

**Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System  
General Permit for Non-Contact Cooling Water Discharges**



Effective Date: May 1, 2025

Expiration Date: April 30, 2030

**Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management  
Office of Water Resources  
RIPDES Program**

**RHODE ISLAND POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM  
GENERAL PERMIT FOR NON-CONTACT COOLING WATER DISCHARGES**

**I. GENERAL COVERAGE UNDER THIS PERMIT**

A. Permit Coverage. This permit may cover all areas of the State of Rhode Island.

B. Wastewater Type

- (1) Eligibility. Except for non-contact cooling water discharges identified under Part I.B.(3), this permit covers the discharge of non-contact cooling water. Non-contact cooling water is defined as water that is used to reduce temperature and which does not come into direct contact with any raw materials or intermediate, final, or waste product (other than heat).
- (2) Allowable discharges. Other discharges not comprised of non-contact cooling water are allowed under this permit but are limited to the following: steam condensate that does not contain any treatment chemicals; air conditioner condensate that does not contain any treatment chemicals; hydrostatic test water that does not contain any treatment chemicals; potable water line flushings; and uncontaminated groundwater. If any of these discharges may reasonably be expected to be present and to be mixed with non-contact cooling water discharges, they must be specifically identified in the Notice of Intent (NOI).
- (3) Limitations on Coverage. This permit does not authorize the following non-contact cooling water discharges:
  - a. Non-contact cooling water discharges with a total average daily flow of one (1.0) million gallons per day (MGD) or greater;
  - b. Non-contact cooling water discharges that contain any water treatment chemicals; other than those in the incoming public water supply.
  - c. Non-contact cooling water discharges from facilities with an existing RIPDES individual permit, which was issued in accordance with Part IV.W of this permit;
  - d. Non-contact cooling water discharges that the Director of the Department of Environmental Management has found to be or may reasonably be expected to be contributing to a violation of water quality standards;
  - e. Non-contact cooling water discharges into the terminal reservoir of a public drinking water supply;
  - f. Non-contact cooling water discharges that may adversely affect a listed, or a proposed to be listed, endangered or threatened species or its critical habitat;
  - g. Non-contact cooling water which is co-mingled with discharges that are not an allowable discharge under this permit;
  - h. Non-contact cooling water which uses ground water, that is impacted by a release of a toxic or hazardous material; and
  - i. Non-contact cooling water which is contaminated from failing or leaking heat exchangers or process equipment being cooled.
  - j. Non-contact cooling water that uses surface water as its source.

- (4) Impaired Waters. Discharges to waterbodies that are listed as impaired for one or more designated uses on the most recent EPA approved 303(d) list of waters must demonstrate that the discharge meets applicable water quality standards for listed pollutants causing impairment.

C. Authorization. To be covered under this general permit, owners or operators of non-contact cooling water discharges must submit to the Director a standardized Notice of Intent (NOI) form. All NOIs must be submitted to the Director by hard copy (See Part III.B), unless an electronic reporting tool becomes available during the period covered under this permit that DEM implements (See 40 CFR 127.26(h)). Discharges of non-contact cooling water from three-family or smaller residential buildings, are authorized to discharge upon the effective date of this permit and are not required to submit a NOI form. Upon review of an NOI, the Director may deny coverage under this permit at any time and require submittal of an application for an individual or an alternative general permit.

(1) *Deadlines for Requesting Authorization*

- a. Facilities discharging non-contact cooling water which were authorized under the previous general permit dated March 1, 2019, that intend to obtain coverage under this general permit; shall submit a NOI within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this permit.
- b. Facilities that propose to discharge non-contact cooling water and were not authorized under the previous general permit dated March 1, 2019, must submit a NOI at least ninety (90) days prior to the commencement of such discharge.

(2) *Granting of Authorization*

- a. Facilities that were authorized under the previous general permit dated March 1, 2019 that have submitted a complete NOI within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this permit, shall be automatically granted authorization to discharge upon departmental receipt of a complete NOI. Unless notified by the Director to the contrary, owners or operators who submit such notification are authorized to discharge under the terms and conditions of this permit. As indicated in Part II.H.(1), monitoring shall begin on the first day of the quarter immediately following the date of authorization.
- b. For facilities which commence the discharge of non-contact cooling water after the effective date of this permit and which were not authorized under the previous general permit dated March 1, 2019, authorization will be granted ninety (90) days after the submittal of a complete NOI, unless otherwise notified by the Director in writing. Regardless of whether the NOI was actually reviewed by this department, or it became approved because of this department's failure to act within the designated timeframe, the permittee is still responsible for upholding all permit conditions and any other applicable state or federal regulations. As indicated in Part II.H.(1), monitoring shall begin on the first day of the quarter immediately following the date of authorization.
- c. Discharges of non-contact cooling water from three-family or smaller residential buildings, shall automatically be granted authorization to discharge on the effective date of this permit. The permittee is still responsible for upholding all permit conditions and any other applicable state or federal regulations.

