

WWPIE - Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

What does NPDES stand for?

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.

How can I get more information on a specific permit or on the NPDES permit program?

Please click on the "Contact NPDES Staff" link at the top of the page and contact one of the permit writers.

Who can I contact if I have questions about or problems with WWPIE?

Please contact Courtney Cswercko at courtney.cswercko@dnr.iowa.gov.

How do I become a registered user on WWPIE?

Please click on the "Register for a New Account" button of the bottom of the main WWPIE page, and follow the prompts in Enterprise A&A to create a new account. Enterprise A&A is a service provided by the State's Department of Administrative Services, Information Technology Enterprise (DAS-ITE). It is meant to replace all of the various user name/password combinations used by different web applications, and provide a "one-stop shop" for managing your identity information with the State. The A&A service provides a central web page for logging on to any application, so users can be sure they are connecting to the State and can use the same username and password. If you already have an account in Enterprise A&A, you will not need to create a second one to use WWPIE. Contact Courtney Cswercko at courtney.cswercko@dnr.iowa.gov to become a registered user in WWPIE.

Can I submit a permit application on WWPIE?

No, permit applications can no longer be submitted on WWPIE. The permit application forms have changed, and they are available electronically on the NPDES Application Forms webpage at: <https://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water-Quality/NPDES-Wastewater-Permitting/NPDES-Forms/NPDES-Application-Forms>

QUESTIONS REGARDING SEARCH FUNCTION:

Do I have to enter all of the fields to do a search?

The only required field is the permit status; draft, draft amendment, or final. If you are doing a search for draft or draft-amendments, the other fields may be entered or left blank as desired. If you are doing a search for final permits, at least one other search field must be chosen.

What if I get no results for a permit search?

The permit search may not return any results for several reasons. The permit status (draft, draft amendment, or final) selection may have been incorrect. There may be no permitted facilities on the stream you have selected or in the location (city, zip code) you have selected. The facility name or number may have been entered incorrectly. Also, the facility you are searching for may not have an NPDES permit. The permit for the facility may have been revoked or closed or the facility may not discharge to a water of the state. The facility may be permitted under a General Permit (storm water, onsite, mining and quarries, hydrostatic test discharge, geothermal discharge) rather than an individual NPDES permit. The facilities permitted under General Permits Nos. 1 – 9 are not included in WWPIE.

My search did not return the results I expected. I know there is a permit for a specific facility, but it is not shown in the search. What can I do?

First, verify that you searched for the correct permit status, either draft or final. If you do not see your permit after checking that you have searched for the correct permit status, please click on the "Contact NPDES Staff" link at the top of the page and contact one of the permit writers.

What is the difference between a draft permit, and draft amendment, and a final permit?

A draft version of an NPDES permit is placed on public notice before a facility is issued a final NPDES permit. A facility must comply with all conditions of a final NPDES permit. The public notice period for draft permits allows the public and the facility to comment on the permit and for the Iowa DNR to make changes to a permit before it is finalized. Comments are not accepted after the close of the public comment period and comments are not accepted on final permits.

Draft amendments are placed on WWPIE when a permit is being amended (not reissued) to include new or different requirements. A draft amendment is different from a draft permit in that a draft amendment will only propose to change a few conditions of an existing permit, whereas a draft permit is an entire new permit.

If you search by river and stream designation, is every permitted outfall for a facility included in the search?

No. Due to the restraints of the search, only the main facility outfall (the first outfall listed in the permit, usually denoted as Outfall 001) is included in the search.

QUESTIONS REGARDING PERMIT DETAILS:

What do the Date Issued, Date of Expirations, and Comment End Date signify?

Issue Date - the date a final NPDES permit is issued.

Expiration Date - the date a final NPDES permit expires. If a complete permit application has been submitted at least 180 days before the expiration date of the current permit, the permit will be administratively extended until a new permit is issued.

Comment End Date – The public comment period on a draft NPDES permit ends on the comments end date. This is the last day that comments can be submitted on a draft permit.

What do the stream designation abbreviations stand for?

- G - General uses: General Use segments are to be protected for livestock and wildlife watering, aquatic life, non contact recreation, crop irrigation, and industrial, agricultural, domestic, and other incidental water withdrawal uses.
- A - Recreational use, general.
- A1 - Primary contact recreational use: Waters in which recreational or other uses may result in prolonged and direct contact with the water, involving considerable risk of ingesting water in quantities sufficient to pose a health hazard.
- A2 - Secondary contact recreational use: Waters in which recreational or other uses may result in contact with the water that is either incidental or accidental. During the recreational use, the probability of ingesting appreciable quantities of water is minimal.
- A3 - Children's recreational use: Waters in which recreational uses by children are common. Class A3 waters are water bodies having definite banks and bed with visible evidence of the flow or occurrence of water.
- B - Aquatic life use: uses of waters by fish, aquatic and semi aquatic species and wildlife. Surface waters in Iowa designated for aquatic life uses are termed Class "B" waters for which there are four

different designated aquatic life uses. The Class B uses are protected by criteria for dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, ammonia, toxic metals, toxic organic and inorganic compounds, and heat. The current Class B uses are:

- (i) Cold water aquatic life—Type 1 (Class “B(CW1)”): Waters in which the temperature and flow are suitable for the maintenance of a variety of cold water species, including reproducing and nonreproducing populations of trout and associated aquatic communities
 - (ii) Cold water aquatic life—Type 2 (Class “B(CW2)”). Waters that include small, channeled streams, headwaters, and spring runs that possess natural cold water attributes of temperature and flow. These waters usually do not support consistent populations of trout, but may support associated vertebrate and invertebrate organisms.
 - (iii) Warm water—Type 1 (Class “B(WW-1)”). Waters in which temperature, flow and other habitat characteristics are suitable to maintain warm water game fish populations along with a resident aquatic community that includes a variety of native nongame fish and invertebrate species. These waters generally include border rivers, large interior rivers, and the lower segments of medium-size tributary streams.
 - (iv) Warm water—Type 2 (Class “B(WW-2)”). Waters in which flow or other physical characteristics are capable of supporting a resident aquatic community that includes a variety of native nongame fish and invertebrate species. The flow and other physical characteristics limit the maintenance of warm water game fish populations. These waters generally consist of small perennially flowing streams.
 - (v) Warm water—Type 3 (Class “B(WW-3)”). Waters in which flow persists during periods when antecedent soil moisture and groundwater discharge levels are adequate; however, aquatic habitat typically consists of nonflowing pools during dry periods of the year. These waters generally include small streams of marginally perennial aquatic habitat status. Such waters support a limited variety of native fish and invertebrate species that are adapted to survive in relatively harsh aquatic conditions.
 - (vi) Lakes and wetlands (Class “B(LW)”). These are artificial and natural impoundments with hydraulic retention times and other physical and chemical characteristics suitable to maintain a balanced community normally associated with lake-like conditions.
- C - Drinking water use: surface waters that are used as a raw water source of a potable water supply.
 - HQ and HQR - High Quality and High Quality Resource: Waters previously designated as HQ received additional protection for their unique physical, biological and chemical features present. HQ waters had exceptional recreational and ecological importance. Waters previously designated as HQR received additional protection for their unique physical, biological features, but the chemical integrity was maintained to the numerical criteria noted in the Water Quality Standards. HQR waters possessed unusual, outstanding or unique characteristics that enhance the beneficial uses and warrant special protection. Please note, HQ and HQR are not existing stream designations, but as several expired permits still list these designations, an explanation has been included here.
 - HH – Human Health: Water in which fish are routinely harvested for human consumption or waters both designated as a drinking water supply and in which fish are routinely harvested for human consumption.

Why are the River and Stream designation fields blank on the permit page for some permits?

The River and Stream designation fields have not been completed for every permit currently in our database. The majority of the permits that do not have this information are storm water Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits or Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) permits. MS4 permits authorize discharge from storm water point source discharges to waters of the State. AFO permits do not

authorize discharges except under very specific conditions. For more information about these permits, please use the "Contact NPDES Staff" link and contact a storm water or AFO permit writer.

What are the different permit types?

- Agricultural – an NPDES permit issued to an animal feeding operation (AFO).
- Industrial – an NPDES permit issued to an industrial wastewater treatment facility.
- Municipal – an NPDES permit issued to a municipal wastewater treatment facility.
- Municipal WT – an NPDES permit issued to a municipal water treatment facility.
- Operation – a permit authorizing the operation of a wastewater facility.
- Semi-public – an NPDES permit issued to a semi-public wastewater treatment facility, which is not owned by a private entity, city, sanitary sewer district, or a designated and approved management agency.
- Stormwater – an NPDES permit issued to a facility for the discharge of stormwater.

Why is the permit writer name blank?

Several of the permits that are available on WWPIE were written by permit writers who have since left the NPDES section. If you have a question about a certain permit and the permit writer name is not listed, please click on the "Contact NPDES Staff" link at the top of the page and contact any of the permit writers.

Is the permit linked on the permit page still in effect if it is past the expiration date?

Yes. NPDES and operation permits are effective after the expiration date of the permit if a complete permit application has been submitted 180 days before the expiration date of the permit. The Delay Reasons section at the bottom of the details page will provide more information on why a permit has not yet been reissued.

What are Delay Reasons?

The reissuance of NPDES and operation permits can be delayed for many reasons. The Delay Reason section at the bottom of a permit details pages provides a short description of why a permit has not yet been reissued. If the Delay Reason section is blank, either the permit is not yet up for reissuance, or a permit writer has not yet entered any delay reasons. For more information on the reissuance of a certain permit, please contact the permit writer listed on the permit details page, or click on the "Contact NPDES Staff" link at the top of the page and contact any of the permit writers.