

FACT SHEET

REISSUANCE OF A GENERAL VPDES PERMIT TO DISCHARGE TO STATE WATERS AND STATE CERTIFICATION UNDER THE STATE WATER CONTROL LAW October 18, 2010

The Virginia State Water Control Board has under consideration the reissuance of a VPDES general permit for point source discharges from facilities discharging coin operated laundry wastewater to the surface waters of the State of Virginia. This rulemaking is proposed in order to establish appropriate and necessary permitting requirements for discharges of wastewater from coin operated laundries. The proposed general permit will set forth standard language for effluent limitations and monitoring requirements necessary to regulate this category of dischargers.

Permit Number: VAG72

Name of Permittee: Any owner of a qualifying coin operated laundry with point source discharges to the surface waters of the State of Virginia.

Facility Location: Commonwealth of Virginia

Receiving Waters: Surface waters within the boundaries of the Commonwealth of Virginia, except those specifically named in Board Regulations or Policies which prohibit such discharges.

On the basis of preliminary review and application of lawful standards and regulations, the State Water Control Board proposes to issue the general VPDES permit subject to certain conditions. The Board has determined that this category of discharges is appropriately controlled under a general permit. The category of discharges to be included involves facilities with the same or similar types of operations and the facilities discharge the same or similar types of wastes. The draft general permit requires that all covered facilities meet standardized effluent limitations and monitoring requirements. This permit will maintain the Water Quality Standards adopted by the Board. This general permit will replace the general permit VAG72 which expires on February 8, 2011. Owners covered under the expiring general permit who wish to continue to discharge under a general permit must register for coverage under the new permit.

All pertinent information is on file and may be inspected, and arrangements made for copying by contacting George Cosby at:

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 1105
Richmond, Virginia 23118
(804) 698-4067
george.cosby@deq.virginia.gov

The general permit will have a fixed term of five (5) years effective, upon Board approval, February 9, 2011. Every authorization to discharge under this general permit will expire at the same time and all authorizations to discharge will be renewed on the same date

FACT SHEET

General Permit for Coin Operated Laundries

Page 2

Activities Covered By This General Permit:

This general permit will cover discharges of coin operated laundry wastewater to surface waters of the State by direct point sources. These are generally facilities that are located in rural areas and are not served by central sewerage facilities. The type of systems to be covered shall include wastewater generated from coin operated laundries designated by SIC 7215. However, this permit does not cover facilities that engage in dry cleaning.

Any owner is authorized to discharge to surface waters of the Commonwealth of Virginia under this general permit if the owner files and receives acceptance by the Board of the registration statement of 9VAC25-810-60, files the required permit fee, complies with the effluent limitations and other requirements of 9VAC25-810-70, and provided that the Department has not notified the applicant that authorization is denied because of one of the following:

1. The owner is required to obtain an individual permit according to 9VAC25-31-170 B 3;
2. Other board regulations prohibit such discharges;
3. Central sewage facilities are reasonably available;
4. The discharge violates the antidegradation policy in the Water Quality Standards at 9VAC25-260-30; or
5. An applicable TMDL (board-adopted, and EPA-approved or EPA-imposed) contains a WLA for the facility, unless this general permit specifically addresses the TMDL pollutant of concern and meets the TMDL WLA.

Numbers 3, 4 and 5 above are proposed additions to section 9VAC25-810-50 "Authorization to discharge" during the 2009-2011 rulemaking period due to EPA comment on other general permits over the past year.

The regulation also contains a new section (9VAC25-810-50 D) which allows for continuation of permit coverage when an owner authorized to discharge under the general permit submits a complete and timely registration statement and is not violating conditions under the expiring or expired general permit.

Proposed Limitations and Monitoring Requirements Part I:

1. Effluent limitations for coin operated laundries are as follows:

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Limitation</u>	<u>Monitoring</u>
Flow	Monitoring	Estimate
pH	9.0 max., 6.0 min.*	Grab
Total Suspended Solids	60 mg/l max.	Grab
BOD ₅	60 mg/l max.*	Grab
Dissolved Oxygen	6.0 mg/l min.*	Grab
Temperature °C	32 **	Immersion Stabilization
Total Residual Chlorine	.011 mg/l*	Grab
E. coli	235 n/100ml	Grab

FACT SHEET

General Permit for Coin Operated Laundries

Page 3

* Where the Water Quality Standards (9 VAC 25-260) establish alternate standards for pH, BOD₅, DO, TRC, and temperature in waters receiving the discharge, those standards shall be the maximum and/or minimum effluent limitations, as appropriate.