(3) *Continuation of this Permit*. If this permit is not re-issued or replaced prior to the expiration date, it will be administratively continued in accordance with Title 250 RICR-150-10-1 § 1.13 and remain fully effective and enforceable. If the discharges from the facility were authorized to discharge under this permit prior to the expiration date, any discharges authorized under this permit will automatically remain covered by this permit until the earliest of:

- a. The authorization for coverage under a reissued permit or a replacement of this permit following the timely and appropriate submittal of a complete NOI requesting authorization to discharge under the new permit and compliance with the requirements of the new permit; or
  - b. The submittal of a Notice of Termination; or
  - c. Issuance or denial of an individual permit for the facility's discharges; or
  - d. A formal permit decision by the Director not to reissue this general permit, at which time the Director will identify a reasonable time period for covered dischargers to seek coverage under an alternative general permit or an individual permit. Coverage under this permit will cease at the end of this time period.
- D. Termination of Coverage. Owners and/or operators of facilities must notify the Director in writing when discharge(s) of non-contact cooling water no longer occur at the facility. At that point, coverage under this permit is terminated. At a minimum, the following information is required to terminate coverage under this permit:
- (1) Owner's name, mailing address, and telephone number.
  - (2) Operator's name, mailing address, and telephone number.
  - (3) Name and location of the facility.
  - (4) RIPDES non-contact cooling water permit number.
  - (5) Certification that non-contact cooling water discharge no longer occurs.
- E. Failure to Notify. Owners or operators, who fail to notify the Director of their intent to be covered under a general permit in accordance with Part I.C. and discharge to waters of the State or to a separate storm sewer system without a RIPDES permit, are in violation of Chapter 46-12 of the Rhode Island General Laws and the Clean Water Act and are subject to legal action.

## II. PERMIT CONDITIONS

- A. Definitions in this Section. Definitions of terms found in this permit, including "Freshwater", "Saltwater", "Habitat", and more, can be found in the Rhode Island Water Quality Regulations (See 250-RICR-150-05 §1.4). Waterbody classifications and fishery designations (e.g., Warm Water vs. Cold Water) can be found in 250-RICR-150-05 §1.25.
- B. The discharge shall not cause visible discoloration of the receiving waters.
- C. The discharge shall contain neither a visible oil sheen, foam, nor floating solids.
- D. The permittee must develop and implement appropriate best management practices to ensure that discharges of non-contact cooling water are not contaminated by failing/leaking heat exchangers. Appropriate best management practices may include but not be limited to; material inventory, preventative maintenance and equipment replacement, testing of equipment (dye testing, eddy current testing, pressure testing), routine visual observations of equipment and discharge, or sampling of the discharge for an indicator pollutant. The permittee must prepare an annual self-certification report, documenting that the discharge is not contaminated, by January 15<sup>th</sup> of each year for the previous calendar year. The self-certification report must summarize the selected best management practices used to determine that the discharge is not contaminated and include the dates of all inspections, testing, maintenance/equipment replacement; the results of all inspections and testing; the personnel performing inspections, testing and maintenance; and any actions taken

in response to the inspections and testing. The statement must also identify incidents where discharges have been contaminated by failing/leaking heat exchangers. The statements shall be maintained on site for a minimum period of five (5) years and must be certified in accordance with Part IV.I of the permit. These reports are subject to DEM review. If at any time the DEM requests that these reports be submitted, the permittee shall submit these reports to the DEM in accordance with the DEM's request.

- E. Monitoring Requirements and Limitations. During the period beginning on the effective date and lasting through permit expiration, the permittee is authorized to discharge non-contact cooling water. Each outfall discharging non-contact cooling water shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below, in accordance with the receiving water classification, when indicated. Monitoring for each outfall is conducted and reported in accordance with Part II.H and Part IV.R.

