

NPDES Permit Number ILG4
Notice Number

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
Permit Program

Public Notice Beginning Date: **June 8, 2006**

Public Notice Ending Date: **July 10, 2006**

PUBLIC NOTICE/FACT SHEET
of
New General NPDES Permit to Discharge into Waters of the State

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has made a tentative determination to issue a general NPDES permit for Surface Discharging Private Sewage Disposal Systems to discharge into the waters of the state and has prepared a draft permit.

Permit Number ILG4

A General NPDES Permit is a single permit issued to cover discharges from a number of facilities in a specified geographic area which involve the same or substantially similar types of operations. The facilities must discharge the "same type of wastes" which has been interpreted to mean the waste streams need not be identical but must be sufficiently similar that the same permit conditions are appropriate. A determination by the IEPA must be made that the discharge is more appropriately covered under a General Permit than under an individual NPDES Permit. All persons who discharge or proposes to discharge from an individual sewage treatment system must apply for coverage under the general permit or apply for an individual permit.

A General Permit is the equivalent of an individual NPDES Permit in terms of effluent limitations, water quality standards, monitoring and reporting requirements, and enforceability.

An applicant would be required to submit an application for authorization to discharge. The General Permit does not name any Permittees, nor does it authorize any person to discharge. The authorization to discharge under a General Permit would be by a separate letter, issued to a specific applicant. The discharge coverage letters are issued at any time while the General Permit is in effect.

This issuance procedure does not require the revocation of individual NPDES permits at the time of General Permit issuance. Rather, individual dischargers are placed under the General Permit at the time of installation of a new system, major upgrade of an existing system or as required by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Department of Public Health or their authorized agent.

Discharges are not automatically covered by these permits unless authorized by a specific coverage letter to discharge under General NPDES Permit ILG4. Authorization must be obtained to be included in a General Permit.

Coverage under This Permit

This Permit covers all areas of the State of Illinois discharging to General Use or Secondary Contact Waters.

Eligibility (ILG4)

This Permit covers all areas of the State of Illinois discharging to General Use or Secondary Contact Waters from any surface discharging private sewage disposal system, provided the untreated domestic sewage waste load is less than 1500 gallons per day, less than 15 population equivalents.

Length of Permit:	Approximately 5 Years
Classification of Receiving Waters:	General Use and Secondary Contact Waters of Illinois
Discharge No(s):	001
Type of Waste	Domestic Wastewater

The source of wastewater discharges from individual treatment systems consists of domestic wastewater which is amenable to biological treatment. No toxic or priority pollutants may be present in the wastewater source. The wastewater effluent is considered to be intermittent with respect to flow rate. Final effluent limits in this general permit have been based on the limits, which have been certified achievable for equipment approved by the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) under the NSF International Standard 40 Wastewater Treatment System.

These effluent limitations cover treated domestic sewage discharges to the ground surface, storm sewers, street surface, curbsides, gutters, swales, ditches, or to waters of the state except lakes, ponds or impoundments or are otherwise subject to more stringent limitations.

Parameter	CONCENTRATION LIMITS mg/L		Regulation
	Yearly Average	Daily Maximum	
BOD ₅	30	45	35 IAC 304.120 40 CFR §133.102
Suspended Solids	30	45	35 IAC 304.120 40 CFR §133.102
pH	Shall be in the range of 6 to 9 standard units		35 IAC 304.125
Fecal Coliform	Daily maximum shall not exceed 400 per 100 mL		35 IAC 304.121
Chlorine Residual	A final effluent total chlorine residual of 0.2 to 1.5 mg/L shall be maintained		35 UAC 302.208

These effluent limitations cover treated domestic sewage discharges directly to or into collection pipes that discharge into lakes, ponds or impoundments or within 100 feet from the average water level of lakes, ponds or impoundments.

Parameter	CONCENTRATION LIMITS mg/L		Regulation
	Yearly Average	Daily Maximum	
BOD ₅	10	20	35 IAC 304.120
Suspended Solids	12	24	35 IAC 304.120
pH	Shall be in the range of 6 to 9 standard units		35 IAC 304.125
Fecal Coliform	Daily maximum shall not exceed 400 per 100 mL		35 IAC 304.121
Chlorine Residual	A final effluent total chlorine residual of 0.2 to 1.5 mg/L shall be maintained		35 UAC 302.208

This draft permit also contains the following requirements as special conditions:

1. conditions requiring an individual permit.
2. Authorization
3. Permittee shall comply with all conditions of the permit and other applicable laws, regulations or ordinances.
4. Information on construction, operation and maintenance..
5. Permit is not transferable.

Public Notice/Fact Sheet – Page 3 - NPDES Permit No. ILG4

6. Proof of ongoing maintenance agreement.
7. Use of approved chlorine tablets.
8. Discharge of hazardous pollutants, toxic wastes and wastes that causes a violation of an applicable water quality standard not authorized.
9. Operation and maintenance manual and all applicable records must be available. Sampling ports must be accessible.
10. No violation of water quality

Attached find an antidegradation analysis for potential new point sources that may be covered by this permit.

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the draft General Permits to the IEPA at the address below. The NPDES permit number(s) must appear on each comment page. Any interested person may submit a written request for a public hearing on a draft permit, stating his or her name and address, the nature of the issues proposed to be raised and the evidence proposed to be presented with regards to those issues.

The Public Notice/Fact Sheet, draft permit, comments received, and other documents are available for inspection and may be copied at the IEPA between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

All comments on the draft permit and requests for hearing must be received by the IEPA by U.S. Mail, carrier mail, or hand delivered during the public notice period. If written comments or requests indicate a significant degree of public interest in the draft permit, the permitting authority may, at its discretion, hold a public hearing. Public notice will be given 45 days before any public hearing. For further information call Alan Keller at 217/782-0610.

