



John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Craig W. Butler, Director

February 23, 2016

Re: Non-Contact Cooling Water General Permit
Renewal

Dear General Permit Holder:

Ohio EPA has finalized the renewal of the general permit for non-contact cooling water (permit # OHN000005). The effective date for the permit is March 1, 2016 and the expiration date is February 28, 2021. Permittees that currently have coverage under the non-contact cooling water (NCCW) general permit must submit a new notice of intent (NOI) within 45 days of the effective date (or no later than April 15, 2016) in order to continue coverage under the permit. If you have already submitted an NOI for continuing coverage, please check the new permit and submit any additional information as necessary to satisfy the new requirements in the permit.

A number of significant changes have been made to the general permit for non-contact cooling water, and these changes are discussed below.

Eligibility

There is a new condition that facilities obtaining cooling water from a surface water intake that have design intake flow rates equal to or greater than 2 MGD are not eligible for coverage under the general permit.

316(b) Cooling Water Intake Structure Compliance

The permittees' methods of obtaining cooling water have been evaluated using available information. Based on best professional judgment, Ohio EPA has determined that permittees meet Best Technology Available (BTA) to minimize adverse environmental impact in accordance with section 316(b) of the federal Clean Water Act due to the low withdrawal rates.

General Effluent Limitations

Language has been added that the effluent shall be free from substances that are rapidly lethal in the mixing zone. This is consistent with Ohio's WQS found in OAC 3745-1.

Total Residual Oxidants

Language has been added that total residual oxidants must be below 0.01 mg/L for discharges greater than or equal to two hours per day in duration or below 0.05 mg/L for discharges less than two hours per day in order for a facility to be eligible for the general permit. A Part IV condition has been included specifying that a method approved for chlorine with a minimum detection no greater than 0.01 mg/L must be used to test for total residual oxidants.

Electronic NOI and NOT submittals

NOI applications and NOT forms are required to be submitted online through the Ohio EPA eBusiness Center. Submission through the eBusiness Center will require establishing an Ohio EPA eBusiness Center account and obtaining a unique Personal Identification Number (PIN) for final submission. Follow this link for information:

<http://epa.ohio.gov/dsw/ebs.aspx>

Alternatively, if you are not able to access the NOI or NOT forms through the agency eBusiness Center due to a demonstrated hardship, an NOI or NOT may be submitted by paper form provided by Ohio EPA.

Supplemental NOI submittals

Facilities that have a surface water intake are required to submit the maximum daily intake flow rate, the average daily intake flow rate, and the percentage of intake water used for cooling purposes. All applicants will need to submit the average daily temperature for May through September and the daily maximum temperature from the previous three years.

The final general permit, public notice, and factsheet can be reviewed at:

http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/permits/GP_NonContactCoolingWater.aspx