Effluent Characteristic	Dilution Factor <sup>1</sup>	Discharge Limitations		Monitoring Requirements	
		Average Monthly	Maximum Daily	Monitoring Frequency	Sample Type
<b>Flow</b>					
All Discharges	NA	-----	<sup>2</sup>	1/Week	Calculated <sup>3</sup>
<b>Temperature</b>					
Discharge to Freshwater Warm Water Habitat	<15 (Fifteen) <sup>1</sup> or Temperature Impaired	-----	83°F <sup>4</sup>	1/Week	Grab or Continuous <sup>5</sup>
	≥15 (Fifteen) <sup>1</sup>	-----	92°F <sup>4</sup>	1/Week	Grab or Continuous <sup>5</sup>
Discharge to Freshwater Cold-Water Habitat	<15 (Fifteen) <sup>1</sup> or Temperature Impaired	-----	68°F <sup>4</sup>	1/Week	Grab or Continuous <sup>5</sup>
	≥15 (Fifteen) <sup>1</sup>	-----	92°F <sup>4</sup>	1/Week	Grab or Continuous <sup>5</sup>
Discharge to Saltwater Habitat	NA	-----	83°F <sup>6</sup>	1/Week	Grab or Continuous <sup>5</sup>
<b>pH</b>					
Discharge to Freshwater Habitat	NA	6.5 s.u. (min)	9.0 s.u. (max)	1/Week	Grab or Continuous <sup>5</sup>
Discharge to a Saltwater Habitat	NA	6.5 s.u. <sup>7</sup> (min)	8.5 s.u. <sup>7</sup> (max)	1/Week	Grab or Continuous <sup>5</sup>
<b>Total Residual Chlorine</b>					
Municipal Water Supply and Discharge to Freshwater Habitats (except Lakes or Ponds)	See Part II.F.	See Part II.F.	See Part II.F.	1/Quarter	Grab <sup>5</sup>
Municipal Water Supply and Discharge to Lakes or Ponds or Saltwater Habitats	NA	0.02 mg/L <sup>8</sup>	0.02 mg/L <sup>8</sup>	1/Quarter	Grab <sup>5</sup>

Sampling shall be performed on a typical operating day.

----- Signifies a parameter which must be monitored, and data must be reported; no limit has been established at this time.

<sup>1</sup> See NCCW NOI Instructions for dilution factor calculations.

<sup>2</sup> Limit based upon the maximum non-contact cooling water design flow in the applicant's NOI.

<sup>3</sup> Flow shall be either calculated using a flow totalizer or estimated using the cooling water pumping rate. Reported flow is the flow which occurs over the course of a normal operating day when discharge is occurring. Monthly average flow is to be calculated by dividing the total flow discharged for a given month by the number of days in which there was a discharge during the month (i.e., if a given month had 30 days, but the facility only discharged on 25 days, the monthly average flow would be determined by dividing the total volume discharged during the month by 25 days). Since the reporting period consists of more than one month (i.e., quarterly reporting), the monthly average flow to be reported on the DMR is the highest monthly average flow for all the months in the reporting period. The daily maximum flow is the highest daily flow observed during the reporting period.

<sup>4</sup> In no case shall the discharge cause the temperature of the receiving water to be raised more than 4.0°F.

<sup>5</sup> Compliance with these limitations shall be determined by taking a minimum of four (4) grab samples equally spaced over the course of a normal operating day that captures a discharge event. The maximum value to be reported is the highest individual measurement obtained during the monitoring period. The minimum value to be reported is the lowest individual measurement obtained during the monitoring period. Continuous monitoring devices may be used to measure effluent water body temperature and pH. When required, the maximum temperature and monthly average temperature shall be reported based on the continuous dataset.

<sup>6</sup> In no case shall the discharge cause the temperature of the receiving water to be raised more than 4.0 °F (from October 1 through June 15) or more than 1.6 °F (from June 16 through September 30).

<sup>7</sup> In no case shall the discharge cause the pH of the receiving water to be more than 0.2 s.u. outside the normally occurring range.

<sup>8</sup> The limit at which compliance/noncompliance determinations will be based is the Quantitation Limit which is defined as 0.02 mg/L for TRC. These values may be reduced by permit modification as more sensitive methods are approved by EPA and the State. The following methods may be used to analyze the grab samples: (1) Low Level Amperometric Titration, Standard Methods (18th Edition) No. 4500-CI E; (2) DPD Spectrophotometric, EPA No. 330.5 or Standard Methods (18th Edition) No. 4500-CI G.

#### F. Total Residual Chlorine (Facilities Using Municipal Water Only).

##### (1) *Facilities Discharging to Flowing Freshwater Receiving Bodies Excluding Lakes or Ponds*

Any facility using municipal water as their source of non-contact cooling water is required to limit and monitor the amount of Total Residual Chlorine (TRC) in their effluent. The maximum daily and average monthly concentration of TRC allowed in the effluent are based on the appropriate water quality criterion and the available dilution of the receiving water. This is expressed in the following equation:

$$\text{Effluent Limit} = (\text{Dilution Factor}) \times (\text{Water Quality Criteria})$$

Note that the permittee's TRC effluent limits will be no greater than 1.0 mg/L, regardless of the dilution factor of the receiving water (See fact sheet). The appropriate water quality criteria for the calculation are shown below:

Freshwater acute = 0.019 mg/L (19 ug/l); use for daily maximum

Freshwater chronic = 0.011 mg/L (11 ug/l); use for average monthly

The dilution factor will be based on the same 7Q10 flow the permit applicant determines for effluent temperature limits, as written in the NOI.