** The effluent temperature shall not exceed a maximum 32⁰C for discharges to non-tidal coastal and piedmont waters, 31⁰C for mountain and upper piedmont waters, 21⁰C for put and take trout waters, or 20⁰C for natural trout waters. For estuarine waters, non-tidal coastal and piedmont waters, mountain and upper piedmont waters, and put and take trout waters, the effluent shall not cause an increase in temperature of the receiving stream of more than 3⁰C above the natural water temperature. For natural trout waters, the temperature of the effluent shall not cause an increase of 1⁰C above natural water temperature. The effluent shall not cause the temperature in the receiving stream to change more than 2⁰C per hour, except in the case of natural trout waters where the hourly temperature change shall not exceed 0.5⁰C.

Two monitoring frequencies are proposed. Flow, pH, TSS, BOD₅, DO, TRC, are required to be monitored once per quarter. Temperature and E. coli are required to be monitored once per six months.

2. There shall be no discharge of floating solids or visible foam in other than trace amounts.

Basis for Proposed Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements

The Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed this category of discharger and concluded, in their Guidance Document for Effluent Discharges From the Auto and Other Laundries Point Source Category, dated February 1982, that the amounts and toxicity of pollutants in the discharges from these facilities did not justify national regulations.

In developing the proposed effluent limitations and special conditions the following information was reviewed. The permitting strategies, effluent limitations, treatment technologies and special conditions that are being employed by the Department of Environmental Quality and the surrounding states for individual and general VPDES permits issued to coin operated laundries and the Environmental Protection Agency's Guidance Document for Effluent Discharges from the Auto and Other Laundries Point Source Category, February 1982 and the DRAFT Development Document for Proposed Effluent Limitations Guidelines and New Source Performance Standards for the Auto and Other Laundries Point source Category, April 1974.

Determined by the nature of the business, the parameters to be limited in this general VPDES permit are pH, total suspended solids, BOD₅, dissolved oxygen, temperature and total residual chlorine. The pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen and total residual chlorine limitations are based upon Virginia's stream water quality standards (9 VAC 25-260-50, 60, 70, 310 and 380 et seq.). The total suspended solids and BOD₅ parameters are based on best engineering judgment for the type of treatment employed by these systems. Complying with these parameters is an indication that the treatment system is being operated and maintained properly and is producing an acceptable quality effluent.

E. coli was included in the limits table in the previous (2006) permit in accordance with the disinfection policy of 9VAC 25-260-170.B (Water Quality Standards) which requires that all sewage discharges achieve the applicable standards for bacteria. The draft permit that went to

FACT SHEET

General Permit for Coin Operated Laundries

Page 4

public hearing in 2010 initially excluded *E. coli* because the data indicated that there is no reasonable potential to exceed the limit. In addition, the draft development document for *Proposed Effluent Limitations Guidelines and New Source Performance Standards for the Auto and Other Laundries Point Source Category*, USEPA, April 1974 and the *Class V Underground Injection Control Study. Volume 8, Wells That Inject Fluids from Laundromats without Dry Cleaning*, USEPA September 1999 did not characterize bacteria in this type of wastewater. Furthermore, EPA did not consider fecal coliform in the *Effluent Guidelines Industrial Laundries Point Source Category Final Technical Development Document for Pretreatment Standards*, revised March 2000 and states in that document that EPA does not expect fecal coliform bacteria to be present in industrial laundry wastewaters because the laundering chemicals added to laundry process water and the temperature of the water will likely destroy fecal coliform that may have been present on laundered items. However, EPA did not concur on this reasoning and provided the following comment:

We conclude there is the potential for bacteria to be present in discharges from coin operated laundries and therefore the permit needs to retain the bacteria permit limit and monitoring. Also, the anti- backsliding provision as presented at 40 CFR 122.44(l) prohibits the removal of the bacteria limit in this permit.

Therefore, the *E. coli* limit was reinstated as and effluent limits for the final adoption by the State Water Control Board.

Chlorine was changed to mg/l because this is how it is typically reported by laboratories.

The requirement in Part I A.2 for solids and foam was duplicated in the special conditions (Part I B) in the previous (2006) permit. That special condition was deleted during the 2009-2011 rulemaking period.

