



## **Frequently Asked Questions: Waiver Form**

### **General Permit for Discharges from State and Federal Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems**

**General Discharge Permit No: 13-SF-5501**

**General NPDES No: MDR055501**

State and federal agencies that own or operate small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) in the State of Maryland that are eligible for coverage under the general permit may request a waiver if the property meets the criteria outlined on page A-6 of the permit. The waiver form is found in Appendix C of the general permit and must be submitted by October 31, 2018.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

*Q: What do I enter under “Permittee Name”?*

A: The government entity that owns or operates the MS4 that is coming under coverage of the general permit.

*Q: Who is the “Responsible Personnel”?*

A: The individual responsible for facility operations.

*Q: What information is required under “Size and description of each property”?*

A: The size of the property should be provided in acres. The description should include the mission statement, relevant demographics, services provided, activities conducted on site, areas of planned growth or preservation, or any unique information about the property(ies). The description can be very brief and may be limited to a few sentences. However, any specific information will assist MDE in understanding local conditions.

*Q: In what format should the map be submitted?*

A: The map should be in a hard-copy format that can be attached to the waiver request.

*Q: What are considered interior roads?*

A: The intent of the permit is not to regulate small discrete areas that have individual buildings, and where impervious surfaces associated with vehicular traffic is limited to parking lots and driveways. Examples of facilities with interior roads include university campuses, prison complexes, and military bases. These types of facilities likely have roads that are used to access different areas of the property or off-site properties. Agencies are encouraged to contact MDE prior to the waiver due date if additional clarification is needed for individual properties.

*Q: How do agencies determine whether the site discharges a significant amount of pollutants from its MS4?*

A: MS4 operators should evaluate the property for pollutant sources and on-site activities. Examples of pollutant sources include, but are not limited to, stockpiles for material storage, hazardous waste management, areas heavily used by vehicles, equipment storage, loading docks, and grease traps. For properties that have potential on-site pollution sources, MS4 operators must describe measures currently in place that would prevent a polluted discharge. These measures could include management practices required in an existing stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP).

*Q: The due date of both the Notice of Intent (NOI) and waiver form is October 31, 2018. If MDE denies a waiver request and provides notification after the NOI due date, is there a penalty for submitting an NOI after October 31<sup>st</sup>?*

A: In the letter notifying the MS4 operator of a waiver denial, MDE will provide an extended due date for the NOI submission. All MS4 operators are encouraged to communicate with MDE prior to October 31<sup>st</sup> to ensure that State and federal agencies that do not qualify for waivers are prepared to begin implementing permit requirements. The effective date of the permit and the deadlines for progress reports and impervious area baselines remain the same.

*Q: Can I submit the waiver form electronically?*

A: Due to the significant number of permittees and associated documentation, MDE does not have the capacity to print waiver submissions. Waiver requests must be mailed to the physical address provided on the form.