(2) *Facilities Discharging to Saltwater Receiving Bodies, or Lakes and Ponds*

Any facility using municipal water as their source of non-contact cooling water is required to limit and monitor the amount of Total Residual Chlorine (TRC) in their effluent. The maximum daily and average monthly concentration of TRC allowed in the effluent is 0.02 mg/L.

TRC concentrations are required to be measured (analyzed) within 15 minutes of collection of the sample per 40 CFR 136. Given the TRC limits of this permit, sampling methods require that TRC detection limits be at least 0.02 mg/L. The following methods may be used to analyze the grab samples: (1) Low Level Amperometric Titration, Standard Methods (18<sup>th</sup> Edition) No. 4500-Cl E; (2) DPD Spectrophotometric, EPA No. 330.5 or Standard Methods (18<sup>th</sup> Edition) No. 4500-Cl G.), all data below the detection level of 0.02 mg/L shall be reported as a zero (0) in accordance with the *2023 Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) Instructions*.

(3) *Exemptions*

Facilities may be exempt from TRC sampling requirements if:

- a. When discharging to a freshwater body the point of discharge from the facility is at least 2100 feet from the receiving water body (i.e. the discharge is to a stormwater system that conveys the NCCW discharge to the receiving water), or;
- b. When discharging to a saltwater body the point of discharge from the facility is at least 2400 feet from the receiving water body, or;
- c. If the facility has four consecutive quarters of non-detection for TRC the facility may request a waiver from DEM to be exempt from TRC requirements for the remainder of the permit period or until DEM determines there is a reason to resume sampling.

If the facility meets the requirements for at least one of these exemptions, the facility must submit a written request to DEM (See Part III.B for where to submit). The exemption is only granted upon approval by DEM. If granted approval, the facility may be exempt from TRC monitoring for the effective period of the permit, unless DEM determines there is a reason to resume testing.

- G. Monitoring Requirements and Limitations for Three-Family or Smaller Residential Geothermal Discharges. Discharges from residential geothermal heat exchangers at three-family or smaller residential buildings do not have any specific reporting requirements. However, discharges from these facilities into saltwater receiving waters shall not cause the temperature of the receiving water be raised more than 4.0°F (from October 1 through June 15) or more than 1.6°F (from June 16 through September 30) and shall not cause the pH of the receiving water to be more than 0.2 s.u. outside of the normally occurring range. Discharges from these facilities into freshwater receiving waters shall not cause the receiving water's temperature to be raised more than 4.0°F or the pH to be outside of the range of 6.5 – 9.0 s.u. DEM may require sampling to confirm that the above limits are being met on a case-by-case basis.

H. Monitoring and Reporting

(1) Monitoring

All monitoring required by this permit shall begin on the first day of the quarter immediately following authorization and shall be done in accordance with sampling and analytical testing procedures specified in Federal Regulations (40 CFR Part 136).

(2) Submittal of DMRs Using NetDMR

Monitoring results obtained during the previous calendar quarter shall be summarized and reported to DEM in discharge monitoring reports (DMRs) submitted electronically using the NetDMR reporting tool (<https://netdmr/epa.gov>). When the permittee submits DMRs using NetDMR, it is not required to submit hard copies of DMRs to DEM.

The first report is due for the calendar quarter immediately following the date in which the facility obtained coverage under this general permit. Testing shall be reported as follows:

Quarter Testing to be Performed	Report Due No Later Than	Results Submitted on DMR for
January 1 – March 31	April 15	January 1 – March 31
April 1 – June 30	July 15	April 1 – June 30
July 1 – September 30	October 15	July 1 – September 30
October 1 – December 31	January 15	October 1 – December 31

(3) Submittal of Reports as NetDMR Attachments

Unless otherwise specified in this permit, the permittee must submit electronic copies of documents in NetDMR that are directly related to the DMR. These include the following:

- DMR Cover Letters
- Below Detection Limit summary tables

*All other reports should be submitted to DEM as a hard copy via regular US mail (See Part II.H.(4) below).*

(4) Submittal of Requests and Reports to DEM

The following requests, reports, and information described in this permit shall be submitted as hard copy to the DEM.

- a. Transfer of Permit notice
- b. Request for changes in sampling location
- c. Request for termination
- d. Written notifications required under Part II
- e. Notice of unauthorized discharges

These reports, information, and requests shall be submitted to DEM by hard copy mail to the address listed at Part III.B.

