

**National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System**  
**General Permit Fact Sheet for**  
**Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) Chapter 11-55, Appendix F**  
**Authorizing Discharges of Hydrotesting Water**

- (1) A brief description of the type of facility or activity which is the subject of the draft permit.

*This general permit covers facilities or activities in the State of Hawaii that release or discharge hydrotesting waters to state waters.*

*"Hydrotesting Waters" means water used to test the integrity of a tank or pipeline, water used to flush a tank or pipeline, and effluent used to disinfect a tank or pipeline.*

- (2) The type and quantity of wastes, fluids, or pollutants which are proposed to be or are being treated, stored, disposed of, injected, emitted, or discharged.

*The allowed discharge is of hydrotesting waters which is not commingled with other process water or stormwater.*

*If potable water is used as the source water, the most notable pollutant in the discharge is residual chlorine used during the disinfection process. However, additional pollutants may be present in the discharge dependent upon a source water other than potable water.*

- (3) For a PSD permit, the degree of increment consumption expected to result from operation of the facility or activity.

*Not applicable.*

- (4) A brief summary of the basis for the draft permit conditions including references to applicable statutory or regulatory provisions and appropriate supporting references to the administrative record required by 40 CFR §124.9 (for EPA-issued permits);

**The General Permit is divided into the following sections:**

1. Coverage under this General Permit
2. Limitations on Coverage under this General Permit [Revised]
3. Term of General Permit [Revised]
4. Notice of Intent Requirements [Revised]
5. Standard Conditions
6. Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements for Transmission Line Testing [Revised]
7. Corrective Action
8. Reporting Requirements [Revised]

9. *Submittal Requirements [Revised]*
10. *Additional Conditions*
11. *Record Retention*
12. *Falsifying Report*
13. *Renewal [Removed]*
14. *Forms [Revised]*

*Table 34.4 Effluent Limitation and Monitoring Requirements for Hydrotesting Water Discharges [Revised]*

*Sections 1 through 5 and 7 through 14 are basic requirements necessary to the General Permit. Section 6 and Table 34.4 detail the effluent limitations and monitoring requirements for hydrotesting water discharges.*

***Basis for Discharge Limitations and Monitoring Requirements***

*There are no effluent guidelines promulgated for discharges resulting from hydrotesting. The general permit requirements are based on the HAR Chapter 11-54, Water Quality Standards and the determination that discharges are one-time or intermittent, of short duration, of relatively small volume, and result in de minimis impacts.*

*Water used for hydrotesting may either be from potable or non-potable sources. The general permit requires the hydrotesting water be monitored prior to discharge. The analytical results shall be submitted to the Director of Health for review and approval. The information provided in the Notice of Intent (NOI) will be used for evaluating compliance with applicable water quality standards. If any constituents submitted in the NOI exceed the applicable water quality standards, the Director of Health may require the owner or operator to apply for an individual permit or provide treatment as needed.*

*The effluent parameters in Table 34.4 are based on the pollutants of concern for the discharge of hydrotesting water. The source for the hydrotesting water is generally from, but not limited to, potable water systems or on-site ground water. The potable water source water may contain chlorine residuals for disinfection purposes. Therefore, the general permit includes total residual chlorine limitations per HAR Section 11-54-04(c)(3), and freshwater and saltwater acute toxicity criteria for chlorine. These limitations protect freshwater and saltwater organisms from acute toxicity chlorine discharges. Additional parameters that may require monitoring are based on the pollutants that may be present when non-potable water is used and/or when the vessel or lines being tested are not of new construction and residual substances may be present.*

*The discharges covered by the general permit shall comply with the Standard General Permit Conditions of HAR Chapter 11-55, Appendix A.*

**Requirements for Discharge into Class 1 or Class AA Waters**

*For discharges to Class 1 and Class AA waters, the hydrotesting best management practices plan shall be submitted with the NOI to allow for review of the plan.*

**Chapter 11-55, Appendix F Revisions**

**Main**

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**Original:** *This General Permit is effective on [date] and expires four years from this date, unless amended earlier.*

**Revised:** *This General Permit is effective on [date] and expires five years from this date, unless amended earlier.*

**Rationale:**

*Following revision of these general permits, the term will be five years after the effective date of the rules change, which is the maximum allowable term for NPDES permits per 40 CFR §122.46(a).*

**Section 2(a)(1)**

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**Original:** *Discharges of hydrotesting waters into a sanitary sewer system; and*

**Revised:** *Discharges of hydrotesting waters into a sanitary sewer system;*

**Rationale:**

*The word “and” was removed to account for the new sections 2(a)(3) and 2(a)(4).*

**Section 2(a)(2)**

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**Original:** *Discharges of hydrotesting waters which initially enter separate storm water drainage systems, unless a permit, license, or equivalent written approval is granted by the owner(s) of the drainage system(s) allowing the subject discharge to enter their drainage system(s); except if the permittee is the owner of the drainage system.*

**Revised:** *Discharges of hydrotesting waters which initially enter separate storm water drainage systems, unless a permit, license, or equivalent written approval is granted by the owner(s) of the drainage system(s) allowing the subject discharge to enter their drainage system(s); except if the permittee is the owner of the drainage system;*

**Rationale:**

*The period at the end of the sentence was replaced with a semi-colon to account for the new sections 2(a)(3) and 2(a)(4).*

**Section 2(a)(3) [New]**

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**Original:** (NEW)

**Revised:** Discharges of hydrotesting waters with toxic parameter concentrations above the applicable water quality criteria in chapter 11-54; and

**Rationale:**

This limitation was added to prevent hydrotesting water discharges containing toxic constituents in exceedance of the water quality standards listed in HAR §11-54-4(c)(3).

**Section 2(a)(4) [New]**

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**Original:** (NEW)

**Revised:** Discharges of hydrotesting waters that the director finds more appropriately regulated under an individual permit.

