EPA to contact you in case EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties or needs further information on the substance of your comment. Any identifying or contact information provided in the body of a comment will be included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket. If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment.

Use of the www.regulations.gov Web site to submit comments to EPA electronically is EPA's preferred method for receiving comments. The electronic public docket system is an "anonymous access" system, which means EPA will not know your identity, email address, or other contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment. In contrast to EPA's electronic public docket, EPA's electronic mail (email) system is not an "anonymous access" system. If you send an email comment directly to the Docket without going through www.regulations.gov, your email address is automatically captured and included as part of the comment that is placed in the official public docket, and made available in EPA's electronic public docket.

Dated: January 11, 2017.

Lorie J. Schmidt,

Associate General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2017-01099 Filed 1-18-17; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA-R06-OW-2017-0017; FRL-9958-31-Region 6]

Proposed Reissuance of the NPDES General Permit for Facilities Related to Oil and Gas Extraction in the Territorial Seas of Texas

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability for comment.

SUMMARY: The Director of the Water Division, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 today proposes to reissue the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permit for the Territorial Seas of Texas (No. TXG260000) for discharges from existing and new dischargers and New Sources in the Offshore Subcategory of the Oil and Gas Extraction Point Source Category as authorized by section 402 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1342. The permit will supersede the previous general permit (TXG260000) issued on February 8, 2012 and published in the **Federal Register** at 77 FR 8855. This permit renewal authorizes discharges from exploration, development, and production facilities located in and discharging to the territorial seas off Texas.

Comment: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-R06-OW-2017-0017 to the *Federal eRulemaking Portal*: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Once submitted, comments cannot be edited or withdrawn. EPA may publish any comment received to its public docket. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Multimedia submissions (audio, video, etc.) must be accompanied by a written comment. The written comment is considered the official comment and should include discussion of all points you wish to make. EPA will generally not consider comments or comment contents located outside of the primary submission (*i.e.* on the web, cloud, or other file sharing system). For additional submission methods, the full EPA public comment policy, information about CBI or multimedia submissions, and general guidance on making effective comments, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets>.

DATES: Comments must be received by March 6, 2017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Evelyn Rosborough, Region 6, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733. Telephone: (214) 665-7515. Email: rosborough.evelyn@epa.gov.

A complete draft permit and a fact sheet more fully explaining the proposal may be obtained from Ms. Rosborough. In addition, the Agency's current administrative record on the proposal is available for examination at the Region's Dallas offices during normal working hours after providing Ms. Rosborough 24 hours advance notice. A copy of the proposed permit, fact sheet, and this **Federal Register** Notice may be found on the EPA Region 6 Web site at: <https://www3.epa.gov/region6/water/npdes/genpermit/index.htm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA intends to use the proposed reissued permit to regulate discharges from oil and gas extraction facilities located in the territorial seas off Texas. To obtain discharge authorization, operators of such facilities must submit a new Notice of Intent (NOI). To determine whether your (facility, company, business, organization, etc.) is regulated by this action, you should carefully examine the applicability criteria in Part I, Section A.2 of the permit. If you have questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section above. The proposed permit contains limitations conforming to EPA's Oil and Gas Extraction, Offshore Subcategory Effluent Limitation Guidelines at 40 CFR part 435 and additional requirements assuring that regulated discharges will not cause unreasonable degradation of the marine environment, as required by section 403(c) of the Clean Water Act. Limitations and conditions are also included to ensure compliance with State Water Quality Standards. Specific information on the derivation of those limitations and conditions is contained in the fact sheet. Specifically, the draft permit proposes to prohibit the discharge of drilling fluids, drill cuttings and produced sand. Produced water discharges are limited for oil and grease, 7-day chronic toxicity, and 48-hour acute toxicity. In addition to limits on oil and grease, the proposed permit includes a prohibition of the discharge of priority pollutants except in trace amounts in well treatment, completion, and workover fluids. A limit of "No Free Oil" is proposed for miscellaneous discharges, such as non-contact cooling water and

ballast water, and on deck drainage discharges. Discharges of seawater and freshwater which have been used to pressure test existing pipelines and piping, to which treatment chemicals have been added, are proposed to be subject to limitations on free oil, concentration of treatment chemicals, and acute toxicity. New facilities withdrawing cooling water greater than 2 million gallons per day (MGD) are required to have the best technology available for minimizing fish/shellfish impingement mortality and entrainment caused by cooling water intake structures. Pursuant to the electronic reporting rule published in the **Federal Register** (80 FR 64063), a new electronic reporting requirement is added to the proposed permit.

Other Legal Requirements

State certification under section 401 of the CWA; consistency with the Texas Coastal Management Program; and compliance with National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Historic Preservation Act, Paperwork Reduction Act, and Regulatory Flexibility Act requirements are discussed in the fact sheet to the proposed permit.

Dated: December 28, 2016.
William K. Honker,
Director, Water Division, EPA Region 6.
[FR Doc. 2017-01082 Filed 1-18-17; 8:45 am]
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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA-HQ-OW-2015-0828; FRL-9958-68-OW]

Final National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges From Construction Activities

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of final permit issuance.

SUMMARY: All ten EPA Regions today are issuing the 2017 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permit for stormwater discharges from construction activities to waters of the United States, also referred to as the “2017 Construction General Permit (CGP).” The 2017 CGP replaces the existing general permit (the “2012 CGP”) covering stormwater discharges from construction activities that expires on February 16, 2017. EPA is issuing this permit for five (5) years, during which time the permit will make available coverage to eligible operators in all areas of the country where EPA is the NPDES permitting authority. This **Federal Register** notice describes the 2017 CGP in general and provides a summary of the significant changes from the 2012 CGP.

DATES: The 2017 CGP will become effective on February 16, 2017. This effective date will provide dischargers with the immediate opportunity to comply with Clean Water Act requirements in light of the expiration of the 2012 CGP at midnight on February 16, 2017. In accordance with 40 CFR part 23, specifically 23.2, this permit shall be considered issued for the purpose of judicial review on January 25, 2017. Under section 509(b) of the Clean Water Act, judicial review of this general permit can be requested by filing a petition for review in the United States Court of Appeals within 120 days after the permit is considered issued. Under section 509(b)(2) of the Clean Water Act, this permit may not be challenged later in civil or criminal proceedings to enforce this permit. In addition, this permit may not be challenged in any other agency proceedings. Deadlines for submittal of notices of intent are provided in Part 1.4.3 of the permit. The permit also provides additional dates for compliance with the terms of the permit.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information on the permit, contact the appropriate EPA Regional office listed in Section I.C of this notice, or Emily Halter, EPA Headquarters, Office of Water, Office of Wastewater Management at tel.: 202-564-3324 or email: halter.emily@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This section is organized as follows:

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I. General Information

A. Does this action apply to me?

1. Entities Covered by This Permit

This permit covers the following entities, as categorized in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS):

TABLE 1—ENTITIES COVERED BY THIS PERMIT

Category	Examples of affected entities	North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code
Industry	Construction site operators disturbing one (1) or more acres of land, or less than one (1) acre but part of a larger common plan of development or sale if the larger common plan will ultimately disturb one (1) acre or more, and performing the following activities:	
	Construction of Buildings	236
	Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	237