

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
LAND AND MATERIALS ADMINISTRATION**

**NOTICE OF FINAL DETERMINATION  
General Discharge Permit for Animal Feeding Operations State  
Discharge Permit No. 25AF; NPDES Permit No. MDG01**

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is reissuing with revisions the General Discharge Permit (GD Permit) for Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs), Maryland Permit No. 25AF, NPDES Permit No. MDG01. This General Discharge Permit will replace Maryland Permit No. 19AF, NPDES Permit No. MDG01 that was effective July 8, 2020, and expired July 7, 2025.

The General Discharge Permit is necessary to protect water quality and to comply with federal requirements under 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 122, 123, 124, 125, and 412, as well as state requirements under Code of Maryland Regulations (“COMAR”) 26.08.04.09N. All large and medium AFOs that discharge or propose to discharge to waters of the state must be covered under the General Discharge Permit. Other AFOs may be required to be covered under the General Discharge Permit at the discretion of MDE or the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”).

On October 3, 2025, MDE published a Notice of Tentative Determination to reissue with revisions the AFO General Discharge Permit. MDE conducted five public hearings on October 15, 2025 at the Thurmont Regional Library, 76 East Moser Road, Thurmont, Maryland 21788, October 21, 2025 at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, Maryland 21853, October 29, 2025 at the Talbot Community Center Curling Rink, Easton, Maryland 21601, October 30, 2025 virtual public hearing, November 18, 2025 at the First Baptist Church of Salisbury, 528 Booth Street Salisbury, MD 21801.

The public comment period was extended by 60 days, and written public comments were received by MDE through January 2, 2026. In addition to the General Discharge Permit revisions proposed in the Tentative Determination and non-substantive changes (including renumbering and spacing), MDE has made the following further revisions to the draft General Discharge Permit in response to comments received as part of the public participation process:

**Table of Contents:**

Fixed page number references.

**Part III.A.2.:**

Updated 2025 to 2028.

**Part IV.A.1.b.vii:**

Fixed spelling of “commingling”.

**Part IV.B.3:**

Fixed spelling of “ponds”.

**Part IV.B.8:**

Clarified that “wastewater” is “process wastewater”.

**Part V.B.1:**

Updated 2025 to 2028.

**Part VII.M.1.d:**

Fixed spelling of “ensure”.

**Part VII.N:**

Fixed typo from “renewal” to “expiration”.

**Part VII.N:**

Removed “or modifications of existing registrations” from the last sentence.

**Table 3.h:**

Clarified “Water line inspections must continue to be conducted between flocks unless animals are not present in the production area and the water lines are turned off or are not in service.

**Table 4.e:**

Clarified “Water line inspections must continue to be conducted between flocks unless animals are not present in the production area and the water lines are turned off or are not in service.

**Part IV.B.3:**

Clarified “Water line inspections must continue to be conducted between flocks unless animals are not present in the production area and the water lines are turned off or are not in service.

As provided by § 1-601(c) of the Environment Article, a Final Determination by the Department on the issuance, denial, renewal, or revision of the General Discharge Permit is subject to judicial review at the request of any person that: (1) Meets the threshold standing requirements under federal law; and (2) (i) Is the applicant; or (ii) Participated in the public participation process through the submission of written or oral comments, unless an opportunity for public participation was not provided. Judicial review is based on the administrative record before the Department and limited to objections raised during the public comment period unless the petitioner demonstrates that: (i) The objections were not reasonably ascertainable during the comment period; or (ii) Grounds for the objections arose after the comment period. Md. Code Ann., Envir. § 1-601(d). A person petitioning for judicial review shall file the petition in accordance with Title 1, Subtitle 6 of the Environment Article and the Maryland Rules. Md. Code Ann., Envir. § 1-605(a), (c). A party submitting a petition for judicial review shall file the petition within thirty (30) calendar days after publication of a notice of Final Determination. Md. Code Ann., Envir. § 1-605(b).

The General Discharge Permit and MDE’s “*Response to Public Comments Regarding General Discharge Permit for Animal Feeding Operations, Maryland Permit # 25AF; NPDES Permit # MDG01*” may be viewed on the Animal Feeding Operations Program Webpage:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/LAND/RecyclingandOperationsprogram/Pages/AFOInfo.aspx>

Copies of these documents may be obtained from MDE at a cost of \$0.36 per page. For further information regarding this notice, please contact Alexis Capes, Chief, Animal Feeding Operations Division, Resource Management Program at (443) 827-0476 or alexis.capes1@maryland.gov.