(5) Verbal Reports and Verbal Notifications

Any verbal reports or verbal notifications, if required in Parts I - IV of this permit, shall be made to the DEM. This includes verbal reports and notifications required under Part IV.G General Requirements. Verbal reports and verbal notifications shall be made to DEM at (401) 222-4700 or (401) 222-3070 at night.

- i. Failure to Comply. Failure to meet the monitoring requirements under this part of the permit constitutes a violation of Chapter 46-12 of Rhode Island General Laws and the Clean Water Act; and may be subject to legal action.



### III. NOTICE OF INTENT REQUIREMENTS

#### A. Contents of Notice of Intent

- (1) The owner's name, mailing address, telephone number, ownership status, and status as a Federal, State, private, public, or other entity.
- (2) The operator's name, address, telephone number, ownership status and status as a Federal, State, private, public, or other entity.
- (3) Up to four (4) digit SIC code that best represents the principal products or activities provided by the facility;
- (4) The location of each outfall, including the latitude and longitude of the approximate center of the outfall to the nearest 15 seconds, for which the NOI is being submitted.
- (5) The name of the receiving water(s) or if the discharge is through a municipal separate storm sewer, the name of the operator of the storm sewer system and the ultimate receiving water(s);
- (6) The type of receiving water (e.g., Saltwater, Warm Water Freshwater Habitat, or Cold-Water Freshwater Habitat);
- (7) A topographic map of the area extending at least extending one (1) mile beyond the property boundaries of the facility that clearly shows the legal boundaries of the facility and the location of each intake structure and each outfall.
- (8) A list of any allowable discharges, as described in Part I.B.(2) of this permit, that are known or are reasonably expected to be present at the site;
- (9) A line drawing of the facility that shows both the non-contact cooling water and the allowable discharge water flow through the facility from intake to discharge and describes any treatment that the water receives.
- (10) An identification of the source of the non-contact cooling water.
- (11) A description of the average frequency (days/week), duration (hours/day), and flow (gallons per minute) of the non-contact cooling water discharge.
- (12) For discharges of non-contact cooling water that commence after the effective date of this permit, the NOI must indicate the anticipated date on which the facility will begin to discharge.
- (13) Any additional information that may be required by the Department to be included as part of the NOI, if the Director determines that such information is reasonably necessary to determine whether or not to authorize the discharge under this permit; and
- (14) For discharges to freshwater and for facilities using a municipal water supply as their source for non-contact cooling water, calculate the approximate instream dilution factor based on an aquatic low-flow analysis. See the NOI instructions to determine how to calculate an instream dilution factor.

- B. Where to Submit. A completed and signed NOI, in accordance with Part IV.I, must be submitted to the following address unless an electronic reporting tool becomes available during the period covered under this permit.

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management  
RIPDES Program  
235 Promenade Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

- C. Deficient NOI. If any portion of the NOI does not meet one or more of the minimum requirements of this part, then the applicant will be notified by a deficiency letter at any point within the review period. It is the responsibility of the applicant to make all required changes and resubmit the NOI. The review period will recommence upon the receipt of the revised NOI.

#### IV. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. Duty to Comply. The permittee must comply with all conditions of this permit. Any permit non-compliance constitutes a violation of Chapter 46-12 of the Rhode Island General Laws and the CWA and is grounds for enforcement action which may include permit termination, revocation and reissuance, modification, or for the denial of a permit renewal application. and the imposition of penalties.
- (1) The permittee shall comply with effluent standards or prohibitions established under Section 307(a) of the CWA for toxic pollutants within the time provided in the regulations that establish these standards or prohibitions, even if the permit has not yet been modified to incorporate the requirement.
  - (2) Section 309 of the CWA provides significant penalties for any person who violates a permit condition implementing Sections 301, 302, 306, 307, 308, 318 or 405 of the CWA or any permit condition or limitation implementing any such sections in a permit issued under Section 402 of the CWA. Any person who violates any condition of this permit is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 per day of such violation, as well as any other appropriate sanctions provided by Section 309 of the CWA. Section 309(c)(4) of the CWA provides that any person who knowingly makes any false material statement, representation, or certification in any record or other document submitted or required to be maintained under this permit, including reports of compliance or noncompliance shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of up to \$10,000 or by imprisonment of not more than two (2) years, or by both.
  - (3) Chapter 46-12 of the Rhode Island General Laws provides that any person who violates a permit condition is subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$25,000 per day of such violation. Any person who willfully or negligently violates a permit condition is subject to a criminal penalty of not more than \$25,000 per day of such violation or imprisonment for not more than five (5) years, or both. Any person who knowingly makes any false statement in connection with the permit is subject to a criminal penalty of not more than \$5,000 for each instance of violation or by imprisonment for not more than thirty (30) days, or both.
- B. Continuation of the Expired General Permit. Provided the permittee has re-applied in accordance with paragraph C below, an expired general permit continues in force and effect until a new general permit is issued. Only those facilities previously authorized to discharge under the expired permit are covered by the continued permit.
- C. Duty to Reapply. If the permittee wishes to continue an activity regulated by this permit after the expiration date of this permit, the permittee must apply for and obtain authorization as required by the new permit once the Department issues a new permit.