Proposed Special Conditions

1. The permittee shall notify the Department as soon as they know or have reason to believe:
 - a. That any activity has occurred or will occur which would result in the discharge, on a routine or frequent basis, of any toxic pollutant which is not limited in this permit, if that discharge will exceed the highest of the following notification levels:
 - (1) One hundred micrograms per liter;
 - (2) Two hundred micrograms per liter for acrolein and acrylonitrile; five hundred micrograms per liter for 2,4-dinitrophenol and for 2-methyl-4,6-dinitrophenol; and one milligram per liter for antimony;
 - (3) Five times the maximum concentration value reported for that pollutant in the permit application; or
 - (4) The level established by the Board.
 - b. That any activity has occurred or will occur which would result in any discharge, on a nonroutine or infrequent basis, of a toxic pollutant which is not limited in this permit, if that discharge will exceed the highest of the following notification levels:
 - (1) Five hundred micrograms per liter;
 - (2) One milligram per liter for antimony;
 - (3) Ten times the maximum concentration value reported for that pollutant in the permit application; or

FACT SHEET

General Permit for Coin Operated Laundries

Page 5

(4) The level established by the Board.

Required by VPDES Permit Regulation, 9 VAC 25-31-200 A for all manufacturing, commercial, mining, and silvicultural discharges.

2. Operation and Maintenance Manual Requirement. The permittee shall develop an Operations and Maintenance (O & M) Manual for the treatment works. This manual shall detail the practices and procedures which will be followed to ensure compliance with the requirements of this permit. The manual shall be submitted for staff approval within 90 days of [the effective date of this permit OR completion of construction]. If an approved O & M Manual is already on file with DEQ, the permittee shall review the existing O & M Manual and notify the DEQ regional office in writing within 90 days of the date of coverage under the general permit whether it is still accurate and complete. If the O & M Manual is no longer accurate and complete, a revised O & M Manual shall be submitted for approval to the DEQ regional office within 90 days of the date of coverage under the general permit or with the above required notification. The permittee will maintain an accurate, approved operation and maintenance manual for the treatment works. This manual shall detail the practices and procedures that will be followed to ensure compliance with the requirements of the permit. The permittee shall operate the treatment works in accordance with the approved O & M Manual. This manual shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following items, as appropriate:

- a. Techniques to be employed in the collection, preservation, and analysis of effluent samples;
- b. Discussion of Best Management Practices, if applicable;
- c. Treatment system design, treatment system operation, routine preventive maintenance of units within the treatment system, critical spare parts inventory and record keeping; and
- d. A Sludge/Solids Disposal Plan.

Required by Code of Virginia § 62.1-44.16; VPDES Permit Regulation, 9 VAC 25-31-190 E, and 40 CFR 122.41(e). These require proper operation and maintenance of the permitted facility. Compliance with an approval O&M manual ensures this. During the 2011 reissuance of the general permit, the language explaining the requirements for updates of operations and maintenance manuals already on file with DEQ was proposed.

3. The permittee shall not add chemicals to the water or waste which may be discharged other than those listed on the owner's accepted registration statement, unless prior approval of the chemical(s) is granted by the Department of Environmental Quality

In order to assure protection of water quality and beneficial uses of the waters receiving the discharge. This language is included in keeping with DEQ's pollution prevention philosophy. This special condition was slightly modified during the 2009 – 2011 rulemaking period for clarity and consistency.

4. Compliance Reporting under Part I A.

a. The quantification levels (QL) shall be as follows:

<u>Effluent Characteristic</u>	<u>Quantification Level</u>
BOD5	5 mg/l
TSS	1.0 mg/l
Chlorine	0.10 mg/l

FACT SHEET

General Permit for Coin Operated Laundries

Page 6

b. Reporting. Any single datum required shall be reported as “<QL” if it is less than the QL in a. above. Otherwise the numerical value shall be reported.

c. Monitoring results shall be reported using the same number of significant digits as listed in the permit. Regardless of the rounding convention used by the permittee (e.g., 5 always rounding up or to the nearest even number), the permittee shall use the convention consistently, and shall ensure that consulting laboratories employed by the permittee use the same convention.