**Rationale:**

This limitation was added to prevent hydrotesting water discharges containing toxic constituents in exceedance of the water quality standards listed in HAR §11-54-4(c)(3).

**Section 2(c)(1) – (9) [New]**

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**Original:** (NEW)

**Revised:** (c) Permittees authorized by this general permit are required to comply with the following requirements:

(1) Treat hydrotesting waters with controls to minimize discharges of pollutants. Appropriate controls include, but are not limited to, sediment basins or sediment traps, sediment socks, dewatering tanks, tube settlers, weir tanks, filtration systems (e.g., bag or sand filters), and passive treatment systems that are designed to remove sediment. Appropriate controls to use downstream of hydrotesting controls to minimize erosion include, but are not limited to, vegetated buffers, check dams, riprap, and grouted riprap at outlets;

(2) Prohibit visible plumes from the discharge and prohibit the discharge of visible floating solids or foam;

- (3) Use an oil-water separator or other suitable filtration device (such as a cartridge filter) that is designed to remove oil, grease, or other products if hydrotesting waters are expected to contain these materials after hydrotesting the tank or pipeline;
- (4) To the extent feasible, use vegetated, upland areas to infiltrate hydrotesting waters before discharge. State waters are prohibited from being used as part of the treatment area;
- (5) At all points where hydrotesting waters are discharged, dissipate velocity to minimize channel and streambank erosion and scour in the immediate vicinity of discharge points. Control measures that can be used to comply with this requirement include the use of erosion controls and/or velocity dissipation devices (e.g., check dams, sediment traps), within and along the length of the conveyance and at the outfall to slow down the discharge. These devices shall not be placed within receiving waters;
- (6) Dispose backwash water offsite in accordance with all governmental regulations or return it to the beginning of the treatment process;
- (7) Replace or clean the filter media used in treatment devices when the pressure differential equals or exceeds the manufacturer's specifications;
- (8) Ensure that the tank or pipeline to be hydrotested is clear of debris or other pollutants that may be mobilized by hydrotesting waters or provide adequate treatment to treat and/or remove these pollutants prior to discharge; and
- (9) Properly dechlorinate hydrotesting waters prior to discharge in accordance with the effluent limitation for total residual chlorine in Table 34.4.

**Rationale:**

Discharges authorized by this permit are often episodic. As this permit only authorizes the discharge of hydrotesting waters, facilities discharging under this permit are not permanent, do not have long term treatment systems, and may not feasibly have continuous discharge monitoring equipment.

*Discharges associated with this permit, if not treated, have the potential to cause receiving waters to exceed water quality standards. For potable waters, the most likely pollutant of concern is chlorine. For non-potable waters, there may be a wide variety of potential pollutants, depending on the non-potable source. Further, Permittees commonly chlorinate the water used to perform hydrotesting and flushing, especially for hydrotesting of water utility pipes.*

*To better protect water quality and improve the permit effectiveness, the following changes are proposed:*

- *Require treatment which targets the reduction of settleable and suspended solids to reduce the potential for discharges causing exceedances of the turbidity water quality standards. Adding an explicit prohibition for visible plumes increases the protection of receiving waters from visual impacts, creates an intuitive compliance requirement, and is far more enforceable than a simple numeric turbidity limit. A prohibition of the visible plumes also accounts for potential variability in discharge quality throughout the discharge period as well as potential short-term variability in background receiving water quality.*
- *Add a treatment requirement such as particulate (e.g. “bag”) filtration to reduce the potential for the discharge of pollutants associated with the hydrotesting activity. This requirement for treatment is also expected to reduce the presence of other pollutants that may be bound to the sediment particles removed through filtration. Permittees are also required to treat their discharge to remove any pollutants (such as sediments) that may be present in the tank being hydrotested. Proper dechlorination is also required to meet effluent limitations.*
- *Add an explicit narrative prohibition for visible plumes and a requirement for treatment while removing the numeric requirement for the following reasons:*
  - *Achieves results similar in nature to numeric requirements.*
  - *Ensures that the receiving water isn’t visually degraded by the authorized discharge.*
  - *Reflects recognized variability in receiving water criteria.*
  - *Provides a qualitative limit that can continuously be monitored by discharger personnel.*

- *Strengthens enforceability including enforcement associated with complaints.*
- *Reduces the complexity and cost of discharge monitoring.*
- *Simplifies permit data tracking and compliance with EPA's E-Reporting Rule.*

### **Section 3(a)**

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**Original:** *This general permit becomes effective ten days after filing with the office of the lieutenant governor.*

**Revised:** *This general permit becomes effective ten days after filing with the office of the lieutenant governor and shall expire five years after the effective date, unless amended earlier.*

**Rationale:**

*This revision is to make this subsection consistent with the general permit term specified at the beginning of the general permit. The previous language only specified when the general permit term began, and not when it expired. This is a minor change for completeness and consistency and has no functional impact on any permit requirements.*

### **Section 3(b)**

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**Original:** *A notice of general permit coverage under this general permit expires:*

- (1) Four years after the effective date of this general permit;*
- (2) When the notice of general permit coverage specifies; or*
- (3) When amendments to section 11-55-34.02(b)(5) are adopted,*

*whichever is earliest, unless the notice of general permit coverage is administratively extended under section 11-55-34.09(d).*

**Revised:** *Unless otherwise specified on the notice of general permit coverage, a notice of general permit coverage granted under this general permit prior to the expiration of this general permit shall expire five years after the effective date of this general permit, unless it is administratively extended in accordance with section 3(c) of this general permit.*

**Rationale:**

*Previously, to maintain coverage under this general permit in instances where the general permit is going to expire prior to its reissuance, permittees would need to submit a renewal NOI prior to the general permit's expiration date. The previous section 3(b) specified that the Notice of General Permit Coverage (NGPC) expires in the identified 3 scenarios in accordance with this*

renewal procedure. The Clean Water Branch is now revising the renewal procedures for general permits to no longer require a renewal NOI and administrative extension prior to the expiration of the general permit. Under the new procedure, unless otherwise specified on the NGPC, the NGPC expires five years after the effective date of the general permit, unless it is administratively extended under the new section 3(c). This revision is necessary to be consistent with the new renewal process. More information explaining this change in the renewal process is provided in the rationale for the new section 3(c).