- D. Need to Halt or Reduce Activity Not a Defense. It shall not be a defense for the permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this permit.
- E. Duty to Mitigate. The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge in violation of this permit, which has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment.
- F. Change in Discharge. All discharges authorized herein shall be consistent with the terms and conditions of this permit. Discharges which cause a violation of water quality standards are prohibited. The discharge of any pollutant identified in this permit more frequently than or at a level in excess of that authorized shall constitute a violation of the permit. Any anticipated facility expansions, production increases, or process modifications which will result in new, different, or increased discharges of pollutants must be reported by submission of a new RIPDES application at least 90 days prior to commencement of such discharges or if such changes will not violate the effluent limitations specified in this permit, by notice, in writing, to the Director of such changes. Following such notice, the permit may be modified to specify and limit any pollutants not previously listed.

Until such modification is effective, any new or increased discharge in excess of permit limits or not specifically authorized by the permit constitutes a violation.

G. Reporting Requirements

- (1) Planned changes. The permittee shall give notice to the Director as soon as possible of any planned physical alterations or additions to the permitted facility.
- (2) Anticipated noncompliance. The permittee shall give advance notice to the Director of any planned changes in the permitted facility or activity which may result in noncompliance with the permit requirements.
- (3) Transfers. This permit is not transferable to any person except after written notice to the Director. The Director may require modification or revocation and reissuance of the permit to change the name of the permittee and incorporate such other requirements as may be necessary under State and Federal law.
- (4) Monitoring reports. Monitoring results shall be reported at the intervals specified elsewhere in this permit.
- (5) Twenty-four hour reporting. The permittee shall immediately report any noncompliance which may endanger the health or the environment by calling DEM at (401) 222-4700 or (401) 222-3070 at night.

A written submission shall also be provided within five (5) days of the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances. The written submission shall contain a description of the noncompliance and its cause; the period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times, and if the noncompliance has not been corrected, the anticipated time it is expected to continue; and steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent reoccurrence of the noncompliance.

The following information must be reported immediately:

- a. Any unanticipated bypass which causes a violation of any effluent limitation in the permit; or
- b. Any upset which causes a violation of any effluent limitation in the permit; or
- c. Any violation of a maximum daily discharge limitation for any of the pollutants specifically listed by the Director in the permit.

The Director may waive the written report on a case-by-case basis if the oral report has been received within 24 hours.

- (6) Other noncompliance. The permittee shall report all instances of noncompliance not reported under paragraphs (1), (2), and (5), of this section, at the time monitoring reports are submitted. The reports shall contain the information required in paragraph (G)(5) of this section.
- (7) Other information. Where the permittee becomes aware that it failed to submit any relevant facts in a permit application or submitted incorrect information in a permit application or in any report to the Director, they shall promptly submit such facts or information.
- H. Duty to Provide Information. The permittee shall furnish to the Department, within a reasonable time, any information which the Director may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking, and reissuing, or terminating this permit, or to determine compliance with this permit. The permittee shall also furnish to the Director, upon request, any copies of records required to be kept by this permit.
- I. Signatory Requirements. All Notices of Intent, reports, certifications or information either submitted to the Director, or that this permit requires to be maintained by the permittee, shall be signed and certified in accordance §1.12 of the RIPDES regulations (See 250-RICR-150-10 §1.12). Rhode Island General Laws, Chapter 46-12 provides that any person who knowingly makes a false statement, representation, or certification in any record or other document submitted or required to be maintained under this permit, including monitoring reports or reports of compliance or noncompliance shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of up to \$5,000 per violation, or by imprisonment for not more than thirty (30) days per violation, or by both.
- J. Oil and Hazardous Substance Liability. Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve the permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties to which the permittee is or may be subject under Section 311 of the CWA.
- K. Release in Excess of Reportable Quantities. If a release in excess of reportable quantities occurs, the permittee must notify the Office of Water Resources immediately. This permit does not relieve the permittee of the reporting requirements of 40 CFR 117 and 40 CFR 302.
- L. Property Rights. The issuance of this permit does not convey any property rights of any sort, nor any exclusive privileges.
- M. Severability. The provisions of this permit are severable, and if any provision of this permit, or the application of any provision of this permit to any circumstance, is held invalid, the application of such provision to other circumstances and the remainder of this permit shall not be affected thereby.
- N. Transfers. This permit is not transferable to any person except after notice to the Director. The Director may require modification or revocation and reissuance of the permit to change the name of the permittee and incorporate such other requirements as may be necessary under State and Federal law.
- O. State Laws. Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve the permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties established pursuant to any applicable State law.
- P. Other Laws. The issuance of a permit does not authorize any injury or property or invasion of other private rights, nor does it relieve the permittee of its obligation to comply with any other applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

