



**STATE GENERAL PERMIT FOR THE DISCHARGE OF EXTERIOR VEHICLE WASHWATER  
 TO GROUNDWATER FROM COMMERCIAL AND BUSINESS-RELATED VEHICLE WASHING  
 OPERATIONS**

**GENERAL DISCHARGE PERMIT NO. 16-VW**

**Effective Date: August 1, 2016**

**Expiration Date: July 31, 2021**

**PART I. APPLICABILITY: NOTE: VEHICLE WASHWATER IS BY DEFINITION - WASTEWATER. 3**

A. GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE ..... 3

B. ELIGIBLE DISCHARGES ..... 3

C. INELIGIBLE DISCHARGES ..... 3

D. INDIVIDUAL PERMIT REQUIRED ..... 4

E. NO PERMIT REQUIRED ..... 5

F. CONTINUATION OF AN EXPIRED PERMIT ..... 5

**PART II. GENERAL PERMIT ISSUANCE PROCESS SUMMARY: THIS IS DETAILED IN PART IX ..... 5**

**PART III. DEFINITIONS. .... 5**

**PART IV. CATEGORIES OF EXTERIOR VEHICLE WASHING ..... 7**

A. CLASS I ..... 7

B. CLASS II ..... 7

C. CLASS III ..... 8

D. CLASS ND: (NO DETERGENTS/WASHWATER ADDITIVES USED IN VEHICLE WASHING) ..... 8

E. CLASS DESIGNATION ..... 8

**PART V. VEHICLE WASHING REQUIREMENTS ..... 8**

A. PROHIBITIONS ..... 8

B. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS ..... 9

C. VEHICLE WASHWATER TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL ..... 9

**PART VI. VEHICLE WASHING DETERGENT AND CHEMICAL ADDITIVES AUTHORIZATION ..... 10**

<b>PART VII. VEHICLE WASHWATER TESTING REQUIREMENTS .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>PART VIII. MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS .....</b>	<b>11</b>
A. REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLING .....	11
B. DISCHARGE MONITORING REPORT.....	11
C. SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS METHODS .....	12
D. DATA RECORDING REQUIREMENTS.....	12
E. MONITORING EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE .....	12
F. ADDITIONAL MONITORING BY PERMITTEE .....	12
G. RECORDS RETENTION .....	12
J. NONCOMPLIANCE WITH DISCHARGE LIMITS .....	12
<b>PART IX. GENERAL DISCHARGE PERMIT AUTHORIZATION .....</b>	<b>13</b>
A. HOW TO OBTAIN AUTHORIZATION .....	13
B. NOTIFICATION OF AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE EXTERIOR VEHICLE WASHWATER.....	14
C. OPTIONS IF YOU HAVE AN INDIVIDUAL DISCHARGE PERMIT FOR VEHICLE WASHWATER .....	14
D. REQUIRED SIGNATURE.....	14
E. SUBMISSION OF ANNUAL PERMIT FEE .....	15
F. FAILURE TO NOTIFY.....	15
G. CHANGE IN DISCHARGE.....	15
H. PERMIT EXPIRATION AND RENEWAL.....	16
I. TRANSFER OF AUTHORIZATION .....	16
<b>PART X. STANDARD PERMIT CONDITIONS .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>PART XI. GENERAL PERMIT EXPIRATION AND REAUTHORIZATION.....</b>	<b>20</b>

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment 1**    Vehicle Washwater Monitoring Requirements and Discharge Limits
- Attachment 2**    Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) Discharge Limits

**PART I. APPLICABILITY: Note: Vehicle washwater is by definition - Wastewater.**

Pursuant to the provisions of Title 9 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Maryland Department of Environment, hereinafter referred to as the "Department," hereby authorizes operators located in the state of Maryland, who have submitted a notice of intent (NOI) and received written approval from the Department, to discharge wastewater from vehicle washing as described herein to groundwaters of the state of Maryland in accordance with the eligibility requirements and other conditions set forth in this permit and consistent with the permittees' NOI on file with the Department.

**A. Geographic Coverage.**

This permit covers vehicle washwater discharges to groundwaters within the territorial boundaries of the State of Maryland.

