



# GROUNDWATER DEWATERING

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION | [WWW.IOWADNR.GOV](http://WWW.IOWADNR.GOV)

## What the changes mean

The new General Permit 9 (GP9) will allow regulated facilities a legal way to discharge during certain activities without getting an individual permit. GP9 will ensure these discharges happen in a way to reduce negative impacts on water quality.

## When to follow GP9

Follow GP9 when you need to dewater an area for construction or maintenance activities.

*If you have another general permit or MS4 permit:*

If your existing permits already cover the situations addressed by GP9, you do not need to follow GP9. Stormwater general permits and MS4 permits cover discharges from uncontaminated groundwater.

"Uncontaminated groundwater" means water that

- is potable for humans,
- meets the narrative water quality standards in subrule 567-61.3(2) of the Iowa Administrative Code (IAC),
- contains no more than half the listed concentration of any pollutants in subrule 567-61.3(3) of the IAC,
- has a pH of 6.5-9.0, and
- is located in soil or rock strata.

Not sure if you're an MS4 community? These larger Iowa towns can be found at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water-Quality/NPDES-Storm-Water/MS4-Permittees>.

## How to use GP9

- Determine if contaminated soil or groundwater may be present.
- If the site does not have a history of industrial or commercial use, you may presume that contamination does not exist if there is no obvious reason to expect contamination (e.g. unusual color or odor; known spills).
- For all other sites, you must follow Attachment #1.
- When the initial inquiry indicates the possibility for contamination, conduct and document a more in-depth inquiry. In addition to or instead of conducting such an inquiry, the permittee may analyze representative samples of soil and/or groundwater at the site for the likely pollutant(s).
- Follow Attachment #2 once you determine whether contamination is likely.

## Additional resources

GP 9 Website: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water-Quality/NPDES-Wastewater-Permitting/NPDES-General-Permits/GP9-Dewatering>

Electronic Notice of Intent submittal Website (only needed if Attachment #2 shows it is required): <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/generalpermits/>

## For more information

Iowa DNR Wastewater  
Wendy Hieb, 515-725-8405, [wendy.hieb@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:wendy.hieb@dnr.iowa.gov)

## Attachment 1: Initial Screening for Soil and Groundwater Contamination

Initial Screening Questions		
Item	Yes/No/ Unknown/Not applicable	Comment
Does exposed soil at the site have an unusual color or odor that could indicate contamination?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/> NA	
Does water to be discharged from the site have an unusual color or odor that could indicate contamination?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/> NA	
Do current or past uses of the site include activities that likely included handling or disposal of hazardous substances or petroleum products? Such uses include but are not limited to gas stations, dry cleaners, etc. ... (Not applicable if site is undeveloped or residential)	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/> NA	
Do you have any other knowledge or reason to suspect contamination at the site that could affect the water to be discharged? (Site has environmental clean-up lien, there was a reported pollutant release at the site, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> U <input type="checkbox"/> NA	

If you answered "yes" to one or more of the above questions, you must conduct a more thorough inquiry into the site and its potential contamination. If you answered "no" to all questions, dewatering may proceed according to the terms and conditions of the permit. Sign and date this form and keep it for your records.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Preparer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Preparer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Completed

## Attachment 2: General Permit 9 Decision Matrix

1. Will the discharge be to the ground surface or to a surface water?

- ground surface - go to item 2
- surface water - go to item 7

2. Will the discharge leave the property being dewatered?

- yes - go to item 3
- no - go to item 4

3. Can pollutants, due to soil or groundwater contamination, reasonably be expected in the discharge?

- yes - go to item 5
- no - go to item 6

### 4. Ground surface discharge that does not leave the property being dewatered

- *No Notice of Intent* (eNOI) is required.
- An antidegradation document is not required.
- Coverage is in effect from first day of discharge through the last day of discharge.
- You must meet the requirements in III.D.
- You must conduct daily visual monitoring. (III.E.1)
- You must keep a daily log of date, location, estimated volume, (III.G.1), unless you are exempted by III.G.3

### 5. Ground surface discharge with expected contamination that leaves the property being dewatered

- *Yes*, an eNOI is required.
- An antidegradation document is not required.
- Coverage is in effect between the dates given on the eNOI.
- You must meet the requirements in III.D.
- You must conduct daily visual monitoring. (III.E.1)
- You must keep a daily log of date, location, estimated volume, visual monitoring, and analysis results. (III.G.1)

### 6. Ground surface discharge with no expected contamination that leaves the property being dewatered

- *No eNOI* is required.
- An antidegradation document is not required.
- Coverage is in effect from first day of discharge through the last day of discharge.
- You must meet the requirements in III.D.
- You must conduct daily visual monitoring (III.E.1), unless you are exempted by III.E.2.
- You must keep a daily log of date, location, estimated volume, visual monitoring, and analysis results (III.G.1), unless you are exempted by III.G.3.

7. Can pollutants due to soil or groundwater contamination reasonably be expected in the discharge above applicable water quality standards?

- no - go to item 8
- yes - go to item 9

### 8. Surface water discharge with no expected contamination above water quality standards

- *No eNOI* is required.
- An antidegradation document is not required.
- Coverage is in effect from first day of discharge through the last day of discharge.
- You must follow the operating requirements in IV.F.
- You must conduct daily visual monitoring (IV.I.1), unless you are exempted by IV.I.2.
- You must keep a daily log of date, location, estimated volume, visual monitoring, and analysis results (IV.K.1), unless you are exempted by IV.K.3

### 9. Surface water discharge with expected contamination above water quality standards

- *Yes*, an eNOI is required.
- An antidegradation document is required.
- Coverage is in effect between the dates given on the eNOI.
- You must follow the operating requirements in IV.F.
- You must develop and implement a DwPPP. (IV.G and IV.H)
- Daily visual monitoring is required. (IV.I.1)
- A daily log of date, volume, location, and analysis results is required. (IV.K.1)