



UST SECONDARY CONTAINMENT TESTING

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION | WWW.IOWADNR.GOV

What the changes mean

The new General Permit 8 provides regulated facilities a legal way to discharge during certain activities without getting an individual permit. GP8 may provide an option to discharge water used in underground storage tank (UST) secondary containment testing. This testing will be required in the near future and will repeat every three years. Rules are in development to support the new federal regulations for UST secondary containment testing.

When to get a permit

GP8 is needed whenever you discharge water used for UST secondary containment testing to the ground or to a waterbody. Some containment test water will meet criteria and can be discharged using GP8. Water that does not meet criteria will require alternate methods of disposal (for example, hauling off-site for treatment and disposal).

Discharging wastewater

You must meet the following pollutant concentrations in order to ensure that discharges meet wastewater standards and do not cause a UST corrective action:

Pollutant	Concentration (ug/L)
Benzene	5
Toluene	1,000
Ethylbenzene	700
Xylenes	10,000
Total Extractable Hydrocarbons	1,200
Iron	1,000
Total Suspended Solids	45,000
*BETX	100

*The BETX criterion only applies if the discharge goes to a storm sewer or tile line. BETX is the sum of benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene, and xylene.

How to use the permit

Secondary containment testing of new USTs may be able to meet the above criteria for discharge. Owners of new tanks should follow GP8 when they discharge.

Owners of existing tanks should look at the test water. Can you see an oil sheen? **If you see a sheen, you cannot discharge the water.** It will need further treatment prior to final disposal. **If you do not see a sheen, you should test the containment water to ensure both UST criteria and wastewater standards will be met.** If the sample results are below the table criteria, you can discharge by following 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 the testing or tank installation process,
3. prevent debris or other materials from being deposited within the container, and
4. prevent or minimize erosion of soil or other materials.

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. If a petroleum sheen is visible, you should cease discharging.

Permittees 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;
5. the results of any analyses performed.

Discharge to Surface Water

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.

You must have information that demonstrates that the eligibility criteria listed in the table above are met. To demonstrate your eligibility you may test the water, use test results from another similar situation, use engineering estimates, or visually inspect the water for turbidity or a visible sheen (visual inspection is only recommended for new tanks). **We strongly recommend water testing.**

Discharge to Surface Water, continued:

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; and
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.

Records of the following must be kept:

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.

Reporting

A sample record keeping form is on the back of this brochure. You should not submit these forms, or anything else required by GP8, unless requested by the DNR.

For more information

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Iowa DNR Underground Storage Tanks

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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/>

