

### 3.05 GROUND WATER DISCHARGE PERMIT (Municipal or Industrial)

❑ *Question: Will I discharge any wastewater to the groundwaters of the State?*

#### Why do I need this approval?

Ground Water Discharge Permits control the disposal of treated municipal or industrial wastewater into the State's ground water via spray irrigation and other land-treatment applications, as well as into the subsurface by a drainfield or seepage pit. A groundwater discharge permit will contain the limitations and requirements deemed necessary to protect public health and protect ground water quality.

#### What laws or regulations give MDE the legal authority to issue this approval?

FEDERAL: 40 CFR Part 144  
STATE: Environment Article, Title 9, Subtitle 3;  
COMAR 26.08.01 through 26.08.04 and 26.08.07.

#### What is the process to get this approval?

- 1) The applicant submits a complete permit application.
- 2) The Department performs a preliminary site evaluation.
- 3) The applicant performs a hydrogeological study.
- 4) The Department publishes notice of permit application and provides an opportunity for an informational meeting.
- 5) The Department holds an information meeting, if requested.
- 6) The Department reviews and approves the hydrogeological report.
- 7) The Department drafts the permit and issues a notice of tentative determination.
- 8) The Department holds a public hearing, if requested.
- 9) The Department prepares the final determination with additional public notice, if any adverse comments are received at public hearing.
- 10) The Department issues the permit if the final determination is not contested.
- 11) If contested, administrative procedures for the appeal process are followed.

#### Before I apply for this approval, do I need to get any approvals from the local or federal government?

Proposed municipal projects must be included in county water and sewer plans before the Department can process a permit. Locally issued permits for activities such as building and sediment control may be needed for these projects but are not required for the Department to process a ground water discharge permit.

#### Is this approval directly related or contingent on other approvals?

No.

#### Are there any other requirements?

Pre-application review:

- 1) Favorable results from a preliminary site evaluation by the Department;
- 2) Municipal projects must be identified in a current county water and sewerage plan; and
- 3) Depending on the size of the projects, a copy of a hydrogeological study of the proposed site submitted to the Department for review and approval.

Post Approval: A Water and Sewerage Construction Permit (3.07) may be needed.

#### How long should I expect it to take to get this approval once I submit a complete application?

Type of Facility	Turnaround Time
New minor facilities	9 months
Renewal minor facilities	14 months

#### Once I get this approval, how long will it last?

Maximum of five years

#### How much will this approval cost?

Type of Fee	Fee
Application fee (for industrial)	\$50 to \$20,000 depending on the volume of discharge, the type of industry, and how the water is used.
Annual permit fee (for industrial)	\$100 to \$5,000 depending on the volume of the discharge.
Municipal permits	No fee.

#### Who do I contact with additional questions?

Mary Dela Onyemaechi, Chief  
Groundwater Discharge  
Permits Division  
[mary.dewa@maryland.gov](mailto:mary.dewa@maryland.gov)  
410-537-3778

Related link:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Permits/WaterManagementPermits/Pages/waterpermits.aspx>