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## Indirect Discharge Permit Program

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Many businesses generate industrial wastewater. Different permitting requirements apply to industrial wastewater depending upon whether your business has a direct discharge or an indirect discharge to waters of the state.

In the state of Ohio, your business is required to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit if you discharge wastewater directly into waters of the state. However, if your business meets the definition of significant industrial user and discharges wastewater into a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) that does not have an Ohio EPA-approved pretreatment program, you must obtain written permission from the receiving POTW and apply for and obtain an indirect discharge permit from Ohio EPA.

A list of Ohio EPA-approved pretreatment programs is available at: [http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/pretreatment/approve\\_program\\_listing11.html](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/pretreatment/approve_program_listing11.html)

If you are a significant industrial user and discharge to a POTW with an Ohio EPA-approved pretreatment program, you need not apply for an indirect discharge permit from Ohio EPA. Instead, you must contact the local POTW for permitting requirements.

### Who must apply for an indirect discharge permit?

Any significant industrial user (see [OAC 3745-36-02\(U\)](#) for the definition of significant industrial user) that discharges process wastewater into a POTW without an Ohio EPA-approved pretreatment

program must apply for and obtain an indirect discharge permit from Ohio EPA (see [OAC 3745-36-03\(A\)](#)).

Businesses not classified as significant industrial users are eligible for coverage subject to the permit-by-rule provisions (see [OAC 3745-36-06](#)) and do not need to submit applications.

### Who is considered a significant industrial user?

You are a significant industrial user if you:

- are subject to categorical pretreatment standards (categories in [40 CFR Chapter I, Subchapter N, Parts 400 to 471](#) with pretreatment standards);
- discharge 25,000 gallons per day or more of process wastewater (excluding sanitary wastewater, non-contact cooling water and boiler blowdown);
- contribute five percent, or more, of the average dry weather hydraulic or organic capacity of the POTW; or
- have a reasonable potential for adversely affecting POTW operations or violating pretreatment standards or requirements.

### What are examples of discharges that can adversely affect POTWs or violate pretreatment standards?

Discharges that can adversely affect a POTW or violate pretreatment standards or requirements include:

- a discharge that may allow pollutants to pass through the system and violate the POTW's NPDES permit or [Ohio water](#)

[quality standards regulations](#) (e.g., pollutants that are not treated or removed in a POTW and are discharged into receiving streams at levels that may violate [Ohio water quality standards regulations](#));

- a discharge of pollutants in quantities and flow rate that may inhibit or interfere with POTW operations (e.g., slug discharge of high organic load);
- pollutants that may cause corrosive structural damage to the POTW, including discharges less than pH 5.0;
- a discharge that poses fire or explosion hazards to the POTW system (e.g., wastestream with a close cup flashpoint of less than 140 degrees Fahrenheit);
- a solid or viscous discharge that may obstruct the POTW flow (e.g., high levels of fats, oils and grease);
- a discharge that may inhibit POTW biological activity due to high temperature (e.g., wastestreams that may cause POTW influent temperatures of 104 degrees Fahrenheit or higher);
- a discharge that may interfere with POTW operations due to petroleum, cutting or mineral oil;
- a discharge that poses acute worker health and safety problems due to toxic gases, vapors or fumes; and
- a discharge of any trucked or hauled pollutants except at discharge points designated by the POTW.

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### **How do I know my business is subject to a federal categorical pretreatment standard?**

U.S. EPA periodically develops the categorical pretreatment standards (also known as effluent guidelines) for targeted businesses discharging into POTWs.

For information on effluent guidelines, visit the following U.S. EPA Web sites: [http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/regs.cfm?program\\_id=0](http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/regs.cfm?program_id=0) and <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/guide/>

You may also contact Ohio EPA's Pretreatment Unit at (614) 644-2001.

