

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
WATER and SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE OF TENTATIVE DETERMINATION AND PUBLIC HEARING

General Permit for DISCHARGES FROM THE APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES

The Department proposes to reissue the State/NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) 17PE (NPDES No. MDG87) General Discharge Permit from the Application of Pesticides with the renewal designation of 25PE. The 25PE permit applies to discharges to Waters of this State from the application of biological pesticides, chemical pesticides that leave a residue, or colorants, when the application of pesticides or colorants is for Mosquito and Other Flying Insect Pest Control, Weed and Algae Control, Nuisance Animal Control, or Forest Canopy Pest Control.

The permit requires specific control measures and limitations at the application area based on the pattern of discharge. When the permit is formally adopted, decision-makers currently covered by the 17PE permit will have 6 months to file a notice of intent (NOI) with the Department to obtain coverage under the reissued permit, if the area of application is over specific size thresholds specified in the permit, or if it will potentially impact desirable species, or if it is for submerged aquatic vegetation (SAVs) in tidal waters.

The proposed permit continues the 17PEs narrative standards, which had been established for each specific type of discharge regulated, in addition to specific water quality-based limits for copper-based products and discharges to protected drinking water sources. The permit also relies on protections provided under FIFRA (The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act), which are regulated by the Maryland Department of Agriculture, including the licensing of applicators.

The permit also requires a Pesticide Discharge Management Plan (PDMP) for Large Entities. It contains reporting and record-keeping requirements for both Decision-makers and Applicators including adverse incidents.

Significant Revisions

- * The structure and some language have been updated to ensure it continues to be consistent with State and Federal law and includes changes in organization to improve readability.
- * The "Failure to Notify" condition was introduced to emphasize the requirement for coverage; otherwise, the permittee is considered in violation for operating without a valid permit.
- * Language was added to reiterate and emphasize certain conditions, such as DNR conditions and prohibitions, monitoring requirements, FIFRA compliance, and requirements for discharges to impaired waters.
- * Direct references to Toxic Material Permits (TMP) have been removed, but language maintaining consistency with State TMP regulations has been continued.
- * Research and development whose discharge may expose desirable species has been added to those who must submit an NOI.
- * Language was added to provide better details for applicants, identifying what information should be included with an NOI and what supporting documents are needed.
- * Pesticide Discharge Management Plans (PDMPs) are now required to be submitted along with the NOI for all large entities, regardless of treatment area size.
- * The requirement to outline visual monitoring procedures in the PDMP has been added.
- * Narrative water quality-based effluent limits have been added to maintain consistency with State regulations and the EPA's 2026 Pesticide General Permit (PGP).
- * Language to address water utility notification for treatments to drinking water has been added.
- * PFAS water quality-based effluent limit requirements, including the implementation of Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) and Aquatic Life Criteria, assurance plans, and monitoring plans, have been added.

The other requirements of the 25-PE remain unchanged from the 17-PE.

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://mdewwp.page.link/PEGP> 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: Paul Hlavinka, Industrial Stormwater Permits Division**, at paul.hlavinka@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 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.