

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES
PERMITS SECTION
235 PROMENADE STREET
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02908-5767

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED PERMIT ACTIONS UNDER THE RHODE ISLAND POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (RIPDES) PROGRAM WHICH REGULATES DISCHARGES INTO THE WATERS OF THE STATE UNDER CHAPTER 46-12 OF THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL LAWS OF 1956, AS AMENDED.

DATE OF NOTICE: December 3 ,2018

PUBLIC NOTICE NUMBER: PN 18-09

DRAFT RIPDES PERMIT: RIPDES MULTI-SECTOR GENERAL PERMIT FOR
STORMWATER DISCHARGES ASSOCIATED
WITH INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES

RIPDES PERMIT NUMBER: RIR500000

In accordance with Chapter 46-12 of the Rhode Island General Laws, the discharge of pollutants to Waters of the State via a point source discharge is prohibited unless the discharge is in compliance with the RIPDES Regulations. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) had previously determined that the most efficient approach for permitting stormwater discharges associated with industrial activities to Waters of the State is to utilize general permits. The primary benefit of using a general permit, as opposed to issuing individual permits, is a streamlined permitting process that prevents delays, while affording equal environmental protection. The permit streamlining reduces the application period, thereby effectively allowing DEM to respond quicker to environmental concerns and produce savings to potential applicants.

On August 15, 2013 RIDEM issued a Rhode Island Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) to authorize the discharge of storm water from industrial facilities, this permit expired at midnight on August 14, 2018. At this time, DEM proposes to re-issue the Rhode Island MSGP to cover industrial storm water discharges. Changes to the 2013 MSGP being proposed in the new permit include: certifications for no exposure and no discharge; language clarifications for eligible non-stormwater discharges; revised monitoring for discharges to impaired water bodies and benchmarks (parameters and frequencies); non-numeric water quality based effluent limitations requirements for discharges to impaired waters; sector specific changes for sectors O and S; corrective actions framework; inspection requirements; recordkeeping and reporting requirements; revisions to the Notice of Intent(NOI) form; electronic submission of permit documents.

Notice is hereby given that, in addition to providing notice of the public comment period and the public hearing on the draft general permit, DEM will also be holding informational workshops to discuss the draft general permit. The informational workshops will be held to informally discuss the changes to the general permit. However, any formal comments on the draft general permit must be made during the public hearing or in writing during the public comment period as indicated below.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Copies of the Draft General Permit, Fact Sheet, and Notice of Intent (NOI) Form may be obtained at no cost by visiting DEM's website at www.dem.ri.gov or writing or calling DEM as noted below:

Margarita Chatterton
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Water Resources
RIPDES Program
235 Promenade Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908-5767
(401) 222-4700, Ext: 7605
e-mail: margarita.chatterton@dem.ri.gov

The administrative record containing all documents relating to these permit actions is on file and may be inspected, by appointment, at the DEM's Providence office mentioned above between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOPS:

In addition to the formal public comment period and public hearing, as indicated below, DEM has scheduled two informational workshops to discuss the Draft Storm Water Multi-Sector General Permit for Industrial Activities. These workshops will be held at the following times and places:

Wednesday, December 12, 2018 at 5:00 PM
and
Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 10:00 AM
Room 300
235 Promenade Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

If you intend to attend one of the informational workshops, please notify Margarita Chatterton via e-mail at margarita.chatterton@dem.ri.gov.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Pursuant to Chapters 46-12 and 42-35 of the Rhode Island General Laws, a public hearing has been scheduled to consider this draft RIPDES permit., the public hearing will be held at the following time and place:

Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 5:00 PM
Room 300
235 Promenade Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

In accordance with the RIPDES Regulations, the following is a summary of the procedures that shall be followed at the Public Hearing:

- a. The Presiding Officer shall have the authority to open and conclude the Hearing and to maintain order; and

- b. Any persons appearing at such a hearing may submit oral or written statements and data concerning the draft permit.

In addition, for the sake of accuracy, it is requested that statements be submitted in writing at the time of the hearing or be mailed to the DEM's Office of Water Resources RIPDES Program, at the above address, before the date of the hearing. Oral testimony will also be heard at the Public Hearing but will be limited to five (5) minutes in duration.

235 Promenade Street is accessible to the handicapped. Individuals requesting interpreter services for the hearing impaired must notify the DEM at 831-5508 (T.D.D.) 72 hours in advance of the hearing dates.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: DECEMBER 3, 2018 TO JANUARY 11, 2019

Interested parties may submit comments on the permit actions and the administrative record to the address above no later than 4:00 PM on January 11, 2019.

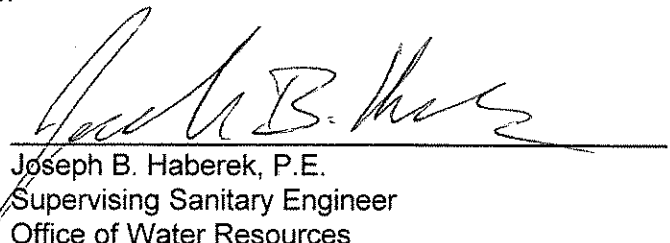
All persons, including the applicant, who believe any change to the permit is inappropriate, must raise all reasonably ascertainable issues and submit all reasonably available arguments and factual grounds supporting their position, including all supporting material, by the close of the public comment period on January 11, 2019. Commenters may request a longer comment period if necessary to provide a reasonable opportunity to comply with these requirements. Comments should be directed to the DEM's Office of Water Resources, RIPDES Program at the address above.

If, during the public comment period, significant questions are raised concerning the permit, DEM may require a new draft permit or fact sheet or may reopen the public comment period. A public notice will be issued for any of these actions.

FINAL DECISION AND APPEALS:

Following the close of the comment period, and after a public hearing, the Director will issue a final decision and forward a copy of the final decision and response to comments to the permittee and each person who has submitted written comments or requested notice. Within thirty (30) days following the notice of the final decision, any interested person may submit a request for a formal hearing in accordance with the requirements of Rule 49.

11/28/18
Date



Joseph B. Haberek, P.E.
Supervising Sanitary Engineer
Office of Water Resources
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management