- Q. Proper Operations and Maintenance. The permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) which are installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the conditions of this permit. Proper operation and maintenance also includes adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures. Proper operation and maintenance requires the operations of backup or auxiliary facilities or similar systems, installed by a permittee only when necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of the permit.
- R. Monitoring and Records
- (1) Samples and measurements taken for the purpose of monitoring shall be representative of the volume and nature of the discharge over the sampling and reporting period.
  - (2) The permittee shall retain records of all monitoring including all calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart recordings from continuous monitoring instrumentation, copies of all reports required by this permit, and records of all data used to complete the application for this permit, for a period of at least five (5) years from the date of the sample, measurement, report or application. This period may be extended by request of the Director at any time.
  - (3) Records of monitoring information shall include:
    - a. The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurements.
    - b. The individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurements.
    - c. The date(s) analyses were performed.
    - d. The individual(s) who performed the analyses.
    - e. The analytical techniques or methods used; and
    - f. The results of such analyses.
  - (4) Monitoring must be conducted according to test procedures approved under 40 CFR 136 and applicable Rhode Island regulations, unless other test procedures have been specified in this permit.
  - (5) The CWA provides that any person who falsifies, tampers with, or knowingly renders inaccurate, any monitoring device or method required to be maintained under this permit shall upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 per violation or by imprisonment for not more than two years, or both. If a conviction of a person is for a violation committed after a first conviction of such person under this paragraph, punishment is a fine of not more than \$20,000 per day of violation, or by imprisonment of not more than 4 years, or both. Chapter 46-12 of the Rhode Island General Laws also provides that such acts are subject to a fine of up to \$25,000 per violation, or by imprisonment for not more than thirty (30) days per violation, or by both.
  - (6) Monitoring results must be reported on a Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR)
  - (7) If the permittee monitors any pollutants more frequently than required by this permit, using test procedures approved under 40 CFR 136, applicable State regulations, or as specified in this permit, the results of this monitoring shall be included in the calculation and reporting of the data submitted in the DMR.

- S. Bypass. “Bypass” means the intentional diversion of waste streams from any portion of a treatment facility.
- (1) Bypass not exceeding limitations. The permittee may allow any bypass to occur which does not cause effluent limitations to be exceeded, but only if it also is for essential maintenance to assure efficient operation. These bypasses are not subject to the provisions of paragraphs (2) and (3) of this section.
- (2) Notice
- a. *Anticipated Bypass.* If the permittee knows in advance of the need for a bypass, it shall submit prior notice, if possible at least ten (10) days before the date of the bypass.
- b. *Unanticipated Bypass.* The permittee shall submit a notice of an unanticipated bypass as required in 250-RICR-150-05 §1.14(R) of the RIPDES Regulations.
- (3) Prohibition of Bypass.
- a. Bypass is prohibited, and the Director may take enforcement action against a permittee for bypass, unless:
- i. The bypass was unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury or severe property damage, where “severe property damage” means substantial physical damage to property, damage to the treatment facilities which causes them to become inoperable, or substantial and permanent loss of natural resources which can reasonably be expected to occur in the absence of a bypass. Severe property damage does not mean economic loss caused by delays in productions.
- ii. There were no feasible alternatives to the bypass, such as the use of auxiliary treatment facilities, retention of untreated waste, or maintenance during normal periods of equipment downtime. This condition is not satisfied if the permittee should have installed in the exercise of reasonable engineering judgment to prevent a bypass which occurred during normal periods of equipment downtime or preventative maintenance; and
- iii. The permittee submitted notices as required in paragraphs IV.S.(2) above.
- b. The Director may approve an anticipated bypass after considering its adverse effects, if the Director determines that it will meet the three conditions listed above in paragraph (4).a of this section.
- T. Upset Conditions. “Upset” means an exceptional incident in which there is unintentional and temporary noncompliance with technology-based permit effluent limitations because of factors beyond the reasonable control of the permittee. An upset does not include noncompliance to the extent caused by operational error, improperly designed treatment facilities, inadequate treatment facilities, lack of preventative maintenance, or careless or improper operation.
- (1) Effect of an upset. An upset constitutes an affirmative defense to an action brought for noncompliance with such technology-based permit effluent limitations if the requirements of paragraph (2) of this section are met. No determination made during administrative review of claims that noncompliance was caused by upset, and before an action for noncompliance, is final administrative action subject to judicial review.
- (2) Conditions necessary for a demonstration of upset. A permittee who wishes to establish the affirmative defense of upset shall demonstrate, through properly signed, contemporaneous operating logs, or other relevant evidence that:

- a. An upset occurred and that the permittee can identify the causes(s) of the upset;
  - b. The permittee facility was at the time being properly operated;
  - c. The permittee submitted notice of the upset as required in 250-RICR-150-05 §1.14(R); and
  - d. The permittee complied with any remedial measures required under 250-RICR-150-05 §1.14(E).
- (3) Burden of proof. In any enforcement proceeding the permittee seeking to establish the occurrence of an upset has the burden of proof.
- U. Inspection and Entry. The permittee shall allow the Director or an authorized representative of DEM, upon presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to:
- (1) Enter upon the permittee's premises where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted or where records must be kept under the conditions of this permit;
  - (2) Have access to and copy at reasonable times; any records that must be kept under the conditions of this permit;
  - (3) Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment, (including monitoring and control equipment), practices or operations regulated or required under this permit; and
  - (4) Sample or monitor any substances or parameters at any location, at reasonable times, for the purposes of assuring permit compliance or as otherwise authorized by the CWA or Rhode Island General Law.
- V. Permit Actions. This permit may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause, including but not limited to: (1) Violation of any terms or conditions of this permit; (2) Obtaining the permit by misrepresentation or failure to disclose all relevant facts; or (3) A change in any condition that requires either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the authorized discharge. The filing of a request by the permittee for a permit modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination, or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not stay any permit condition.
- W. Requiring an Individual Permit or an Alternative General Permit
- (1) The Director of the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) may require any owner or operator authorized to discharge under this permit to apply for and obtain either an individual or an alternative RIPDES general permit. Any interested person may petition the Director to take action under this paragraph. The Director may determine at his or her own discretion that an individual or an alternative general permit is required.
  - (2) Any owner or operator authorized to discharge by this permit may request to be excluded from coverage of this permit by applying for an individual permit. The owner or operator shall submit an individual application with reasons supporting the request to the Director. The request may be granted by issuance of an individual permit or an alternative general permit, if the reasons cited by the owner or operator are adequate to support the request. The Director shall notify the permittee within a timely fashion as to whether or not the request has been granted.
  - (3) If a facility requests or is required to obtain coverage under an individual or an alternative general permit, then authorization to discharge non-contact cooling water under this permit shall automatically be terminated on the date of issuance of the individual or the alternative general permit. Until such time as an alternative permit is issued, the existing general permit remains fully in force.

- X. Reopener Clause. The Director reserves the right to make appropriate revisions to this permit in order to incorporate any appropriate effluent limitations, schedules of compliance, or other provisions which may be authorized under the CWA or State Law. In accordance with 250-RICR-150-10-1.16 and 250-RICR-150-10-1.24 of the RIPDES Regulations, if any effluent standard or prohibition, or water quality standard is promulgated under the CWA or under State Law which is more stringent than any limitation on the pollutants in the permit, then the Director may promptly reopen the permit and modify or revoke and reissue the permit to conform to the applicable standard.
- Y. Availability of Reports. Except for data determined to be confidential under Part Z below, all reports prepared in accordance with the terms of this permit shall be available for public inspection at the DEM at 235 Promenade Street, Providence Rhode Island 02908. As required by the CWA, effluent data shall not be considered confidential. Knowingly making any false statement on any such report may result in the imposition of criminal penalties as provided for in Section 309 of the CWA and under section 46-12-14 of the Rhode Island General Laws.
- Z. Confidentiality of Information
- (1) Any information submitted to DEM pursuant to these regulations may be claimed as confidential by the submitter. Any such claim must be asserted at the time of the submission in the manner prescribed on the application form or instructions or, in the case of other submissions, by stamping the words "confidential business information" on each page containing such information. If no claim is made at the time of submission, DEM may make the information available to the public without further notice.
- (2) Claims of confidentiality for the following information will be denied:
- a. The name and address of any permit application or permittee;
  - b. Permit applications, permits and any attachments thereto; and
  - c. RIPDES effluent data.
- AA. Right to Appeal. Within thirty (30) days of receipt of notice of final authorization, the permittee or any interested person may submit a request to the Director for an adjudicatory hearing to appeal the decision to be covered under the general permit. The request for a hearing must conform to the requirements of See 250-RICR-150-10 §1.50of the RIPDES Regulations.)