### **What are my obligations if I am subject to federal categorical pretreatment standards?**

When U.S. EPA publishes categorical pretreatment standards in the Federal Register, existing businesses (discharging to POTWs without Ohio EPA-approved pretreatment programs) that are covered by the standards must submit a Baseline Monitoring Report (BMR) to Ohio EPA within 180 days after the effective date of the standards. Information that is to be submitted in the BMR is available at [OAC 3745-3-06\(B\)](#). Covered businesses (discharging to POTWs without Ohio EPA-approved pretreatment programs) that discharge after the effective date of the standard must submit a BMR to Ohio EPA at least 90 days prior to the discharge. All covered businesses must submit an initial compliance report to Ohio EPA (including flows, measurement of regulated pollutants and certification) within 90 days after first discharge (for new sources) and within 90 days of the compliance deadline (for existing sources).

If you are a business covered by a categorical standard, you are automatically considered a significant industrial user and must apply for and obtain an Ohio EPA indirect discharge permit at least 180 days prior to the commencement of discharge.

### **What are the steps in the permit application process?**

1. Contact Ohio EPA's Pretreatment Unit at (614) 644-2001 for a permit application or download it from the Web site: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/pretreatment/forms.html>
2. Facility submits a complete application with application fee at least 180 days prior to discharging to a POTW.
3. Ohio EPA reviews application and informs the applicant of any deficiencies.
4. Ohio EPA drafts the permit upon receipt of a complete application.
5. Ohio EPA announces, through the issuance of a public notice, receipt of a complete application and the proposed draft permit. There is a 30-day comment period.
6. After the 30-day comment period, Ohio EPA responds to comments and may hold a meeting with interested parties.
7. The final permit is prepared and issued by Ohio EPA after considering any comments.
8. Your application may be denied if your discharge violates any of the prohibited discharges found at [OAC 3745-3-04](#).

Ohio EPA's performance standard is to take action on indirect discharge permits within 180 days of receiving a COMPLETED application.

For further information, refer to Ohio EPA's pretreatment program

fact sheet titled "Indirect Discharge Permitting Process" at the Web site [http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/pretreatment/non-target\\_idp.html](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/pretreatment/non-target_idp.html).

### **What are the typical requirements of an Indirect Discharge Permit?**

Typical requirements include the following:

1. Effluent limitations and monitoring requirements.
2. Procedures for reporting (including noncompliance), resampling, slug loading notification, record keeping, and disposal of residuals.
3. Compliance schedules for treatment system installation and upgrades.

### **How do I submit my wastewater monitoring information?**

Periodic compliance reports (Form 4519) must be submitted to Ohio EPA by June 15 and December 15 every year. You may choose to submit a paper copy Form 4519 that is pre-printed and mailed to you prior to the submission deadline. Alternatively, you may choose to submit Form 4519 electronically through a software called SWIMware. Ohio EPA strongly encourages the use of SWIMware. To learn more about SWIMware submissions, visit the Web site: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/swims/swimintro.html>.

If your discharge exceeds a daily maximum limit contained in your indirect discharge permit, you must report the exceedance to your Ohio EPA district office pretreatment representative within 24 hours of being aware of the exceedance. (You should make the analytical laboratory aware of your permit limits and tell them to notify you immediately when

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an exceedance occurs.) You must also let your Ohio EPA district office pretreatment representative know about your follow-up remedy actions. You must also send or fax the completed 24-hour non-compliance notification form (found at the Web site <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/pretreatment/forms.html>) to the appropriate Ohio EPA district office with a copy to the Ohio EPA central office.

### **How long does the permit last?**

Indirect discharge permits are effective for a fixed term not to exceed five years.

### **How much does the permit cost?**

There is an application fee of \$200.00 payable to "Treasurer of the State of Ohio." There is a permit fee based on design discharge flow of the facility. Permit fees ranges from \$0 to \$750.

The permit fee does not apply to industrial users eligible for permit-by-rule.

For more information on fees and mailing address, see: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/pretreatment/appfee.pdf>.

### **By what authority are these permits issued?**

These permits are issued under the authority of: the [Federal Water](#)

[Pollution Control Act of 1972 and subsequent amendments \(the Clean Water Act\); Ohio Revised Code Chapter 6111; and Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3745-36.](#)

### **What if I have more questions on the indirect discharge permitting process?**

You can contact Julia Zhang of the Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water, Pretreatment Unit, at (614) 728-1323 or [julia.zhang@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:julia.zhang@epa.state.oh.us).

You may also visit Ohio EPA's pretreatment Web site at: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/pretreatment/index.html>.