**B. Eligible Discharges.**

This permit is for the discharge of exterior vehicle washwater to groundwater from commercial and business-related vehicle washing operations. Discharge can be to the ground surface or into a subsurface disposal system.

Discharge methods include: drainfield, seepage pit, overland flow, land application, and other Department approved groundwater disposal methods.

Vehicles include automobiles, trucks, buses, grounds maintenance equipment, construction equipment, railcars, golf carts, all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles, water craft and aircraft.

**C. Ineligible Discharges.**

**THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT AUTHORIZED BY THIS GENERAL DISCHARGE PERMIT. THESE INELIGIBLE DISCHARGES FOR THE GENERAL PERMIT MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR AUTHORIZATION VIA AN INDIVIDUAL DISCHARGE PERMIT.**

1. Washwater discharged to surface waters of the State (via drainage ditch, streams or stormwater drains).
2. Washwater from the interior washing of tank trucks, tractor trailers, railcars, garbage trucks, open-bed trucks or any other vehicle interior receptacle.
3. Washwater from cleaning vehicular engines, power trains, undercarriages or parts thereof.
4. Wastewater generated from the flushing of vehicular radiators or engine cooling systems.
5. Washwater generated from washing vehicular parts with organic solvents.
6. Washwater generated from commercial tunnel, roll-over, and self-service, wand-type, vehicle washing facilities.
7. Washwater generated from washing of vehicles with exposed engines, such as, but not limited to, construction and earth-moving equipment.
8. Discharges of floor and vehicle washwater, wastewater and wastes from maintenance bay and service related areas.
9. Designated by the Department as ineligible for General Permit authorization.

10. Facilities that discharge more than 25,000 gallons per week require an individual discharge permit.

#### **D. Individual Groundwater Discharge Permit**

1. The Department may require any person authorized by this general permit to apply for and obtain an individual State discharge permit. If an owner or operator fails to submit, in a timely manner, an application for an individual State discharge permit, as required by the Department under this condition, the applicability of this general permit to the owner or operator is automatically terminated at the end of the day specified by the Department for application for the individual State discharge permit.
2. A person who is required to obtain permit authorization to discharge vehicle washwater may apply for either this General Discharge Permit or an Individual Discharge Permit.
3. Any person authorized by this general permit may request to be excluded from coverage under this general permit by applying for an individual State discharge permit. The request may be granted by issuing an individual State discharge permit, if the reasons cited by the owner or operator are adequate to support the request.
4. When an individual State discharge permit is issued to a person otherwise subject to this permit, the applicability of this general permit to the permittee is automatically terminated on the effective date of the individual State discharge permit.
5. If there is evidence indicating potential or realized impacts on water quality due to any activity covered by this general permit, the owner or operator of such discharge may be required to obtain an individual State discharge permit.
6. If a person otherwise covered under this general permit is denied an individual State discharge permit, the denial automatically terminates, on the date of the denial, the person's coverage under this general permit, unless otherwise specified by the Department.
7. The Department may terminate or deny coverage under this general permit for an existing permittee if the Department finds that:
  - a. the NOI contained false or inaccurate information;
  - b. conditions or requirements of the discharge permit have been or are about to be violated;
  - c. substantial deviation from plans, specifications or requirements has occurred;
  - d. the Department has been refused entry to the premises for the purpose of inspecting to ensure compliance with the conditions of the discharge permit;
  - e. a change in conditions exists that requires temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the permitted discharge;
  - f. any State or federal water quality standard or effluent standard has been or is threatened to be violated; or
  - g. site specific conditions increase the potential that the onsite discharge of vehicle washwater may endanger human health or the environment.

For more information on Individual Discharge Permit authorization, please contact the Groundwater Permits Division at 410.537.3778.

#### **E. No Permit Required.**

No permit is required if vehicle washwater is not discharged onsite. Washwater management methods to achieve this include:

1. Vehicle washwater is discharged to a public wastewater treatment (sanitary sewer) system.
2. Vehicle washwater is collected, contained in a Holding Tank, and transported offsite for appropriate treatment and disposal.
3. Other washwater management methods approved by the Department.

#### **F. Continuation of an Expired Permit.**

The terms and conditions of this permit and authorized permit registrations are automatically continued and remain fully effective and enforceable upon expiration of this permit until the date(s) specified under a reissued general permit unless the permit or authorization is revoked or terminated by the Department.

