

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
WATER and SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE OF TENTATIVE DETERMINATION AND PUBLIC HEARING

General Permit for DISCHARGES FROM TANKS, PIPES, OTHER LIQUID CONTAINMENT STRUCTURES,  
DEWATERING ACTIVITIES, AND GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION

The Department proposes to reissue the State/NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) permit 17HT (NPDES No. MDG67) as the new 25HT. The 25HT permit applies to discharges of wastewater from tanks, pipes, other liquid containment structures, dewatering activities, and groundwater remediation in the state of Maryland.

The permit requires specific control measures and limitations at the facility based on the type of discharge. When the permit is formally adopted, industries currently covered by the 17HT permit will have 6 months to file a notice of intent (NOI) and fee payment to the Department to obtain coverage under the reissued permit.

The proposed permit requires the effluent from each type of discharge regulated by the permit to meet specific numerical and narrative limits. The proposed permit also requires monitoring and online electronic submission of Discharge Monitoring Reports. For the 25HT permit, the Department is also proposing several changes from the 17HT, which include:

- \* Expansion of the requirement for a Pollution Prevention Plan (PPP) to include all types of discharge regulated by the permit. Prior iterations of this permit required a PPP for discharges subject to numeric effluent limitations, which may pollute via erosion or have the potential to cause an in-stream exceedance of a water quality standard. This requirement will ensure that all permittees are establishing and documenting necessary treatment methods in advance and tracking the performance of those methods in actual practice;
- \* Clarifying language on limitations on coverage regarding filter backwash and firefighting foam. Water treatment systems that perform filter backwashing are covered under individual permits. As the permit covers discharges from fire control systems, the Department is clarifying that discharges containing firefighting foam are not permitted under this permit, as they have the potential to contain PFAS;
- \* Expansion of Category D (groundwater remediation) to include the remediation of groundwater contaminated by metals (pursuant to a regulation change to COMAR 26.08.04.09 K(2)). This will streamline the permitting process for discharges currently regulated by individual permits under a standard set of requirements;
- \* Clarifying language in Category D regarding notification to the Department if there is an environmental covenant, consent decree, or other agreement related to the site that is applying for discharge coverage. This is to ensure that any separate agreement with the State is compatible with the 25HT;
- \* Introduction of limitations for PFAS added to Discharge Category D (non-detect levels). This inclusion allows the Department to require PFAS testing of the groundwater before application approval and permit issuance if it is determined that PFAS may be a pollutant of concern. Any discharges of remediated groundwater must meet non-detect limits using EPA Test Method 1633A (or the most current iteration approved by the Department);
- \* Modification of monitoring frequency under Discharge Category D. The revised monitoring schedule is similar to the typical requirements for individual permits to regulate the discharge of remediated groundwater.
- \* Clarifying language updates in Category E (discharges from fire control systems) to include fire hydrants that are not already connected to potable water systems and covered under Category B; and

Finally, besides minor language and formatting changes to the 25HT, all other terms and conditions remain largely unchanged from the 17HT permit.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE - Master general permits are applicable across the state of Maryland. Since they are not associated with a specific location, they are not subject to MD Environmental Article § 1-602(a)(2). Thus, an Environmental Justice score cannot be calculated.

WRITTEN COMMENTS - Written comments concerning the tentative determination will be considered in the preparation of a final determination if submitted to the Department by 5:00 PM 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://mdewwp.page.link/HTGP> 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: Jonathan Rice, Industrial and General Permits Division**, at [Jonathan.Rice@Maryland.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Rice@Maryland.gov), or by telephone at 410-537-3323 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 event should contact MDE by email at [mde.accommodations@maryland.gov](mailto:mde.accommodations@maryland.gov) or call 410-537-3152 (MD Relay TTY: 7-1-1) at least 5 business days in advance of the event.

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.