

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Division

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
General Permits for Construction Activity
GAR 100001, GAR 100002 & GAR 100003
Fee System

Permit Fee Authority:

The amendment to the Water Quality Control Rules, effective November 25, 2003, provides authority for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit fee for land disturbing activities conducted under the NPDES construction storm water general permits that were effective August 13, 2003. The purpose of these fees is to help EPD offset the costs of implementing and enforcing the new NPDES stormwater general construction permits, and to help local governments offset the cost of implementing and enforcing the revised land disturbing activity permits.

Calculating Fees:

Fees are assessed at a rate of \$80/disturbed acre, with half of this amount to be paid directly to the Local Issuing Authority (LIA), provided a LIA has jurisdiction where the project is occurring, and the other half directly to Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD). The Primary Permittee (only Primary Permittees pay this fee) will write two separate checks (one to the LIA and one to EPD) each for the amount of \$40/disturbed acre. These fees are **in addition to any local fees** that are currently collected for land disturbing activities by the LIA. Projects that are not regulated by a LIA will not submit an NPDES permit fee to a LIA, but will submit the entire fee amount (\$80/disturbed acre) to EPD.

For those projects that began prior to the effective date of the new NPDES general permits for construction activities (August 13, 2003), fees are based upon the amount of disturbed acreage present or planned on or after August 13, 2003. Any acreage that has undergone "Final Stabilization" (see Part I.B in the permits for a definition) prior to August 13, 2003 is not required to be included in the disturbed acreage calculation.

Fee Submittal Deadlines:

- Ongoing projects existing prior to August 13, 2003 that require coverage under the new NPDES general permits for construction activity, **and** projects which started between August 13, 2003 and December 31, 2003, will have until January 31, 2004 to submit their fees.
- Projects starting on or after January 1, 2004 will submit their fee when they submit the Notice of Intent (NOI) for coverage under the appropriate NPDES general construction permit.

Fee Form:

The NPDES permit fee submittal form is located at www.dnr.state.ga.us/dnr/enviro under “EPD Forms”. Scroll down to “Water Protection Branch” and then “Storm Water”. This form will have instructions and the address of the payment center.

**** Do not send the check to the EPD District Office where the NOI is sent. Send the permit fee together with the fee submittal form to the address on the form. ****

If you should have any questions regarding the NPDES permit fee system, please contact the Water Protection Branch, NonPoint Source Program, Storm Water Unit at 404-675-6240.

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