### **Part II. General Permit Issuance Process Summary: This is detailed in Part IX.**

**A.** To obtain authorization to discharge exterior vehicle washwater via this General Permit, a person is required to comply with the terms and conditions of Part IX 'General Permit Authorization.' A summary of the application process follows:

1. **Notice of Intent (NOI) Application Form**: Complete the appropriate NOI form according to the guidance and requirements of Part IX,
2. **NOI Application Fee**: Please do not submit payment with the NOI. You will be billed according to the requirements in COMAR 26.08.04.
3. **Washwater Analysis: Required for Existing Vehicle Washing Operations**
  - a. If you have an Existing Vehicle Washing Operation: Submit a chemical analysis of a representative sample of the vehicle washwater. The required test parameters are: 1) Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH), and 2) Volatile Organic Compounds/Purgables (VOC).
  - b. This required representative washwater sample shall be taken **after any treatment and before discharge**.
4. **Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)**: MSDS of any cleaning products or washwater additives shall be submitted for review and approval prior to their use.
5. **Mail**: a) the NOI; b) the NOI application fee; c) for existing vehicle washing operations, a washwater analysis; and c) Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) to the address and per the requirements of Part IX.A.4.

Coverage under this permit becomes effective on the date that the NOI is accepted by the Department. The applicant will be notified by the Department of the NOI acceptance and that exterior vehicle washing is authorized under the terms and requirements of this permit.

### **Part III. Definitions**

**A. "Bypass"** means the intentional diversion of wastes from any portion of a treatment facility.

- B. "**CFR**" means Code of Federal Regulations.
- C. "**COMAR**" means Code of Maryland Regulations.
- D. "**Department**" means the Maryland Department of the Environment.
- E. "**Estimated flow**" means a calculated volume or discharge rate based on a technical evaluation of sources contributing to the discharge, including but not limited to pump capabilities, water meters, and batch discharges.
- F. "**Federal Clean Water Act**" means the federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, its amendments and all rules and regulations adopted thereunder.
- G. "**General permit**" means a discharge permit issued for a class of dischargers.
- H. "**Grab sample**" means an individual sample collected in less than 15 minutes.
- I. "**Groundwater**" means underground water in a zone of saturation.
- J. "**Includes**" or "**including**" means includes or including by way of illustration and not by way of limitation.
- K. "**NPDES permit**" means a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit issued under the federal Clean Water Act.
- L. "**NOI**" means Notice of Intent to be covered by this permit (see Part III of this permit).
- M. "**Operator**" means that person or those persons with responsibility for the management and performance of each facility.
- N. "**Permittee**" means the person holding a permit issued by the Department.
- O. "**Person**" means an individual, receiver, trustee, guardian, personal representative, fiduciary, or representative of any kind, and any partnership, firm, association, corporation, or other entity. Person includes the federal government, this State, any county, municipal corporation or other political subdivision of this State or any of their units.
- P. "**State discharge permit**" means the discharge permit issued under the Environment Article, Title 9, Subtitle 3, Annotated Code of Maryland.
- Q. "**Surface waters**" means all waters of this State which are not groundwaters.
- R. "**Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons**" are the analytes detected as the Silica Gel Treated N-Hexane Extractable Material (SGT-HEM) by the laboratory test defined as Method 1664, by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
- S. "**Upset**" means an exceptional incident in which there is unintentional and temporary noncompliance with technology-based permit discharge limitations because of factors beyond the reasonable control of the permittee. An upset does not include noncompliance to the extent caused by operational error, improperly designed treatment facilities, inadequate treatment facilities, lack of preventive maintenance, or careless or improper operation.
- T. "**Volatile Organic Compounds**" are the analytes detected by the laboratory test defined as Method 624, by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

U. **"Wastewater" means any:**

1. Liquid waste substance derived from industrial, commercial, municipal, residential, agricultural, recreational, or other operations or establishments, **including vehicle washwater**, and
2. Other liquid waste substance containing liquid, gaseous or solid matter and having characteristics that will pollute any waters of this State.