### **Section 3(c) [New]**

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**Original:** (NEW)

**Revised:** If the department is unable to reissue this general permit prior to its expiration, a notice of general permit coverage granted under this general permit shall be automatically administratively extended, unless otherwise specified on the notice of general permit coverage. This administrative extension shall expire sixty days after the effective date of the new general permit unless:

(1) A notice of intent for coverage under the new general permit is submitted within sixty days after the effective date of the new general permit. The administrative extension shall thus expire on the effective date of the notice of general permit coverage authorizing the existing discharge under the new general permit;

(2) An application for an individual NPDES permit coverage is submitted within sixty days after the effective date of the new general permit. The administrative extension shall thus expire on the effective date of the individual NPDES permit authorizing the existing discharge; or

(3) A notice of cessation is submitted where the administrative extension shall expire on the date that the discharge ceased.

**Rationale:**

Previously, to maintain coverage under this general permit in instances where the general permit is going to expire prior to its reissuance, permittees would need to submit a renewal NOI prior to the general permit's expiration date. This procedure created a situation where a permittee is required to submit an NOI to request coverage under the reissued general permit prior to the reissued permit being finalized and adopted. In essence, permittees would be required to submit an NOI to apply for coverage under a general permit that has not been finalized, or at worst, has not had a draft public noticed yet, and therefore, permittees would not even be aware of what the new general permit's requirements would potentially be. To avoid this situation, the



*renewal process for general permit coverage has been revised. This new section now specifies that when the department is unable to reissue the general permit prior to its expiration, NGPCs granted under the general permit prior to its expiration are administratively extended until 60 days after effective date of the reissued general permit, unless one of 3 actions are taken by the permittee. In the new process, permittees would have 60 days to submit an NOI to request coverage under the reissued general permit, before their administrative extension expires. This will allow permittees to determine if they are able to comply with the new general permit and provide any newly required information in the NOI to request coverage under the reissued general permit.*

#### **Section 4(a)**

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**Original:** *The owner or its duly authorized representative shall submit a complete notice of intent no later than thirty days before the proposed starting date of the discharge or thirty days before the expiration date of the applicable notice of general permit coverage.*

**Revised:**

*(a) The owner or operator shall submit a complete notice of intent thirty days before the proposed starting date of the discharge, and at least thirty days before the expiration date of this general permit.*

**Rationale:**

*The previous text specified that the owner or its authorized representative shall submit the notice of intent no later than thirty days prior to discharge for new dischargers, and thirty days prior to expiration of their NGPC for existing dischargers. However, dischargers intending to be covered under the general permit must also submit their NOI prior to the expiration date of the general permit to receive coverage as NGPCs cannot be issued under expired general permits. As CWB also needs time to process the NOI, a thirty-day deadline (thirty days prior to the expiration of the general permit) was added, which is the same timeframe for a new proposed discharge. The requirement for permittees to submit an NOI prior to the expiration date of their NGPC was removed, to prevent conflict with the new renewal process.*

*As an NPDES permittee may be either the owner or operator of a facility or activity, the term “operator” was also added to this section. Further, while the owner or operator’s certifying person or duly authorized representative must sign the notice of intent as applicable, the requirement to submit the notice of intent is still the owner or operator’s responsibility and is separate from notice of intent signatory requirements. To provide clarity, the duly authorized representative language is removed from this section.*

#### **Section 4(b)**

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**Original:** *The owner or its authorized representative shall include the following information in the notice of intent:*

**Revised:** *The owner or operator shall include the following information in the notice of intent:*

**Rationale:**

*The previous text specified that the owner or its authorized representative shall provide information for the notice of intent. As an NPDES permittee may be either the owner or operator of a facility or activity, the term “operator” was added to this section. Further, while the owner or operator’s certifying person or duly authorized representative must sign the notice of intent as applicable, the requirement to provide information in the notice of intent is still the owner or operator’s responsibility and is separate from notice of intent signatory requirements. To provide clarity, the duly authorized representative language is removed from this section.*

#### **Section 4(d)**

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**Original:** *The owner or its duly authorized representative shall submit a complete notice of intent to the director at the following address or as otherwise specified:*

*Director of Health  
Clean Water Branch  
Environmental Management Division  
State Department of Health  
P.O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801-3378*

**Revised:** *The initial notice of intent shall be signed by the certifying person as described in section 11-55-07(a). A revised notice of intent (a notice of intent that the department has required to be revised and resubmitted) shall be signed by either the certifying person or duly authorized representative as described in section 11-55-07(b).*

**Rationale:**

*The original text has been moved to the new section 4(e). The revised section 4(d) was revised to clarify the signatory requirements of the notice of intent. Previously, the DOH would receive questions on who must sign the notice of intent and revised notice of intent (as applicable). The intent of this revision is to clarify the signatory abilities of the certifying person and authorized representative. These signatory requirements are already in practice in current notice of intent processing procedures.*

**Section 4(e) [New]**

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**Original** *[From the previous section 4(d)]: The owner or its duly authorized representative shall submit a complete notice of intent to the director at the following address or as otherwise specified:*

*Director of Health  
Clean Water Branch  
Environmental Management Division  
State Department of Health  
P.O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801-3378*

**Revised:** *The owner or operator shall submit a complete notice of intent to the director at the following address or as otherwise specified:*

