

Low-Impact Discharge General Permit Information

Stop! Before you read this page, look closely at the WPDES Low -Impact Discharge General Permit & Maple Syrup Producers guide to determine if your operation needs a General Permit (GP).

If you need a Low-Impact Discharge General Permit, contact your local rep.

General Permit Contacts are assigned by region. Find the information in the contacts tab under wastewater general permits (for Low-Impact Discharge)

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/GeneralPermits.html>.

Click on the blue name below for their contact information.

Contact	Area/Counties of Responsibility
Caitlin McAleavey	Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Grant, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Richland, Rock, Sauk
David Haas	Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha
Woody Myers	Adams, Buffalo, Chippewa, Clark, Crawford, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Marathon, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Portage, St. Croix, Trempealeau, Vernon, Wood
Leila Jenkins	Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Florence, Forest, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, Vilas, Washburn

A Few Common Questions:

Why a permit? The ultimate goal is to protect the “waters of the state” from pollution. To that end, the Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit program has been established. WPDES permits are issued by the DNR Bureau of Water Quality which monitors wastewater discharges to groundwater and surface water. The goal is to maintain the cleanliness of our water in Wisconsin.

What’s the WPDES permit for? *The Low-Impact Discharge General Permit is an allowance for a facility to discharge a certain amount of pollutants into the water of the state under specific conditions. The goal is to properly manage low-impact discharges in order to protect public health and water quality of groundwater and surface water within the state of Wisconsin.* (DNR Low Impact Discharge General Permit Fact Sheet--https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Wastewater/documents/LowImpactDischargeFS_WI-0066575-01-0_FINAL.pdf)

What’s the risk from Maple Producers? Maple Syrup producers fall in the “Low-Impact Discharge” category. The discharges are relatively pollutant-free that present no or minimal impact to water quality of surface water, wetlands or groundwater when managed properly. The DNR is concerned with the amount of RO water and wastewater (reject water from the wash/rinse process) released to

Revised: 07/17/2020

groundwater or to surface water that may carry oil, grease, unhealthy pH and chlorine levels that could harm our water source and the ecosystem it supports.

- Clean RO water without chemicals discharged into **ground water** is **not** considered a pollutant. It is only a concern if the volume could cause erosion. (volume does **not** need to be included in the application). Discharge to surface water (swamp, creek, river, lake, etc.) may be a pollutant.
- RO rinse water containing chemicals **is** considered a pollutant (volume does need to be included in the application)

Is this only for producers who use RO? Yes, at this time it is required for those using RO **AND** who are required to have a DATCP Food Processing License.

What about wastewater that goes into the creek? Contact your General Permit Representative for more information and instructions. They will work with you to ensure the water is not harming anything. An additives sheet must be completed in the application when discharging to surface water.

Is this an annual thing? General permits have an effective term of about 5 years from the date of issuance. (DNR Low Impact Discharge General Permit Fact Sheet--
https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Wastewater/documents/LowImpactDischargeFS_WI-0066575-01-0_FINAL.pdf)

When is this required? Must have by February 2021

What's the cost? No cost

How do I apply? Complete an application package at **least 30 days before discharge** including:
<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Wastewater/GeneralPermits.html> (choose Low-Impact Discharge)

Notice of Intent (NOI) which includes discharge sample test results, narrative of discharge visual observations and record of any water treatment additives, etc.
<https://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/forms/3400/3400-241.pdf> (save the link to open on your computer)

Best Management Practice (BMP) Plan which includes identification of potential pollutant sources on site, pollutants discharged and how the effects shall be minimized (maintaining proper operations and following BMP), visual inspection program and log, description of erosion control, actions to take in case of a system failure (i.e. if too much is released). Other requirements included here overlap with DATCP requirements (security, good housekeeping, preventative maintenance, name and location of facility, etc)
<https://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/forms/3400/3400-240.pdf> (save the link and open on your computer)

What tests are required? Lab test for Oil & Grease, results must be less than or equal to 3.0 mg/L.

How do I get an Oil & Grease test? Contact a water testing lab near you. Try the one you already use for your DATCP water sample or check here <https://dnr.wi.gov/regulations/labcert/>. Most likely a quart glass jar of discharge water will need be sent on ice for evaluation.

How often do I need to test for Oil & Grease? Once during the permit term (approximately 5-years).

Syrup season is over, I didn't know I needed a sample! What now? Notify your general permit contact. They will work with you to identify sampling options. It is recommended that you complete the Notice of Intent (NOI) without the sample result. However, one will be required as soon as the 2021 season begins. Make a note of this in the comment section of the NOI.

Revised: 07/17/2020