V. **"Water"** means the liquid substance which is derived from a groundwater source, a surface source, a piped supply, or any combination of these sources, and which will be discharged, without change in quality, into the waters of this State, with the exception of storm water runoff.

W. **"Waters of this State"** includes:

1. Both surface and underground waters within the boundaries of this State subject to its jurisdiction, including that part of the Atlantic Ocean within the boundaries of this State, the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, and all ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, tidal and nontidal wetlands, public ditches, tax ditches, and public drainage systems within this State, other than those designed and used to collect, convey, or dispose of sanitary sewage; and
2. The flood plain of free-flowing waters determined by the Department of Natural Resources on the basis of the 100-year flood frequency.

**Part IV. Categories of Exterior Vehicle Washing**

<u>Class I</u>	<u>Class II</u>	<u>Class III</u>	<u>Class IV</u>
Less than 500 gallons/week	500 to less than 3,000 gallons/week	3,000 to less than 7,000 gallons/week	7,000 to 25,000 gallons/week

**Note: VEHICLE WASHWATER TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH CLASS IS IN PART VII**

**A. Class I**

1. The onsite discharge of **less than 500 gallons per week** of exterior vehicle washwater.
2. Meets the conditions of Part I B ('Eligible Discharges').
3. Vehicle washing detergents and additives may be used per the prior approval requirements of Part VI.

**B. Class II**

1. The onsite discharge of from **500 to less than 3,000 gallons per week of** exterior vehicle washwater.
2. Meets the conditions of Part I B ('Eligible Discharges').
3. Vehicle washing detergents and additives may be used per the prior approval requirements of Part VI.

### C. Class III

1. The onsite discharge of **3,000 to less than 7,000 gallons per week** of exterior vehicle washwater.
2. Meets the conditions of Part I B ('Eligible Discharges').
3. Vehicle washing detergents and additives may be used per the prior approval requirements of Part VI.

### D. Class IV:

1. The onsite discharge of **7,000 to 25,000 gallons per week** of exterior vehicles washwater, AND
2. Meets the conditions of Part I B ('Eligible Discharges'), AND
3. Vehicle washing detergents and additives may be used per the prior approval requirements of Part VI.
4. Facilities that discharge more than 25,000 gallons per week require an individual discharge permit.

### E. Class Designation.

1. The Department may designate any vehicle washing discharge a different Class (i.e. Class II may be designated as a Class III), if the permittee is not in compliance with the conditions of this permit or site specific conditions increase the potential that the onsite discharge of vehicle washwater may endanger human health or the environment.
2. A vehicle washing operation may be designated a different Class upon written request by the permittee. A change of the vehicle washing Class is effective only upon receipt of a letter from the Department acknowledging this change of Class.
3. The Department may designate a vehicle washing discharge an 'Ineligible Discharge' per Part I.C, if the permittee is not in compliance with the conditions of this permit or site specific conditions increase the potential that the onsite discharge of vehicle washwater may endanger human health or the environment.

## PART V. VEHICLE WASHING REQUIREMENTS

### A. Prohibitions

**Discharges of floor and vehicle washwater, wastewater and wastes from maintenance bay and service related areas are prohibited.**

1. If the facility has existing floor drains in a vehicle maintenance or service area which discharges to the ground surface or into a subsurface disposal system, then the business shall notify the Department's Wastewater Permits Division at 410.537.3778. The Department will supply compliance assistance for managing any potential onsite discharges of floor and vehicle washwater, wastes, and wastewater from maintenance bay and service related areas. Options for managing this wastewater include: a) sealing the drain permanently, b) connecting the drain to the sanitary sewer, if available, c) discharging the wastewater to a holding tank for offsite hauling and treatment, or d) applying for an individual discharge permit.
2. The vehicle wash area must be separate from any area where maintenance work is done so that automotive service fluids, leaks etc., aren't discharged onto the ground surface or into vehicle wash area floor drains.