*Director of Health  
Clean Water Branch  
Environmental Management Division  
State Department of Health  
P.O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801-3378*

**Rationale:**

*Most of the original text comes from the previous section 4(d). The previous text specified that the owner or its authorized representative shall submit the notice of intent. As an NPDES permittee may be either the owner or operator of a facility or activity, the term "operator" was added to this section. Further, while the owner or operator's certifying person or duly authorized representative must sign the notice of intent as applicable, the requirement to provide information in the notice of intent is still the owner or operator's responsibility and is separate from notice of intent signatory requirements. To provide clarity, the duly authorized representative language is removed from this section.*

**Section 6(a)**

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**Original:** *The water quality of the hydrotesting water shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified in this section and in Table 34.4. (Effluent limitations for saline water apply only when discharges to saline water occur and daily maximum effluent limitations for fresh water apply only when discharges to fresh water occur.)*

**Revised:** *The water quality of the hydrotesting water shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified in this section and in Table 34.4.*

**Rationale:**

*As the proposed permit will not allow discharges of toxics above water quality standards, effluent limitations for toxics are not included in the proposed permit. The sentence in parentheses applied to effluent limitations for toxic constituents. Therefore, in accordance with the new restrictions and removal of toxic effluent limitations, the language in parentheses was removed. Further, applicability of limits based on discharges to fresh waters or saline waters are now exclusively identified in footnotes to Table 34.4 for clarity. Removal of toxic effluent limitations in the proposed permit are discussed later in this fact sheet.*

**Section 6(a)(4)(c) [Removed]**

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**Original:** *The permittee shall use test methods with detection limits that reflect the applicable numerical limitations as specified in chapter 11-54 and must be sufficiently sensitive as defined at 40 CFR 122.21(e)(3) and 122.44(i)(1)(iv). If the test result is not detectable, the permittee shall indicate that the test result is "less than #," where the # is the lowest detection limit of the test method used.*

**Revised:** (REMOVED)

**Rationale:**

*The previous language provided directions on how to report non-detects that are not currently used in practice, and therefore the language has been removed. Directions on current procedures are now provided in the revised section 8(a)(3).*

**Section 8(a)(2)**

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**Original:** *The permittee shall submit monitoring results obtained during the previous calendar month, postmarked or received by the department no later than the twenty-eighth day of the month following the completed reporting period.*

**Revised:** *The permittee shall submit monitoring results obtained during the previous calendar month, postmarked or received by the department no later than the twenty-eighth day of the month following the completed reporting period. The first reporting period begins on the effective date of the issued notice of general permit coverage (e.g., if the notice of general permit coverage effective date is January 16th, monitoring results shall be reported no later than February 28th).*

**Rationale:**

*Previously, the general permit did not include language that explicitly stated when the first reporting period began. This caused confusion among permittees, as the due date for their first DMR was left up to interpretation. Some may interpret the general permit requirements as being required to begin submissions from the issue date of the NGPC, while others may interpret it as beginning when discharge activities begin. Regulatorily, once the NGPC is issued, the permittee is required to comply with the general permit as applicable. Section 8(a)(5) specifies that permittees must submit a DMR specifying “no discharge” when no discharge activities occur in a calendar month. Based on this, the intent of these reporting requirements is to have permittees regularly report to the Clean Water Branch monthly regardless of whether there was a discharge in the calendar month reporting period. Therefore, this revision was made to explicitly state that reporting begins as soon as the notice of general permit coverage is effective, in accordance with the intent of the general permit’s reporting requirements.*

**Section 8(a)(3)**

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**Original:** *If there is more than one discharge in a single month, report the monthly maximum, monthly minimum, and monthly average values for each parameter on the discharge monitoring report.*

**Revised:** *(3) For the purposes of reporting, the permittee shall use the reporting threshold equivalent to the laboratory’s method detection limit (MDL)*

and must utilize a standard calibration where the lowest standard point is equal or less than the concentration of the minimum level (ML).

(A) The permittee shall report sample results and calculations at or above the laboratory's ML on DMRs as the measured concentration or calculation.

(B) The permittee shall report sample results and calculations below the laboratory's MDL as NODI(B) on the DMR. NODI(B) means that the concentration of the pollutant in the sample is not detected.

(C) The permittee shall report sample results and calculations between the ML and MDL as NODI(Q) on the DMR. NODI(Q) means that the concentration of the pollutant in a sample is detected, but not quantified.

(D) For purposes of calculating averages, zero shall be assigned for values less than the MDL and the numeric value of the MDL shall be assigned for values between the MDL and the ML. The resulting average value must be compared to the effluent limitation or the ML, whichever is greater, in assessing compliance.

(E) For purposes of calculated geometric means,  $0.25 \times \text{MDL}$  shall be assigned for values less than the MDL and the numeric value of the MDL shall be assigned for values between the MDL and the ML. The resulting geometric mean must be compared to the effluent limitation of the ML, whichever is greater, in assessing compliance.

(F) When NODI(Q) or NODI(B) is reported for a parameter, the laboratory's numeric ML and MDL for that parameter shall also be noted on the DMR or on an attachment.

