

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
WATER and SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION**

NOTICE OF TENTATIVE DETERMINATION AND PUBLIC HEARING

**State General Permit for THE DISCHARGE OF COMPOST TOILET
WASTEWATER TO GROUNDWATER BY LAND APPLICATION**

The Department proposes to reissue the State 18CT General Discharge Permit for the Discharge of Compost Toilet Wastewater to Groundwater by Land Application with the renewal designation of 23CT. The 23CT permit applies to the discharge of compost toilet wastewater to groundwater via land application in the state of Maryland. Land application refers to the discharge of wastewater directly onto vegetated ground by low-pressure, manual methods and is considered a beneficial reuse of wastewater. Private dwellings and other types of facilities that use composting toilet technology are eligible for coverage under this permit.

The proposed permit includes effluent limits and operation and maintenance requirements to ensure the proper land application of the wastewater. Testing will be required before every Land Application event. When the permit is formally adopted, decision-makers currently covered by the 18CT permit will have 6 months to file a Notice of Intent (NOI) to obtain coverage under the reissued permit.

The permit also requires a nutrient management plan be submitted with the NOI. It contains land application area calculations to ensure minimum movement of nitrogen from the specified area of application to surface and groundwaters where they can potentially have a detrimental effect on water quality.

Significant Revisions

- * The structure and some language have been updated to ensure it continues to be consistent with State law and includes changes in organization to improve readability.
- * Added the 'Alternative Permit Coverage' conditions in which alternative permit coverage may be obtained or required.
- * Added a requirement for EJ score and a calculated nutrient uptake to be submitted with the Notice Of Intent.
- * Added the 'Alternative Registration' condition in which an applicant may register multiple sites under one permit.
- * Added deadlines for Coverage and information about the Declaration of Intent.
- * Added the 'Changes in Permit Coverage' condition, informing permittees when to notify the Department of a change in discharge or termination of the general permit.
- * Added the 'Denial of Authorization' condition, informing applicants and permittees when the Department may terminate or deny coverage under the general permit.

* Updated application rates to require calculation for nutrient management.

The other requirements of the 23CT remain unchanged from the 18CT.

WRITTEN COMMENTS - Written comments concerning the tentative determination will be considered in the preparation of a final determination if submitted to the Department at the address below, on or before **August 13, 2026**. The draft permit is available on MDE's website and can be found at https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/wwp/Pages/18_CT.aspx during the above comment period. Any questions should be directed to the **Maryland Department of the Environment, Water Management Administration, 1800 Washington Blvd., Ste. 455, Baltimore, MD 21230-1708, Attn: Mary Dela Onyemaechi, Groundwater Discharge Permits Division**, at mary.dewa@maryland.gov, groundwaterpermits.mde@maryland.gov or by telephone at 410-537-3778 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Copies of the document may be obtained for \$0.36 per page.

PUBLIC HEARING - For communication purposes, we encourage all interested individuals to register via the virtual event link below.

A hybrid hearing has been scheduled for Monday, July 27, 2026, beginning at 4 PM. (A backup hearing has been scheduled for Monday, August 24, 2026, beginning at 4 PM.) The in-person hearing will be held in the Owings Mills Meeting Room at the Owings Mills Branch of the Baltimore County Public Library, located at the County Campus Metro Center at Owings Mills, 10302 Grand Central Avenue, Owings Mills, Maryland 21117.

The virtual event may be joined via Google Meet. To participate online, you **MUST** register using the following link: <https://mdewwp.page.link/PublicMeetings>. There is also a phone listen-only option. Those who want to monitor the virtual hearing in listen-only mode can call +1 929-324-9522 and enter this PIN: 616 337 826#.

The in-person meeting location is accessible to individuals with disabilities as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Individuals who require reasonable accommodation or a language interpreter to participate in the meeting should contact MDE by email at mde.accommodations@maryland.gov or call 410-537-3152 (MD Relay TTY: 7-1-1) at least 5 business days in advance of the meeting.

Any hearing-impaired person may request an interpreter for the event by contacting the Office of Fair Practices at (410) 537-3964 at least ten working days before the scheduled hearing date. TTY users should contact the Maryland Relay Service at 1-800-201-7165.