

Well Drilling Activities General Permit FAQs
For June 26, 2023 General Permit

For Existing Permittees under the July 13, 2018 General Permit:

1. Can I apply for continued coverage under the new general permit?

First you must determine whether the project/activity can comply with the new general permit for discharges of treated process wastewater associated with well drilling activities. The general permit is in HAR Chapter 11-55, Appendix I, available here: <https://health.hawaii.gov/cwb/hawaii-administrative-rules-har/har-11-55/>.

If the project/activity can comply with the requirements in the new general permit, you may apply for continued coverage under the new general permit.

2. My currently issued NGPC has different requirements than those I would be required to comply with under the new general permit. When I am issued my new NGPC, do I still need to follow these previous requirements, or continue to monitor and report sampling results for these pollutants?

You are only required to comply with the effluent limitations and other requirements contained in the new general permit.

3. How do I apply for continued coverage under the new general permit?

The previous Appendix I was issued on July 13, 2018, and expired on June 26, 2023. Your NGPC is automatically extended to **August 25, 2023**. To continue coverage under the new general permit beyond this date, you must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) by **August 25, 2023**. If you do not provide an NOI to continue coverage under the new general permit by **August 25, 2023**, your NGPC will expire on **August 25, 2023**.

If you do not submit an NOI for continued coverage under the new general permit in accordance with the timeline specified above, any continued discharges after the expiration of your NGPC will not have NPDES permit coverage.

For Potential Applicants:

1. How do I know if I need to apply for discharge of treated process wastewater associated with well drilling activities coverage?

You must apply for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit coverage if you will discharge treated process wastewater associated with well drilling activities to State waters.

2. What kinds of activities are covered under this general permit?

HAR Chapter 11-55, Appendix I Section 1(a) specifies:

This general permit covers only discharges of treated process wastewater associated with well drilling activities upon compliance with the applicable general permit requirements. Treated process wastewater covered by this general permit includes well drilling slurries, lubricating fluids wastewaters, and well purge wastewaters.

HAR Chapter 11-55, Appendix I Section 1(b) also specifies:

This general permit covers all areas of the State except for discharges into natural freshwater lakes, saline lakes, and anchialine pools.

3. So, if my activity will discharge to a natural freshwater lake, saline lake, and/or anchialine pool, I can't get coverage under the general permit?

Correct, you cannot get coverage under the general permit.

4. I will be conducting an activity that will cause me to discharge treated process wastewater associated with well drilling activities to State waters. How do I apply for NPDES general permit coverage?

First you must determine whether the project/activity can comply with the general permit for discharges of treated process wastewater associated with well drilling activities. The general permit is in HAR Chapter 11-55, Appendix I, available here: <https://health.hawaii.gov/cwb/hawaii-administrative-rules-har/har-11-55/>.

General permits are permits that the CWB issues that cover a specific category of discharge. These permits are not issued to any single discharger or legal entity, rather, it provides specific requirements and criteria for controlling potential pollution from the category of discharge and allows applicants to request coverage under the general permit. This request is called a Notice of Intent or NOI. To request coverage under a general permit, a project/activity must be able to provide all information required in the NOI and certify that the project/activity will comply with all applicable requirements specified in the general permit.

Inability to comply with any applicable requirement in the general permit disqualifies the project/activity from coverage under the general permit.

To submit an NOI, go to the e-Permitting Portal at:

<https://eha-cloud.doh.hawaii.gov/epermit/> and use the form finder to find the CWB NOI Form. Follow all instructions on the form to complete and submit an NOI to the CWB. You will need to specify that you are requesting coverage under Appendix I.

If the CWB grants the project/activity general permit coverage, you will be issued a Notice of General Permit Coverage (NGPC). The NGPC is not the permit. The NGPC is a notice that the project is now covered under the General Permit, and must comply with its requirements (i.e., must comply with HAR Chapter 11-55, Appendix I).

Please note that if a project/activity is unable to comply with the requirements of the general permit and must have NPDES permit coverage, you must apply for an individual NPDES permit. To apply for an individual NPDES permit, go to the e-Permitting Portal and complete and submit an Electronic Signature CWB Individual NPDES Form.

5. Once I am issued the NGPC, when do I need to start submitting Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) to the CWB? Do I still need to submit DMRs even if I haven't started to discharge treated process wastewater associated with well drilling activities?

