



# Stormwater Permits Overview

This document provides a brief overview of stormwater permits that may apply to tenant operations on Port of Portland property. This document is provided for informational purposes only.

## **Why is stormwater regulated?**

When rain falls on a surface, runoff carries pollutants into storm drains, which discharge directly into rivers and streams. To help protect surface waters, Congress passed the Clean Water Act in 1972. The Clean Water Act allows the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and states with delegated authority, to regulate stormwater discharges. The Act established the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program which controls water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into waterways.

## **What general industrial stormwater (1200-series) permits may apply to my operations?**

The NPDES permit program requires industrial stormwater permits for certain industrial facilities that discharge stormwater from a point source to surface waters, or from a point source to stormwater conveyance systems that discharge to surface waters. In Oregon, general industrial stormwater permits are known by their 1200-series permit numbers and apply as follows:

- ◆ 1200-A - for sand and gravel operations, rock quarries, concrete batch plant operations and hot mix asphalt operations.
- ◆ 1200-Z - for industrial activities throughout the state (*see 1200-Z and 1200-COLS Permits factsheet for additional information*)
- ◆ 1200-COLS -for industrial activities in the Columbia Slough Watershed (*see 1200-Z and 1200-COLS Permits factsheet for additional information*)  
*Effective October 1, 2011 through August 31, 2016*

Permit administration has been delegated by EPA to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). In Troutdale, DEQ continues to administer industrial stormwater permits. Within Portland city limits, permit administration has been further delegated to the City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) and in Hillsboro to Clean Water Services.

For more information, visit:

- ◆ Oregon Department of Environmental Quality [NPDES General Permit Program](#)
- ◆ The City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services [NPDES General Permit Program](#)
- ◆ Clean Water Services [Industrial Stormwater Program](#)

### **What construction stormwater general permits may apply to my operations?**

A 1200-C stormwater permit may be required for construction activities including clearing, grading, excavation, materials or equipment staging and stockpiling that may discharge to surface waters or stormwater conveyance systems. The permit applies to activities that will disturb one or more acres, or smaller acreages that are part of a larger development or sale.

For more information, review the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's [1200-C Permit document](#) or their factsheet, [Applying for the 1200-C Construction Stormwater Permit](#).

### **How might a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit affect tenant operations on Port of Portland properties?**

Another category of NPDES permits, known as MS4 permits, sets requirements for public agencies to manage stormwater discharged into the publicly-owned systems they manage. MS4 permits are only issued to public entities, such as municipalities, who are required to develop and implement stormwater management programs. In Portland, the City of Portland and Port of Portland share a joint MS4 permit. In Hillsboro, Clean Water Services holds a Watershed MS4 permit (combined with wastewater) and in Troutdale, the City of Troutdale holds an MS4 permit.

In many cases, a stormwater discharge regulated under a 1200-series permit could also be conveyed using publicly-owned stormwater systems. MS4 permittees have an obligation to take measures to protect water quality and prevent pollutants from discharging through their systems. That responsibility includes actively engaging with system users to uphold that obligation. Each MS4 permittee must develop and implement a Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) that describes actions they will take to control pollutants in stormwater discharges from their systems to surface waters. A SWMP typically describes how the permittee will:

- ◆ Identify and eliminate illicit discharges (*see Illicit Discharges factsheet for more information*)
- ◆ Reduce pollutant discharges from industrial and commercial facilities which can include inspections, education and outreach, and permit screening programs
- ◆ Control construction site runoff from sites too small to be permitted under a 1200-C permit
- ◆ Engage in education and outreach activities directed at target audiences that could impact the stormwater system
- ◆ Allow public comment and participation in certain aspects of their stormwater programs
- ◆ Develop requirements for new construction and redevelopment to treat and reduce the volume (or flow rate) of stormwater discharges from private development sites
- ◆ Inspect and monitor the operation and maintenance of public and private stormwater treatment facilities at redeveloped and newly constructed sites (*see Stormwater Management Facilities, Operation and Maintenance, and Inspections module for more information*).

For more specific information about an MS4 Permittee's programs, visit:

Port of Portland facilities within the City of Portland:

- City of Portland and Port of Portland, [Phase I NPDES MS4 Discharge Permit](#)
- Port of Portland, [Stormwater Management Plan](#)

Hillsboro Airport:

- Clean Water Services, [Phase I NPDES MS4 Discharge Permit](#)
- Clean Water Services, [Surface and Stormwater Management Program](#) webpage

*Troutdale Airport:*

- City of Troutdale, [Phase II MS4 Discharge Permit](#)
- City of Troutdale, [Stormwater Management Program Plan](#)