

3.24 MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER PERMIT

- ❑ *Question: Are you a government agency, serving a large or medium population, that owns and operates a storm drain system within the urbanized area (localities with populations over 100,000) of Maryland? (individual permit) OR*
- ❑ *Question: Are you a government agency that owns and operates a storm drain system serving a facility over 5 acres, but with a population less than 100,000, within the urbanized area of Maryland? (general permit)*

Why do I need this approval?

The purpose of the federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination system (NPDES) stormwater program is to control pollution discharged from municipal separate storm sewer systems.

This permit is required for owners of municipal separate storm sewer systems serving large, medium and small municipalities. A large municipality is one that serves a population of 250,000 or more. A medium municipality is one that serves a population between 100,000 and 250,000. A small municipality is one that serves a population less than 100,000. The following jurisdictions in Maryland are large municipalities: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties and Baltimore City. Carroll, Charles, Frederick, Harford and Howard Counties are considered medium municipalities. All other jurisdictions within these places are considered small municipalities for NPDES stormwater purposes.

What laws or regulations give MDE the legal authority to issue this approval?

FEDERAL: Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 402 and the Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR 122.26).
STATE: COMAR 26.08.04.

What is the process to get this approval?

- 1) Part 1 requires the local government to gather information regarding various existing programs to control storm drain system pollution, such as existing ordinances to control discharges into the local storm drain system, programs to control illegal system connections, and existing financing options. The application also includes extensive storm drain system mapping and monitoring a minimum of 500 outfalls under dry weather flow conditions.
- 2) Part 2 requires proposals for management programs that are required by the CWA to be developed, such as dumping and spill response, public education, and watershed studies. This part of local applications needs to include monitoring of storm water flows during three rain events at a minimum of five storm drain system outfalls.
- 3) After a completed application is submitted, there are opportunities for informational meetings and public hearings to allow input from interested parties.

4) The application for coverage under either of the general permits involves submitting a Notice of Intent (NOI) to comply. The NOI specifies how the six minimum control measures will be implemented.

Are there any other requirements?

The application requirements are the same for both large and medium municipalities, only the deadlines for the applications are different. The application process is a 2-year task where local governments collect data regarding legal authority, pollutant source identification and mapping, discharge monitoring, pollutant management program development, and financing NPDES programs.

MDE has issued two general permits to cover small municipalities under the NPDES requirements. One general permit is designed for affected local governments and the other is designed for State and federally owned storm drain systems. Both permits require six minimum control measures to be implemented. These control measures include public participation, public education, illicit discharge control, erosion and sediment control, stormwater management, and good housekeeping.

How long should I expect it to take to get this approval once I submit a complete application?

Type of Permit	Turnaround Time
Large and medium permits	18 months
General permit coverage	90 days

Once I get this approval, how long will it last?

Maximum of five years

How much will this approval cost?

No fee.

Who do I contact with additional questions?

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Related link:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Permits/WaterManagementPermits/Pages/waterpermits.aspx>