

Procedures for DEQ Staff - VPDES Review Reissuances and Issuances



Department of Wildlife Resources Environmental Services

August 31, 2023

Reissuances:

Per the 2006 MOU between DEQ, DCR, DWR, and the USFWS, DWR receives, at the beginning of each calendar year, a spreadsheet of all VPDES permits proposed for reissuance during the following calendar year. DWR, then, identifies which of the facilities are located on Threatened and Endangered Species Waters and provides that list to the USFWS and DEQ, indicating which reissuances we should be provided the opportunity to review.

However, in an effort to better address our review priorities, DWR will only review and comment on VPDES reissuances that meets one or more of the below:

- the location of the discharge is proposed to change;
- the discharging infrastructure needs maintenance or repair resulting in instream work;
- the composition of the discharge effluents is proposed to change; and/or
- a 316(a) or 316(b) assessment has been performed for the facility.

If the project meets one of the triggers above, please send it to DWR's Environmental Services Biologists for review.

If the project does not meet any of the above review triggers, DEQ does not need to send the reissuance to us for review and should consider the following as our recommendations:

- We recommend adherence to all approved water quality standards.
- In instances where pre-discharge treatment is necessary, we recommend UV disinfection to chlorine disinfection.
- We recommend adherence to all necessary water quality monitoring.

New Issuances:

Per the 2006 MOU between DEQ, DCR, DWR [DGIF], and the USFWS, DEQ staff should send any newly proposed discharge that is located within two miles of a documented listed species location or within two miles and hydrologically connected to a DWR designated Threatened and Endangered Species Waters to DWR's Environmental Services Biologists for review.

Clean Water Act 316 (a) [thermal] and 316 (b) [Impingement and Entrainment] Assessments:

DEQ should send any 316 (a) or 316 (b) assessment performed for any facility (whether located on a Threatened or Endangered Species Water or not) to DWR's Environmental Services Biologists for review and comment.