**Rationale:**

Requirements on reporting when collecting additional data are now solely identified in Table 34.4 in the proposed revision, and therefore, the previous language has been replaced. To reduce the need for re-numbering sections, new language regarding reporting of monitoring results have been added to replace the previous section 8(a)(3) language. This language specifies how to report quantifiable, non-quantifiable, and non-detected results, as well as

*how to calculate averages and geomeans that include these results. This new language is to update the general permit to be in accordance with current compliance practices and procedures.*

### **Section 8(c)(2)**

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**Original:** *The permittee shall make oral reports by telephone to the Clean Water Branch at (808) 586-4309 during regular office hours which are Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) from 7:45 a.m. until 4:15 p.m. or the Hawaii State Hospital Operator at (808) 247-2191 outside of regular office hours.*

**Revised:** *The permittee or its duly authorized representative shall make oral reports by telephone to the Clean Water Branch at (808) 586-4309 during regular office hours which are Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) from 7:45 a.m. until 4:15 p.m. or the Hawaii State Hospital Operator at (808) 247-2191 outside of regular office hours.*

**Rationale:**

*Section 8(c)(1) specifies that the permittee or its duly authorized representative shall orally report certain noncompliances to the Clean Water Branch. Section 8(c)(2) was revised to be consistent with section 8(c)(1) and also specify that the permittee or its duly authorized representative shall make oral reports at the identified phone numbers.*

### **Section 8(c)(3)**

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**Original:** *The permittee shall provide a written report within five days of the time the permittee or its duly authorized representative becomes aware of the circumstances. The written report shall include the following:*

**Revised:** *The permittee or its duly authorized representative shall provide a written report within five days of the time the permittee or its duly authorized representative becomes aware of the circumstances. The written report shall include the following:*

**Rationale:**

*Section 8(c)(1) specifies that the permittee or its duly authorized representative shall orally report certain noncompliances to the Clean Water Branch. Section 8(c)(3) was revised to be consistent with section 8(c)(1) and also specify that the permittee or its duly authorized representative shall make written reports.*

**Section 8(d) [Removed]**

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**Original:** *The permittee shall notify the director of the start of the hydrotesting activities in writing within one week before the start of the hydrotesting activities.*

**Revised:** (REMOVED)

**Rationale:**

*Previously, this requirement would be used to track when hydrotesting activities would begin for CWB's own records and use. In the past, this information has typically not been used to perform any compliance activities. Regulatorily, once the NGPC is effective, the permittee is required to comply with the terms of the general permit regardless of when discharge activities begin. Further, section 8(a)(2) has been revised to clarify that the reporting period begins on the effective date of the NGPC, with permittees reporting "no discharge" for calendar months with no discharge activities. Therefore, CWB would be able to determine when discharge activities begin based on what is reported in the DMR, should that information be necessary for regulatory actions. Ultimately, this requirement created additional reporting requirements on the permittee, and additional compliance submission processing time for CWB, for no real benefit to CWB's regulatory oversight and therefore has been removed.*

**Section 9(a)**

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**Original:** *The owner or its duly authorized representative shall submit signed copies of monitoring and all other reports required by this general permit to the director at the following address or as otherwise specified:*

*Director of Health  
Clean Water Branch  
Environmental Management Division  
State Department of Health  
P.O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801-3378*

**Revised:** *The permittee or its duly authorized representative shall submit signed copies of monitoring and all other reports required by this general permit to the director at the following address or as otherwise specified:*

*Director of Health  
Clean Water Branch  
Environmental Management Division  
State Department of Health  
P.O. Box 3378*



Honolulu, Hawaii 96801-3378

**Rationale:**

Previously, the term “owner” was used interchangeably with “permittee”, which potentially caused confusion as the owner is not always the permittee (the permittee may also be the operator of the project/facility). This section was revised to provide clarity and avoid confusion.

**Section 9(b)**

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**Original:** The owner or its duly authorized representative shall include the following certification statement and an original signature on each submittal in accordance with section 11-55-34.08(e) or (f):

*“I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.”*

**Revised:** The permittee or its duly authorized representative shall include the following certification statement and an original signature on each submittal in accordance with section 11-55-34.08(e) or (f):

*“I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.”*

**Rationale:**

Previously, the term “owner” was used interchangeably with “permittee”, which potentially caused confusion as the owner is not always the permittee (the permittee may also be the operator of the project/facility). This section was revised to provide clarity and avoid confusion.

### **Section 9(c)**

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**Original:** *The owner or its duly authorized representative shall include the notice of general permit coverage file number on each submittal. Failure to provide the assigned notice of general permit coverage file number for this facility on future correspondence may be a basis for delay of the processing of the document(s).*

**Revised:** *The permittee or its duly authorized representative shall include the notice of general permit coverage file number on each submittal. Failure to provide the assigned notice of general permit coverage file number for this facility on future correspondence may be a basis for delay of the processing of the document(s).*

**Rationale:**

*Previously, the term “owner” was used interchangeably with “permittee”, which potentially caused confusion as the owner is not always the permittee (the permittee may also be the operator of the project/facility). This section was revised to provide clarity and avoid confusion.*

### **Section 13 [Removed]**

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**Original:** *Request for renewal of general permit coverage must be received no later than 30 calendar days before the expiration of the general permit coverage.*

**Revised:** (REMOVED)

**Rationale:**

*As discussed in the rationale for the revisions for section 3(c), the renewal process for an NGPC has been revised, and no longer requires permittees to submit renewal NOIs prior to the expiration of the general permit. Section 13 was removed in accordance with this new process.*

### **Section 14**

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**Original:** 14. Forms

*Electronic notice of intent forms may be found at the Department’s e-Permitting portal. The e-Permitting portal may be accessed via the Clean Water Branch’s website at: <http://health.hawaii.gov/cwb/>*

**Revised:** 13. Forms

*Electronic notice of intent forms may be found at the Department’s e-Permitting portal. The e-Permitting portal may be accessed via the Clean Water Branch’s website at: <http://health.hawaii.gov/cwb/>*

**Rationale:**

Section 14 was re-numbered to section 13 to account for the removal of the previous section 13.

