

Clean Water Branch Standard Comments

December 19, 2014

Clean Water Branch

The Clean Water Branch (CWB) protects the public health of residents and tourists who enjoy playing in and around Hawaii's coastal and inland water resources. The CWB also protects and restores inland and coastal waters for marine life and wildlife. This is accomplished through statewide coastal water surveillance and watershed-based environmental management through a combination of permit issuance, monitoring, enforcement, administering polluted runoff control projects, and public education.

Permit Issuance

- Any project and its potential impacts to State waters must meet the State's:
 - 1) Antidegradation policy, which requires that the existing uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect the existing uses of the receiving State water be maintained and protected;
 - 2) Designated uses, as determined by the classification of the receiving State waters; and
 - 3) Water quality criteria [Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), Chapter 11-54].

- A Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) is required if your project/activity:
 - Requires a federal permit, license, certificate, approval, registration, or statutory exemption; and
 - May result in a discharge into State waters. The term "discharge" is defined in Clean Water Act, Subsections 502(16), 502(12), and 502(6). Examples of "discharge" include, but are not limited to, allowing the following pollutants to enter State waters from the surface or in-water: solid waste, rock/sand/dirt, heat, sewage, construction debris, any underwater work, chemicals, fugitive dust/spray paint, agricultural wastes, biological materials, industrial wastes, concrete/sealant/epoxy, and washing/cleaning effluent.

Determine if your project/activity requires a federal permit, license, certificate, approval, registration, or statutory exemption by contacting the appropriate federal agencies (e.g. Department of the Army (DA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), Pacific Ocean Division Honolulu District Office (POH) Tel: 808-835-4303; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Tel: 415-947-8021; Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Tel: 866-208-3372; U.S. Coast Guard Office of Bridge Programs Tel: 202-372-1511).

To request a Section 401 WQC, you must complete and submit the Section 401 WQC application. This application is available on the e-Permitting Portal website located at: <https://eha-cloud.doh.hawaii.gov/epermit/>.

Please see HAR, Chapter 11-54 for the State's Water Quality Standards and for more information on the Section 401 WQC. HAR, Chapter 11-54 is available on the CWB website at: <http://health.hawaii.gov/cwb/>.

- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit coverage is required for:
 - Storm water associated with construction activities for land disturbances of one (1) acre or more. Land disturbance includes, but is not limited to, clearing, grading, grubbing, excavation, demolition, uprooting of vegetation, equipment staging, and storage areas.
 - Storm water associated with industrial activities for facilities with Standard Industrial Classification Codes regulated in 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14)(i) through (ix) and (xi).
 - Storm water and certain non-storm water from a small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System.
 - Discharges of water pollutants into State surface waters. Examples of these discharges include, but are not limited to, cooling water, hydrotesting waters, dewatering effluent, and process wastewater.
 - Discharges from the application of pesticides (including insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides, and various other substances to control pest) to State waters.

An application for an NPDES individual permit must be submitted at least 180 calendar days before the commencement of the discharge or start of construction activities. To request an NPDES individual permit, you must complete and submit the NPDES individual permit application. This application is available on the e-Permitting Portal website located at: <https://eha-cloud.doh.hawaii.gov/epermit/>.

A Notice of Intent (NOI) for coverage under a specific NPDES general permit must be submitted at least 30 calendar days before the commencement of the discharge or start of construction activities. To request NPDES general permit coverage, you must complete and submit the NOI. The NOI is available on the e-Permitting Portal website located at: <https://eha-cloud.doh.hawaii.gov/epermit/>.

Please see HAR, Chapter 11-55 for more information on the NPDES individual permit and NPDES general permits. The specific NPDES general permits are

located in HAR, Chapter 11-55, Appendices B through M. HAR, Chapter 11-55 and HAR, Chapter 11-55, Appendices B through M are available on the CWB website at: <http://health.hawaii.gov/cwb/>.

- According to State law, all discharges related to the project construction or operation activities, whether or not NPDES permit coverage and/or Section 401 WQC are required, must comply with the State's Water Quality Standards.

Monitoring

- Effluent discharge and/or receiving water monitoring may be required as conditions of Section 401 Water Quality Certifications and NPDES General and Individual permits.

Enforcement

- Noncompliance with water quality requirements contained in HAR, Chapter 11-54 and/or permitting requirements specified in HAR, Chapter 11-55 may be subject to penalties of \$25,000 per day per violation.
- Violations of Hawaii Revised Statutes 342D and 342E may elicit administrative, civil and criminal penalties for such violations.

Polluted Runoff Control

- Manage projects identified in watershed-based plans that reduce polluted runoff and educate the public about nonpoint source pollution. Projects are selected through an annual request for proposals. Funding is provided by the EPA through the Clean Water Act. For more information on projects and funding opportunities, please visit: www.hawaii.gov/doh/pollutedrunoffcontrol.