You must start submitting DMRs by the 28th day of the month following the NGPC effective date, even if there has been no discharge. As specified in HAR 11-55 Appendix I Section 8(a)(2), the first reporting period begins on the effective date of the issued notice of general permit coverage. For example, if the NGPC effective date is January 16th, the monitoring results must be reported no later than February 28th. If there was no discharge during a monitoring period, specify "No Discharge" on your DMR.

6. If multiple samples are collected during a month, do I submit a DMR for each sample collected?

You are required to submit only one (1) DMR for the monitoring period to the DOH. You shall report only the maximum result for each effluent parameter on the DMR for the monitoring month. However, you must include all supporting documents including chain-of-custody, lab analysis, flow calculations, etc. for each sampling event with the DMR submittal.

As a reminder, you must notify the DOH both orally and in writing of all exceedances in accordance with HAR 11-55 Appendix I Section 8(c).

For Current NGPC Permittees:

1. How do I submit new/updated information and/or required notifications to the CWB (e.g., new contact information, Notice of Cessation, etc.)?

You can submit new/updated information and required notifications to the CWB by submitting an Electronic Signature CWB Compliance Submittal Form for Individual NPDES Permits and NGPCs through the e-Permitting Portal located at: <https://eha-cloud.doh.hawaii.gov/epermit/>. Fill out the applicable portions of the form and follow the instructions to fully submit.

2. My Certifying Person has changed and is no longer the same as the individual identified on my issued NGPC. Do I need to get a revised NGPC that is addressed to the new Certifying Person?

No, you do not need a new NGPC that is addressed to the new Certifying Person. However, you will need to submit new contact information for the new Certifying Person by submitting an Electronic Signature CWB Compliance Submittal Form for Individual NPDES Permits and NGPCs through the e-Permitting Portal located at: <https://eha-cloud.doh.hawaii.gov/epermit/>. Fill out the applicable portions of the form and follow the instructions to fully submit. **Please note that the new Certifying Person must electronically sign the e-Permitting form. Information on the electronic signature process is available at: <https://health.hawaii.gov/cwb/permitting-faqs/#E-Permitting-Portal-Electronic-Signatures>.**

Please also note that if there is an Authorized Representative associated with the NGPC, they must be re-authorized by the new Certifying Person. To do this, complete the Authorized Representative Information section by providing all required information for the Authorized Representative. You may also authorize a different representative by providing different information or elect not to authorize a representative by providing no information.

3. How do I authorize a new Authorized Representative or submit new Authorized Representative information after my NGPC is issued?

You will need to submit an electronic signature CWB Compliance Submittal Form for Individual NPDES Permits and NGPCs through the e-Permitting Portal located at: <https://eha-cloud.doh.hawaii.gov/epermit/>. Fill out the applicable portions of the form by putting in the updated information (either authorizing a new individual or updating the currently authorized individual's new information) and follow the instructions to fully submit. **Please note that the new Certifying Person must electronically sign the e-Permitting form. Information on the electronic signature process is available at: <https://health.hawaii.gov/cwb/permitting-faqs/#E-Permitting-Portal-Electronic-Signatures>.**

- 4. The legal name of my company (i.e., the Permittee) will change and no longer match the name identified in the issued NGPC. Do I need to do something?**

Yes. You must submit a new NOI and filing fee.

- 5. My company wants to legally transfer ownership of my project/activity (including its NGPC) to another legal entity. Are there any requirements from the CWB regarding this transfer?**

Yes. If you can meet the requirements for an automatic transfer in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 122.61(b) and HAR Chapter 11-55-34.08(i)(2), you can complete and submit the Transfer of Ownership section in the Electronic Signature CWB Compliance Submittal Form for Individual NPDES Permits and NGPCs through the e-Permitting Portal located at: <https://eha-cloud.doh.hawaii.gov/epermit/>. You must submit this form at least 30 calendar days in advance of the proposed transfer date.

If you cannot meet these requirements, you will need to submit a new NOI to the CWB and specify that you are conducting a non-automatic transfer of ownership.

- 6. My project has completed and will no longer discharge treated process wastewater associated with well drilling activities. How do I terminate my NGPC?**

You must submit a Notice of Cessation by filling out and submitting an Electronic Signature CWB Compliance Submittal Form for Individual NPDES Permits and NGPCs through the e-Permitting Portal located at: <https://eha-cloud.doh.hawaii.gov/epermit/>. Fill out the applicable portion of the form and follow the instructions to fully submit.

How can I contact the CWB if I have additional questions?

The CWB can be contacted by email at: CleanWaterBranch@doh.hawaii.gov. The CWB can also be contacted by phone at (808) 586-4309, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) from 7:45 a.m. until 4:15 p.m.