**Table 34.4**

**Original:**

TABLE 34.4

EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS  
FOR HYDROTESTING WATER DISCHARGES

Effluent Parameter	Effluent Limitations {1}	Minimum Monitoring Frequency	Type of Sample
Quantity of Discharge (gallons)	{2}	Once/Discharge {12}	Calculated or Estimated
Total Suspended Solids (mg/l)	{2}	Once/Discharge {12}	Grab {3}
Turbidity (NTU)	{2}	Once/Discharge {12}	Grab {3}
pH (standard units)	{4}	Once/Discharge {12}	Grab {3}, {5}
Total Residual Chlorine (µg/l) {6}	19{7} 13{8}	Once/Discharge {12}	Grab {3}
Toxic Pollutants {9}	{10}	Once/Discharge {12}	{3}, {11}

mg/l = milligrams per liter

µg/l = micrograms per liter

NTU = nephelometric turbidity units

**Revised:**

TABLE 34.4

EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS  
FOR HYDROTESTING WATER DISCHARGES

Effluent Parameter	Effluent Limitations {1}	Minimum Monitoring Frequency {2}	Type of Sample
Quantity of Discharge (gallons)	<u>Report</u>	Once/Discharge	Calculated or Estimated
Total Suspended Solids (mg/l)	55	Once/Discharge	Grab {3}
pH (standard units)	<u>6.0 - 8.0</u>	Once/Discharge	Grab {3}, {4}
Total Residual Chlorine (µg/l) {5}	19{6} 13{7}	Once/Discharge	Grab {3}

mg/l = milligrams per liter

µg/l = micrograms per liter

NTU = nephelometric turbidity units

**Rationale:**

*(Note: Revisions to each footnote shall be discussed later in this fact sheet)*

*40 CFR 122.44(d)(1)(i) requires all NPDES permits, including general permits, to contain limitations on all pollutant parameters that may be discharged at a level which will cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above the State's Water Quality Standards.*

*Turbidity limits have been removed as the proposed imposition of treatment requirements under section 2(c)(1) and prohibition visible plumes in 2(c)(2) remove the potential for a compliant discharge to cause an exceedance of a water quality standard within a water body. A numeric Water Quality Based Effluent Limits (WQBEL) for Total Suspended Solids (TSS) for 55 mg/l was*

*added. 55 mg/l is the applicable dry season water quality criteria for intermittent discharges to inland streams, which are the only waterbody type for which there is a numeric TSS criteria. In establishing the numeric criteria for TSS at 55 mg/l, all waterbodies are afforded a minimum amount of treatment for the pollutants (solids) most likely to be present in discharges authorized by this permit. The numeric effluent becomes a minimum treatment design specification and also standardizes the limit set associated with TSS.*

*Effluent limitations for pH were revised to apply one standard pH range effluent limitation to all discharges. As mentioned in the rationale for the proposed addition of 2(c) in the permit, discharges authorized by this permit are often episodic discharges of relatively low volumes (the average reported discharge over the past five years was 45,000 gallons). As discharges are infrequent, changes in pH in the waterbody are expected to be relatively short and localized. The proposed range is expected to be protective of all types of waterbodies for the reasons listed above, and still prohibits discharge of extreme pH values from hydrotesting waters that may potentially have immediate impacts at the location of discharge.*

*In addition, Toxics were also removed based on analysis of five (5) years of discharge monitoring data from hydrotesting (Appendix F) general permitted facilities. Within the past five (5) years, the DOH issued approximately 108 NGPCs associated with HAR 11-55, Appendix F. Of the 108 NGPCs, only ten (10) permittees reported any discharges and of the ten (10), only two (2) dischargers reported discharges of total residual chlorine greater than the associated waterbody's water quality standards (NPDES permit HI0021902 and NGPC File No. HI18FF718). The other eight (8) permittees did not report exceedances of water quality standard based effluent limits for toxics. It should be noted that due to the common practice of chlorination and dechlorination of hydrotesting waters, the total residual chlorine effluent limitation shall be retained in the proposed revision. It is also common that potable water is used for hydrotesting, which is not expected to contain elevated levels of toxics, as potable water is treated to levels sufficient for human consumption. Given that no dischargers reported violations of toxic effluent limitations (except for total residual chlorine), the largely episodic nature of the discharges, and the newly required treatment requirements under section 2(c), numeric limits for TSS, and inclusion of the narrative prohibition of discharges which cause exceedances of basic water quality criteria, there is no reasonable potential for toxics to cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality standards and as such, toxic effluent limitations (except for total residual chlorine) were removed from the table.*

*In addition, the DOH is also not establishing effluent limitations for nutrients (i.e., total nitrogen, ammonia nitrogen, nitrate plus nitrite nitrogen, and total phosphorus). Water quality criterion for total nitrogen, ammonia nitrogen, nitrate plus nitrite, and total phosphorus, are established as geometric means, and not to exceed percentiles. They are not based on potential toxicity to aquatic life or human health impacts and are instead based on natural background concentrations that would be expected without human influence on the environment and are developed from water quality observed at high quality reference stations.*

*Unlike toxics, nutrients are not conservative pollutants. Because of the biological and physical variables, there is a delay from when the parameter is discharged until impacts are observed. Additionally, some nutrient criteria, such as chlorophyll a and turbidity are reflective of response conditions and short-term exceedances are often not indicative of the long-term quality of the receiving water. Thus, it is long-term impacts resulting in the change of biota and eutrophication of the receiving waters that must be considered. These impacts result over extended periods of time, ranging from months to years. Biological responses in the receiving water from day-to-day variation in effluent pollutant concentrations are not significant, as chronic biological responses occur over months to years of continuous elevated nutrient loading. DOH-CWB evaluates consistency with these criteria based on a 1-year exposure duration to allow for seasonal fluctuations within the receiving water concentrations and acknowledging that the environmental response to nutrients typically occurs in the far-field and shows minimal response over short periods of time. As mentioned in the rationale for the proposed addition of 2(c) in the permit, discharges authorized by this permit are often episodic discharges of relatively low volumes (the average reported discharge over the past five years was 45,000 gallons). The DOH expects there will be no water quality impacts or degraded waterbody conditions by not establishing numeric effluent limits for nutrients. For this reason, the DOH has decided not to require limitations on nutrients in this permit.*

