

Permit Guidance 3 Final	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System; Upstream/Downstream Sampling Requirements	
	Rule reference: OAC 3745-33	Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water Revision 0, January 30, 1988 Revision 1, November 8, 2010 (formerly DSW Policy 0100.014)
This internal guidance does not affect the requirements found in the referenced rule or statute.		

Purpose

To provide instructions for staff regarding the placement of upstream/downstream sampling requirements in an entity's NPDES permit.

Procedure

The inclusion of upstream/downstream sampling requirements in NPDES permits should be on a case-by-case basis. Listed below are examples where upstream/downstream monitoring stations may be appropriate. These include (but are not limited to):

Where "net" limitations are included in the permit the entity will need to monitor upstream intake water;

Where tiered permit limits are included in the permit the entity will need to monitor the upstream or downstream flow in the receiving stream;

Where biomonitoring (bioassay) requirements are included in the permit and the testing protocols include upstream and/or downstream stations;

Where there is a need to assess upstream water quality that is related to the permit or the discharge's effect on the watershed (e.g., hardness and specific metals, nutrients in a TMDL or impaired watershed);

Where there is a need to assess downstream water quality that is related to the permit or the discharge's effect on the watershed (e.g., mixing zones, specific metals, nutrient concentrations); or

There other central office directives that recommend upstream and/or downstream sampling stations for specific parameters that are included in the permit.

The permit writer will justify the inclusion of upstream and/or downstream stations using the factor listed above and any other applicable information. Field staff should be consulted in selecting a representative upstream/downstream sampling site.

Downstream metals samples should be collected on the same day as influent and effluent samples. Footnotes with references to Part II language should be used to coordinate influent, effluent and downstream monitoring for metals and cyanide.

Cross References

Permit Guidance #2 - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System; Determination of Sampling Frequency Formula for Industrial Waste Discharges

Permit Guidance #5 - Reporting and Testing Guidance for Biomonitoring Required by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

For More Information, Contact:

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