

Domestic Sewage Treatment Lagoons General Permit

MTG580000

October 2012 - General Information

Discharge to state waters requires a wastewater discharge permit through the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). An option for domestic sewage treatment lagoons that discharge to state surface waters is coverage under the new 2012-issued Domestic Sewage Treatment Lagoons General Permit (GP).

Applicability

Any **facultative or aerated** (including partial mix) **domestic sewage treatment lagoon**, except for those within Indian Reservations, are eligible for coverage under this GP as long as the lagoon meets all of the following:

1. Has an average design flow less than 1.0 million gallons per day (mgd);
2. Does not have any significant industrial contributors or indirect dischargers as defined by [ARM 17.30.1402](#);
3. Does not discharge either to Outstanding Resource Waters as defined in [75-5-103. Definitions](#) or to waterbodies classified as A-1 or A-Closed waters as listed under [ARM 17.30 Subchapter 6](#); and
4. Is not a “new or increased source” that discharges to “high quality waters.” Therefore, the only new sources that can be covered under the 2012-issued GP will be dischargers to ephemeral waterbodies as defined under [ARM 17.30.602](#).

Application Process

To be covered under the new GP, the operator of a domestic sewage treatment lagoon meeting the above criteria must submit a complete Notice of Intent (NOI) form to DEQ.

In addition, there is an \$800 renewal application fee – however, facilities continuing coverage from the 1999-issued GP previously paid their renewal fee and do not need to pay again. Any other facility that desires coverage, but has not been covered previously under this GP, must pay \$800 (if switching from another permit) or \$1,200 (if it is a brand new facility).

Submittal of a complete NOI package constitutes immediate coverage -- but DEQ reserves the right to deem an NOI incomplete or a facility ineligible for coverage within 30 days of receipt. In these cases, the facility will be required to take further actions.

Requirements during 2012-issued GP Permit Five-year Renewal Cycle

DEQ will issue a facility-specific confirmation letter to all eligible facilities after receipt of a complete NOI package. The confirmation letter will include the following requirements:

1. Keep both the confirmation letter and the 2012-issued GP available at all times.
2. Ensure the lagoon discharge does not exceed facility-specific *weekly* and *monthly* effluent limits as described in the new GP, including concentration-based limits as well as mass-based (load) and percent removal limits for five-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD₅) and total suspended solids (TSS). In addition, *E.coli* bacteria effluent limits will be effective by January 2017.
3. Conduct monitoring at a specified frequency:
 - Influent – Monthly % removal for BOD₅ and TSS, starting January 2017;
 - Effluent – Frequency depends on discharge strategy. Facilities required to have flow monitoring capabilities by January 2017; and
 - Upstream – Three years of monitoring to establish background.
4. Submit a report to DEQ by January 28th every year, demonstrating progress towards compliance with above January 2017 deadlines.
5. Maintain an up-to-date Operation & Maintenance (O&M) manual, and document adherence to it.
6. Maintain an up-to-date Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) if the facility conducts land application of treated effluent.
7. Implement an Infiltration/Inflow (I/I) program and submit a report by January 2017, if the lagoon has a design daily average flow > 0.1 mgd.