### **Satisfaction of Anti-Backsliding Requirements**

*The CWA specifies that a revised permit may not include effluent limitations that are less stringent than the current permit unless a less stringent limitation is justified based on exceptions to the anti-backsliding provisions contained in CWA Sections 402(o) or 303(d)(4), or, where applicable, 40 CFR 122.44(l).*

*Revisions to the total suspended solids effluent limitation comply with anti-backsliding requirements, as the new limit now imposes effluent limitations on all waterbodies, when the numeric limit would previously only apply to discharges to streams. The limit was also based on the most stringent*

*applicable water quality standard for streams and is therefore more stringent than the previous permit.*

*Removal of the turbidity limit complies with anti-backsliding requirements, as there is now an explicit narrative prohibition on visible plumes that result from the discharge and a new requirement to provide treatment and filtration to further eliminate discharges with high turbidity. Further, by limiting total suspended solids, it is expected that turbidity will be reduced as a result of lower total suspended solids values in the discharge.*

*Effluent limitations for pH were revised to apply one standard pH range effluent limitation to all discharges. As discharges are infrequent, changes in pH in the waterbody are expected to be relatively short and localized. The proposed range is expected to be protective of all types of waterbodies for the reasons listed above, while still prohibiting discharge of extreme pH values from hydrotesting waters that may potentially have immediate impacts at the location of discharge. Therefore, the limits are at least as stringent as the previous permit.*

*Removal of the toxic pollutant limit complies with anti-backsliding requirements, as there is now an explicit narrative prohibition on discharges that exceed toxic parameter water quality standards in HAR 11-54. Based on this prohibition, discharges covered under this permit will not have reasonable potential to cause or contribute to exceedances of water quality standards for toxic parameters. Therefore, the removal of the numeric effluent limitation for toxic parameters and the addition of the new prohibition means that the requirements for toxic parameters are more stringent than the previous permit.*

### **Satisfaction of Antidegradation Policy Requirements**

*The DOH established the State antidegradation policy in HAR, 11-54-1.1, which incorporates the federal antidegradation policy at 40 CFR 131.12. HAR, 11-54-1.1 requires that the existing quality of waters be maintained unless degradation is justified based on specific findings demonstrating that allowing lower water quality is necessary to accommodate economic or social development in the area in which the waters are located.*

*As discussed in the satisfaction of anti-backsliding requirements section above, effluent limitations and requirements are at least as stringent or more stringent than the previous permit. Compliance with the limits and requirements requires permittees to provide the best treatment applicable to their discharge. Based on this, discharges authorized under this permit are expected to be protective of the receiving water body, and will not degrade water quality within these water bodies in accordance with antidegradation policy requirements.*

**Table 34.4 Footnote 1**

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**Original:** Pollutant concentration levels shall not exceed the effluent limits or be outside the ranges indicated in the table. Actual or measured levels which exceed those effluent limits or are outside those ranges shall be reported to the director as required in section 8(c) of this general permit.

**Revised:** Pollutant concentration levels shall not exceed the single sample maximum effluent limits or be outside the ranges indicated in the table. Actual or measured levels which exceed those effluent limits or are outside those ranges shall be reported to the director as required in section 8(c) of this general permit.

**Rationale:**

The previous language did not specify the type of effluent limitation that was established for pollutants. To clarify, the term “single sample maximum” was added to footnote 1. As the permittee is required to sample once per discharge, it is appropriate to clarify that the effluent limitation is a single sample maximum (i.e., each discharge must comply with effluent limitations).

**Table 34.4 Footnote 2**

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**Original:** The value shall not exceed the applicable limit as specified in chapter 11-54 for the applicable classification of the receiving state waters. If no limitation is specified in chapter 11-54, then only monitoring and reporting is required.

**Revised:** If the permittee collects more than one sample during the month, the maximum value for each pollutant parameter shall be reported. For pH, only report the minimum and maximum for the month. Laboratory results of all sampling shall be included with the discharge monitoring report.

**Rationale:**

The previous language only applied to flow, TSS, and turbidity limits. As the TSS limit changed to a single value applicable to all discharges and the turbidity limit was removed, the previous language was replaced. For flow, the term “Report” was substituted for footnote 2.

The new language in footnote 2 provides directions and requirements for reporting when more than one sample is taken in a month. This language replaces the previous language in footnote 12.

**Table 34.4 Footnote 4 [Removed]**

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**Original:** The pH value shall not be outside the range as specified in chapter 11-54 for the applicable classification of the receiving state waters.

**Revised:** (REMOVED)



**Rationale:**

As the pH effluent limitation has been revised to have one pH range applicable to all discharges, this language is no longer applicable. Therefore, footnote 4 was removed.

**Table 34.4 Footnote 5 [Removed]**

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**Original:** (5) The pH shall be measured within fifteen minutes of obtaining the grab sample.

**Revised:** (4) The pH shall be measured within fifteen minutes of obtaining the grab sample.

**Rationale:**

Footnote 5 was re-numbered to account for the deletion of footnote 4.

**Table 34.4 Footnote 6**

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**Original:** {6} The permittee shall measure for total residual chlorine immediately after obtaining a sample and only when effluent from disinfection operations is discharged.

**Revised:** {5} The permittee shall measure for total residual chlorine immediately after obtaining a sample and only when effluent from disinfection operations is discharged. If total residual chlorine cannot be analyzed immediately (i.e., within the 15-minute hold time as required by 40 CFR Part 136), total residual chlorine field test kits that are compliant with 40 CFR Part 136 methods may be utilized for measurement of total residual chlorine for compliance determinations. A test kit with a method detection limit of 20 µg/l or lower must be used. A discharge monitoring result with a total residual chlorine concentration greater than or equal to 20 µg/l shall be deemed out of compliance with the chlorine effluent limitation. If the permittee cannot analyze for total residual chlorine within the 15-minute holding time, the permittee shall document the reason(s) why and include this explanation with their DMR.

