

NOTE: This notice contains a corrected end date for comments.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
WATER and SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION

**NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD REGARDING THE LIMITED REMAND OF
THE FINAL GENERAL PERMIT FOR DISCHARGES FROM STORMWATER
ASSOCIATED WITH INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES, DISCHARGE PERMIT NO.
20-SW (NPDES PERMIT NO. MDR0000)**

On January 13, 2021, the Department published notice of its tentative determination to renew the general discharge permit (12SW) for stormwater associated with industrial activities and replace it with the proposed General Permit For Discharges From Stormwater Associated With Industrial Activities, Discharge Permit No. 20-SW, NPDES Permit No. MDR0000 (the “20-SW”). The 20-SW applies to stormwater discharges from industrial activities in the State of Maryland. The Department held a public hearing regarding the tentative determination on March 3, 2021. The public comment period for the tentative determination concluded on April 19, 2021. The Department issued a Final Determination to issue the 20-SW on November 18, 2022 and the 20-SW became effective on February 1, 2023.

The Department’s Final Determination was challenged in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County (case numbers C-03-CV-22-005075, C-03-CV-22-005086, C-03-CV-22-005087). In accordance with an order from the Circuit Court, the Department has agreed to a limited remand to accept comments on the following sections of the 20-SW:

No Exposure Certification – Part I.F.

Comprehensive Site Compliance Evaluation – Part V.A.2.b.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Requirements – Part III.C.

These sections were revised, in the final determination, versus the Department’s tentative determination published January 22, 2021. The 20-SW remains in effect pending a final decision by the Department on these sections. The remainder of the 20-SW is final and not open for public comment.

The Department proposes to re-issue these sections of the 20-SW as published in the Department’s Final Determination on November 18, 2022. However, the Department will consider comments and evaluate potential changes to these sections based on comments received during this public comment period. The current 20-SW permit, further background, and details can be found on the Department's website at: <https://mdewwp.page.link/ISW>.

Written comments on these sections will be considered if received by Paul Hlavinka by email at paul.hlavinka@maryland.gov or by mail to Maryland Department of the

Environment, 1800 Washington Blvd., Suite 455, Baltimore, MD 21230-1708, or (fax) 410-537-3163.

A public hearing to accept oral comments will be held on September 28, 2023 from 10 a.m. to Noon at the Maryland Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Blvd, Baltimore, MD 21230. Comments received in writing or received at a public hearing are given equal consideration.

The comment period closes at 5:00 PM, Saturday, **November 25, 2023**. This comment period incorporates the additional 60-day period provided in §1-606(d)(1)(ii) of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.