UST Ballasting

What the changes mean

The new General Permit 8 gives regulated facilities a legal way to discharge during certain activities without getting an individual permit. GP8 ensures these discharges happen in a way that reduces negative impacts.

When to get a permit

You'll need GP8 whenever you need to discharge ballast water used to stabilize tanks during installation or floods. You need the permit whether the discharge is contained on the ground or is sent to a surface water. If you need to dispose of ballast water used during the installation of underground storage tanks, you need GP8.

General Permit 8 requirements

Discharge to the Ground Surface

No notice of intent is required (unless chemicals other than chlorine or those commonly used for dechlorination have been added to the water). You don't need to submit anything to the DNR to begin discharging.

Permittees must:

1. minimize ponding;
2. prevent contamination of water by fuel, lubricants, or waste materials during testing or tank installation.
3. prevent debris or other materials from being deposited within the container; and
4. prevent or minimize erosion of soil or other materials.
5. any chemicals added to the wastewater must be used according to the manufacturer's instructions.

An on-site worker must conduct daily visual observations of the discharge, looking for objectionable color, odor, turbidity, petroleum sheen, other floating or suspended matter. You should not submit reports unless requested by the DNR.

You must keep records of the following:

1. the date(s) each discharge or disposal event started and ended;
2. measured or estimated volume of water d or disposed of on each day a discharge occurs;
3. location of the activity (either the street address; quarter section, section, township and range; or latitude and longitude);
4. results of visual monitoring activities; and
5. the results of any analyses performed.

Discharge to Surface Water

When the discharge reaches surface water, it cannot exceed the following:

Wastewater parameter	Eligibility criteria
pH[1]	6.5 minimum - 9.0 maximum
Sulfate	1,514 mg/L
Chloride	629 mg/L
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)[2]	45 mg/L
Oil and Grease	15 mg/L
Iron (total)	1.0 mg/L
Total Residual Chlorine (TRC)[3]	0.019 mg/L
Aluminum (total)[4]	0.75 mg/L

Note there are additional eligibility criteria in GP8 if the tank previously contained refined petroleum products. No notice of intent is required (unless chemicals other than chlorine or those commonly used for dechlorination have been added to the water). No submittal to the DNR is required to commence discharging.

Permittees must:

1. avoid a direct discharge into a surface water of the State unless infeasible;
2. prevent debris or other materials from being deposited within the container;
3. prevent or minimize erosion of soil or other materials;
4. use any chemicals added to the water according to the manufacturer's instructions.

An on-site worker must conduct daily visual observations of the discharge, looking for objectionable color, odor, turbidity, petroleum sheen, other floating or suspended matter. Discharges must be free from these objectionable conditions. You should not submit reports unless requested by the DNR.

You must keep records of the following:

1. the date(s) each discharge or disposal event started and ended;
2. the measured or estimated volume of water discharged or disposed of on each day a discharge occurs;
3. the location of the activity (either the street address; quarter section, section, township and range; or latitude and longitude);
4. results of visual monitoring activities; and
5. the results of any analyses performed.

Additional resources

GP 8 Website: www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water-Quality/NPDES-Wastewater-Permitting/NPDES-General-Permits/GP8-Hydrostatic

Electronic Notice of Intent submittal Website (only needed if chemicals other than chlorine or those commonly used for dechlorination have been added to the water): https://programs.iowadnr.gov/generalpermits/

Iowa DNR Wastewater Wendy Hieb, 515-725-8405, wendy.hieb@dnr.iowa.gov Julie Faas, 515-725-8409, julie.faas@dnr.iowa.gov