**Rationale:**

Appendix F limits Total Residual Chlorine to 19 µg/L for discharges to freshwater and 13 µg/L for discharges to saltwater. These limitations are derived from the Water Quality criteria in HAR 11-54. Chlorine is typically utilized in the hydrotesting activity and/or potable water containing chlorine is typically utilized. Therefore, DOH has determined that a reasonable potential exist for hydrotesting effluent discharges to cause or contribute to an excursion of the chlorine water quality criteria, and a water quality-based effluent limit for chlorine is required per 40 CFR 122.44(d). 40 CFR 136 requires Total Residual Chlorine to be analyzed within 15 minutes of sample

collection. During the past permit term, permittees informed DOH that their hydrotesting activities are often located away from laboratories, making it difficult if not infeasible in certain situations to meet the 15-minute hold time requirement. The laboratory method is ideal for compliance sampling, as it has a method detection limit low enough to determine compliance with HAR 11-54 water quality standards, as other methods have method detection limits higher than the chlorine water quality standard. This footnote has been revised to specify that field test kits for total residual chlorine are acceptable for compliance monitoring provided that the method detection limit is 20 µg/l or lower which should be achievable by Standard Method 4500-CL G-2011 compliant field colorimeters. The permittee must also document and submit with the DMR why the 15-minute hold time could not be complied with, to ensure that the field test kit was only used when the hold time was found to be infeasible.

Footnote 6 was also re-numbered to account for the deletion of footnote 4.

**Table 34.4 Footnote 7**

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**Original:** (7) This limitation applies when hydrotesting water is discharged into fresh waters.

**Revised:** (6) This limitation applies when hydrotesting water is discharged into fresh waters.

**Rationale:**

Footnote 7 was re-numbered to account for the deletion of footnote 4.

**Table 34.4 Footnote 8**

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**Original:** (8) This limitation applies when hydrotesting water is discharged into saline waters.

**Revised:** (7) This limitation applies when hydrotesting water is discharged into saline waters.

**Rationale:**

Footnote 8 was re-numbered to account for the deletion of footnote 4.

**Table 34.4 Footnote 9 [Removed]**

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**Original:** The permittee shall measure for toxic pollutants, as identified in Appendix D of 40 CFR Part 122 or in section 11-54-4, only if they are identified as potential pollutants requiring monitoring in the notice of intent or as identified by the director. The permittee shall measure for the total recoverable portion of all metals.

**Revised:** (REMOVED)

**Rationale:**

*As the toxics effluent limitation has been removed in the proposed permit, this language is no longer applicable. Therefore, footnote 9 was removed.*

**Table 34.4 Footnote 10 [Removed]**

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**Original:** *Effluent limitations are the acute water quality standards established in section 11-54-4, for either fresh or saline waters. For pollutants which do not have established acute water quality standards, the permittee shall report any detected concentration greater than 0.01 µg/l.*

**Revised:** (REMOVED)

**Rationale:**

*As the toxics effluent limitation has been removed in the proposed permit, this language is no longer applicable. Therefore, footnote 10 was removed.*

**Table 34.4 Footnote 11 [Removed]**

---

**Original:** *The permittee shall measure for cyanide and the volatile fraction of the toxic organic compounds using a grab sample. The permittee shall measure for all other pollutants, as identified in Appendix D of 40 CFR Part 122 or in section 11-54-4 using a composite sample.*

**Revised:** (REMOVED)

**Rationale:**

*As the toxics effluent limitation has been removed in the proposed permit, this language is no longer applicable. Therefore, footnote 11 was removed.*

**Table 34.4 Footnote 12 [Removed]**

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**Original:** *If there is more than one discharge per month in a single monitoring location, report for each parameter the monthly maximum, monthly minimum, and monthly average values on the discharge monitoring report. For pH, only report monthly minimum and monthly maximum.*

**Revised:** (REMOVED)

**Rationale:**

*As the effluent limitations in the proposed permit are single sample maximums, monthly minimums and monthly averages are not relevant (except monthly minimum for pH). Requirements for reporting results when there is additional sampling in the month are now in footnote 2. Therefore, footnote 12 was removed, with the remaining relevant language moved to footnote 2.*

- (5) Reasons why any requested variances or alternatives to required standards do or do not appear justified;

*Not applicable.*

- (6) A description of the procedures for reaching a final decision on the draft permit including:
- (i) The beginning and ending dates of the comment period under 40 CFR §124.10 and the address where comments will be received;
  - (ii) Procedures for requesting a hearing and the nature of that hearing; and
  - (iii) Any other procedures by which the public may participate in the final decision.

*Refer to HAR Section 11-1-51 procedures for adopting rules. The proposed NPDES General Permit is issued as Appendix F within HAR Chapter 11-55, Water Pollution Control.*

- (7) Name and telephone number of a person to contact for additional information.

*Mr. Darryl Lum  
Engineering Section Supervisor  
Clean Water Branch  
Department of Health  
Ph. (808) 586-4309*

- (8) For NPDES permits, provisions satisfying the requirements of 40 CFR §124.56.

*The CWA requires that discharges from existing facilities, at a minimum, must meet technology-based effluent limitations reflecting, among other things, the technological capability of permittees to control pollutants in their discharges. Water quality-based effluent limitations are required by CWA Section 301(b)(1)(C). Both technology-based and water quality-based effluent limitations are implemented through NPDES permits.*

*For this permit, the effluent limits are based on Hawaii's water quality standards because no effluent limitation guidelines apply.*

- (9) Justification for waiver of any application requirements under 40 CFR §122.21(j) or (q) of this chapter.

*Not applicable.*