Stormwater Permit Assistance for Construction and Industrial Activities: Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I am starting or constructing a new business or home in Oklahoma. What types of stormwater permits may be required?

Two types of stormwater permits may be required.

- A Construction Stormwater Permit Authorization if the new building or site preparation disturbs greater than one acre or is located in a larger common plan of development, and/or
- An Industrial Stormwater Permit Authorization if your business’s Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code is listed in Table 1-3 of OKR05, the general permit for industrial stormwater discharges. The general permit may be found at https://go.usa.gov/xQqs9.

Q: Where can I locate the Notice of Intent Forms for Industrial and/or Construction Authorizations?

These forms can be found in the Water Quality/Forms section of the DEQ website at https://go.usa.gov/xQCEj.

Q: How do I determine my receiving water body, or if my site is located within a sensitive area such as an Aquatic Resource of Concern (ARC), an Outstanding Resource Water (ORW), and/or the Lake Thunderbird Watershed?

Determine the direction of water flow off your property and choose the nearest water body it will flow to. This could be an unnamed tributary to a larger stream. More than one water body may be possible.

For sensitive watersheds: refer to Addendums A and E of OKR10, and Appendix A of OKR05 to determine if your project/facility is within an ARC or ORW.

To determine whether the project/facility is within the Lake Thunderbird Watershed, refer to the Final Lake Thunderbird Report, which is posted on the Lake Thunderbird TMDL Project page of the DEQ website, https://go.usa.gov/xQqsP.
Q: What if there is another operator on the project site that has a permit authorization, and we are going to be on or next to the site. Can I operate under their authorization?

No, you cannot operate under their authorization unless they agree to add your company, construction activities, etc. into their Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3) as a Secondary Operator. Refer to Part 3.6 Responsibilities of Operators and Part 4.4 Contractor Certification portions of the OKR10 General Permit. Otherwise, you must obtain a permit.

Q: What is an MS4 Operator, and am I discharging to one?

A Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, or MS4, is defined as a conveyance or system of conveyances, including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels or storm drains that are owned or operated by a state, city, or town to collect or convey stormwater.

If your site discharges to an MS4, please contact the MS4 operator for more information on any permit requirements they may have. You may also contact the Water Quality Division Stormwater Group at (405) 702-8100 for a list of MS4 operators.

Q: Are there fees associated with Stormwater Permit Authorizations?

Yes. For both Construction and Industrial Permit Authorizations, there is a one-time application fee and an annual permit fee. These fees must be paid prior to receiving your permit authorization. To determine the appropriate application and authorization fees for your site, contact the Environmental Complaints and Local Services Division’s Stormwater Group at (405) 702-6100.

Q: My project is finished. How do I terminate my stormwater permit?

To terminate your stormwater permit, you must meet termination requirements and submit a Notice of Termination (NOT), Form # 605-003. This form is also located in the Water Quality/Forms section of the DEQ website.