Public Notice/Fact Sheet Issued By:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Division of Water Pollution Control
Permit Section, Mail Code #15
1021 North Grand Avenue East
Post Office Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276
Phone Number: 217/782-0610

Antidegradation Assessment NPDES Permit No. ILG4

A statewide general permit is being formulated for individual private sewage treatment systems. These systems are used mostly in homes in rural settings and unsewered small towns, but may also serve small businesses in these areas. Unlike conventional septic tank systems that discharge below the surface of the ground, these systems discharge wastewater above the ground surface or directly to surface waters. The types of systems covered by this permit are designs approved by the Illinois Department of Public Health and the National Sanitation Foundation. The proposed general permit may not be issued to systems serving untreated domestic sewage waste loads of 1500

gallons per day or more, or to systems serving 15 or more population equivalents. This general permit covers effluents from these systems that discharge directly or indirectly to any General Use or Secondary Contact and Indigenous Aquatic Life Use water of the state and distinguishes, by virtue of the permit limits applied, between those waters that are streams, ditches or other flowing waters and those waters that are lakes, ponds or impoundments. Effluents from treatment systems covered by this general permit are intermittent in nature, discharge being dictated by water use in the dwelling or by batch treatment of effluent. Treatment systems not meeting the requirements of the general permit must seek an individual permit.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

All General Use and Secondary Contact and Indigenous Aquatic Life Use waters may receive discharges from systems covered by this permit. Systems discharging within 100 feet of ponds, lakes and impoundments will be subject to more stringent effluent limits. These effluent limits are a yearly average of 10 mg/L BOD and 12 mg/L total suspended solids as opposed to Secondary Treatment limits when free flowing waters receive the effluent. Generally, but not exclusively, small intermittent streams, ravines and ditches will constitute the receiving waters for discharges receiving the general permit because homes tend to be located closer to these kinds of waters rather than to larger rivers and streams or to ponds and lakes. These waters will be found all across the state, the only excluded region being the Lake Michigan Basin.

Identification of Proposed Pollutant Load Increases or Potential Impacts on Uses.

The treatment systems discharging to streams, ditches, ravines and other flowing waters (when water is present in sufficient quantity to allow flow) covered under this general permit will be capable of meeting, and will receive permits with limits of, 30 mg/L of both BOD and total suspended solids on a yearly average basis. Fecal coliform bacteria may not exceed 400 mg/L in the effluent and to achieve this, between 0.2 and 1.5 mg/L total residual chlorine must be maintained in the discharged effluent. Discharges within 100 feet of the average water level of ponds, lakes and impoundments must meet these limits except that 10 mg/L BOD and 12 mg/L total suspended solids must be met on a yearly average basis.

BOD and total suspended solids may increase in the receiving stream because of these discharges. Given the specific limits for flowing waters vs. impounded waters and the low volumes involved, no impacts on the uses of affected waters are anticipated.

Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.

The BOD discharged by systems covered under this general permit will decay into simpler and harmless byproducts by naturally occurring organisms in the receiving waters.

Given the low volumes of effluent discharged from systems covered under the general permit, chlorine will dissipate upon interaction with either the dry bed of the receiving water or, will be diluted with and also react with, water already in the stream or ditch. Water quality standards for chlorine will be met after this interaction. Given the chlorination requirement specified in the general permit, fecal coliform bacteria standards are likely to be met in receiving waters.

Purpose and Anticipated Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

Residences and small businesses located in areas distant from sewage collection systems and which are located where soils have insufficient percolation to support conventional ground discharging septic tank systems often have no other choice but to rely on surface discharging individual sewage treatment systems. These systems, when subject to the restrictions mandated by the general permit, allow for safe and effective disposal of sewage, thereby benefiting residents of rural areas and small towns that lack sewer systems.

Assessments of Alternatives for Less Increase in Loading or Minimal Environmental Degradation.

In order to receive this general permit, designers of individual sewage treatment systems must seek to minimize the amount of effluent discharged to the ground surface or receiving waters. A first step is to obtain the necessary soil tests to determine if adequate percolation exists for a ground discharge-only system. Upon the determination that soils are inadequate for conventional septic tank and lateral tile systems, the applicant may consider inclusion under the general permit. However, applicants are obligated to provide as much opportunity as practicable for the effluent to be absorbed into the ground. Use of trenches, tiles and grassed swales must be utilized where possible. This

Public Notice/Fact Sheet – Page 5 - NPDES Permit No. ILG4

minimizes the amount of effluent reaching the receiving water and also affords the reduction of effluent constituents before the stream or ditch receives the effluent. Additionally, the applicant must report the proximity of the nearest pond, lake or impoundment if any such water body exists in the general area of the effluent outfall. The permit writer must assure that the applicant has taken these steps before the general permit is issued and must note the distance from the effluent outfall to the nearest pond, lake or impoundment in order to set the appropriate BOD and total suspended solids permit limits.

Summary Comments of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Regional Planning Commissions, Zoning Boards or Other Entities

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources may comment on this general permit during the public notice period.

Agency Conclusion.

This assessment was conducted pursuant to the Illinois Pollution Control Board regulation for Antidegradation found at 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.105 (antidegradation standard). We find that the proposed activity will result in the attainment of water quality standards. All existing uses will be fully protected. All technically and economically reasonable measures to avoid or minimize the extent of the proposed increase in pollutant loading have been incorporated into the proposed activity. A general permit for individual sewage treatment systems will benefit the community at large by providing a means for the Illinois EPA to efficiently regulate these systems. The proposed activity is therefore compliant with the Antidegradation standard.