



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Office of Water Management

# **Draft PAG-03 NPDES General Permit Summary of Proposed Changes**

Water Resources Advisory Committee  
November 2015

Tom Wolf, Governor

John Quigley, Secretary

# Background

- PAG-03 can be used to provide coverage for certain eligible industrial stormwater facilities that are required to obtain NPDES permit coverage.
- Draft PAG-03 comment period concluded November 16, 2015.
- PAG-03 expires December 5, 2015.
- DEP anticipates extending PAG-03 for one year but the final, renewed PAG-03 should be published well before December 2016.

# General Objective

EPA's multi-sector general permit (MSGP) for industrial stormwater was reissued in 2015, which is used in states without NPDES delegation.

The general objective for reissuance of the PAG-03 was to improve consistency between the PAG-03 and EPA's MSGP.

# Proposed Changes

1. DEP is proposing the addition of nine appendices to PAG-03 (an appendix prescribes the sector-specific monitoring and best management practice (BMP) requirements for permittees).

The current version of PAG-03 consolidates numerous sectors into Appendix A and Appendix J, while the Draft PAG-03 creates new appendices for many of those sectors.

# Proposed Changes

2. DEP is proposing to modify eligibility criteria in the draft PAG-03.

For instance, DEP may deny coverage under the draft PAG-03 General Permit for stormwater discharges to impaired waters where the discharges contain, or are expected to contain, parameters that have the potential to cause or contribute to the impairment, regardless of whether a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) has been developed and approved for those impaired waters.

# Proposed Changes

3. Benchmark concentrations for certain pollutants are proposed in the Draft PAG-03.

The benchmarks are not effluent limitations. However, two consecutive benchmark exceedances would trigger the need to develop and submit a corrective action plan to DEP and implement corrective measures to ensure no additional benchmark exceedances.

# Proposed Changes

4. All permittees would be required to submit an annual report due on May 1 that would serve as the ongoing notice of intent to continue operating under the PAG-03. (No need to submit renewal NOIs every 5 years unless otherwise required by DEP).

# Proposed Changes

5. All permittees would need to conduct quarterly visual inspections of areas and activities exposed or potentially exposed to precipitation, and submit a summary of inspection findings in an annual report due by May 1 each year.

# Proposed Changes

6. Persons seeking new or reissued No Exposure Certification approvals from DEP would need to complete and submit the PAG-03 NOI. An NOI fee of \$500 would apply.

This is similar to the process used for municipal stormwater permitting, where a waiver application must accompany the PAG-13 NOI and an NOI fee is paid.



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# Questions?

Lee McDonnell

Bureau of Point and Non-Point Source Management

[lmcdonnell@pa.gov](mailto:lmcdonnell@pa.gov)

717-787-5017