Authorized by VPDES Permit Regulation, 9VAC25-31-190 J 4 and 220 I. This condition is necessary when toxic pollutants are monitored by the permittee and a maximum level of quantification and/or a specific analytical method is required in order to assess compliance with a permit limit or to compare effluent quality with a numeric criterion. The condition also establishes protocols for calculation of reported values. During the 2009-2011 rulemaking period, the QL for chlorine was increased to two significant digits in accordance with GM06-2016 (Significant Figures for Discharge Monitoring Reports). The explanation of daily maximum reporting was deleted because daily maximums are not calculated in this permit (all samples are grab and no averaging is done). Also, the statement about consistently using the same rounding convention was added during the 2009-2011 rulemaking period.

5. If the discharge is into a municipal separate storm sewer the permittee is required to notify the owner of the municipal separate storm sewer system of the existence of the discharge within 30 days of coverage under the general permit and provide the following information: the name of the facility; a contact person and phone number; the location of the discharge, the nature of the discharge, and the facility's VPDES general permit number.

The purpose of this special condition is to meet VPDES program guidance in the Permit Manual, Section IN-4 September 23, 2005 General Storm Water Special Conditions permittees must notify the owner of the MS4 if they discharge into the MS4. The last two notifications (nature of discharge and VPDES number) were added in the 2009-2011 rulemaking period to clarify for the MS4 program the type of discharge and that the discharge has a valid DEQ permit.

6. No sewage shall be discharged from a point source to surface waters from this facility except under the provisions of another VPDES permit specifically issued for that purpose.

The effluent limitations do not address pollutants typical of treated sewage, therefore no sewage discharge to surface waters are permitted under the general permit.

7. The discharges authorized by this permit shall be controlled as necessary to meet applicable water quality standards.

This special condition was added during the 2009-2011 rulemaking period as a general requirement. Similar special conditions are being added to all general permits during reissuance.

Administrative

The general permit will have a fixed term of five years. Every authorization under this general permit will expire at the same time and all authorizations will be renewed on the same date,

FACT SHEET

General Permit for Coin Operated Laundries

Page 7

provided a complete registration statement has been filed prior to the general permit's expiration date.

All owners/operators desiring to be covered by this general permit must register with the Department by filing a registration statement and payment of applicable fees. The registration statement shall be submitted and a notification of coverage issued prior to any discharges or other activities for which this permit is required.

Existing operations with individual VPDES permits that wish to seek coverage under the proposed general permit would have to file a registration statement at least 210 days prior to the expiration date of the individual VPDES permit. This is a change from the 2006 permit based on advice from our Attorney General's Office to allow for 30 days to review the registration and then if denied, the permittee still can meet their individual permit requirements of 180 days to reapply for an individual permit. For all new dischargers that will begin activities after the effective date of this permit, the registration statement shall be filed at least 30 days prior to the commencement of operation of the coin operated laundry. Any existing owner that was authorized to discharge under this general VPDES permit for coin operated laundries that became effective on February 9, 2006 and who intends to continue coverage under this general permit shall submit a complete registration statement to the board prior to January 8, 2011 which is 30 days prior to expiration. This requirement used to say 180 days prior to expiration. It is our experience that we need to make this period less than 180 days for general permits given the relatively long regulatory timelines we need to get general permit regulations adopted. This is also allowed by the VPDES permit regulation at 25-31-100 C.

This general permit does not cover activities or discharges covered by an individual VPDES permit until the individual permit has expired or has been revoked. Any person conducting an activity covered by an individual permit, which could be covered by this general permit, may request that the individual permit be revoked and register for coverage under this general permit. Any owner or operator not wishing to be covered or limited by this general permit may make application for an individual VPDES permit, in accordance with VPDES procedures, stating the reasons supporting the request.

This general permit does not apply to any new or increased discharge that will result in significant effects to the receiving waters. That determination is made in accordance with the State Water Control Board's Antidegradation Policy contained in the Virginia Water Quality Standards, 9VAC 25-260-30 et seq.

This general permit will maintain the Water Quality Standards adopted by the Board. All facilities that the Department believes are eligible for coverage under this general permit will be authorized to discharge under the terms and conditions of the permit after a complete registration statement is submitted, the applicable permit fee is paid, and the Department sends a copy of the general permit to the applicant. If this general permit is inappropriate, the applicant will be so notified.

Coin operated laundries with point source discharges that do not qualify for coverage under this general permit may make application for an individual VPDES permit.