## **B. Operation and Maintenance Requirements**

1. Discharges authorized by this General Permit shall be limited to washwater generated from the washing of vehicle exteriors.
2. The permittee is strictly prohibited from discharging or causing to be discharged any waste oil, fuels, grease, ethylene glycol (antifreeze), organic solvents, paint, or washwater from engine or under-carriage cleaning, other maintenance and service area related wastes, and floor washwater, into any sinks, toilets, or floor drains or into any other place that would allow these substances to reach surface waters or groundwaters of the State, including wetlands.
3. Vehicle washing shall be performed only in an area dedicated to the exterior washing of vehicles. No vehicle maintenance shall be performed in this area or any other area of the building where there are floor drains which discharge to the on-site treatment and disposal system.
4. The permittee is prohibited from discharging wastewater of any kind, including vehicle washwater, to the surface waters of this State.
5. Logbook: The following shall be performed and recorded in a logbook. This logbook shall be made available for review upon request by Department personnel.
  - a. The permittee shall inspect components of any washwater treatment system - including grit traps, floor drains, oil/water separators, and drainfield, at least once per month and measure the accumulation of oil and sediments. The permittee shall remove these materials before they accumulate to a thickness greater than 50% of the liquid depth, or before such materials would cause the discharge limits to be exceeded, but not less than once per year.
  - b. Logbook entries shall include: the date, the name(s) of the person(s) performing the inspection or maintenance, the total height of the oil and sediments accumulated, and a description of any maintenance performed.
  - c. The logbook entry shall include an estimate, every month, of the average quantity of washwater (in gallons) discharged weekly.
6. The permittee shall ensure that any subsurface soil absorption system receiving washwater provides adequate capacity to prevent the release of washwater to the surface. If such an event occurs, the permittee shall repair the absorption system or install a new one, in accordance with COMAR 26.04.02, Sewage Disposal And Certain Water Systems For Homes And Other Establishments In The Counties Of Maryland Where A Public Sewage System Is Not Available, or as approved by the Department.
7. Vehicle washwater shall not leave the property boundary.

## **C. Vehicle Washwater Treatment and Disposal**

1. Washwater treatment shall be provided for Class II, Class III, and Class IV Vehicle washing operations. This treatment may include the use of filter media, oil water separators, carbon filtration, or other methods that will treat the washwater to meet washwater discharge limits of Attachment 1.
2. Washwater treatment may be required for Class I washing operations if site specific conditions increase the potential that the onsite discharge of vehicle washwater may endanger human health or the environment.

3. Any new or repair of a subsurface disposal system that will receive vehicle washwater shall be approved by the Maryland Department of Environment or the local County Environmental Health Department. This approval shall be prior to installation.
4. A sampling port shall be provided after treatment and before discharge for Class II, Class III and Class IV vehicle washing

## **PART VI. VEHICLE WASHING DETERGENT AND CHEMICAL ADDITIVES AUTHORIZATION**

**The following authorization process is required for vehicle washing additives which include detergents and soaps.**

The Department recommends against the use of cleaning products when the cleaning products will be discharged to the waters of this State. Hot water in combination with high pressure may eliminate the need for cleaning products. However, if cleaning products are essential to the operation, the permittee is authorized to use washwater additives according to the following requirements.

1. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) shall be submitted to the Groundwater Discharge Permits Division, for review and approval, prior to the onsite discharge (onto the ground surface or into an onsite subsurface disposal system) of any cleaning products or washwater additives.
2. Washwater additives shall be used at or below the manufacturers' dilution ratios.
3. Washwater additive authorization: The permittee shall obtain separate, written authorization from the Department before using any washwater additive. MSDS forms must be submitted to the Department for review **prior** to approval of any other additive.

## **Part VII VEHICLE WASHWATER TESTING REQUIREMENTS AND DISCHARGE LIMITS**

- A. Vehicle washwater shall be monitored and limited according to Attachment 1 and Attachment 2.
- B. **Attachment 1: 'Vehicle Washwater Monitoring Requirements and Discharge Limits'** includes:
  1. Requirements to sample and test vehicle washwater for **Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH)** and **Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)**.
  2. The Class-specific testing frequency for TPH and VOC.
  3. The discharge limits for TPH and VOC.
  4. The '**Flow**' limits (estimated weekly quantity of washwater discharged) for each vehicle washing Class.
- C. **Attachment 2: 'Discharge Limits of Regulated Volatile Organic Compounds'** gives the discharge limits of VOCs. There are '*Individual*' VOC discharge limits and a '*Total*' VOC discharge limit.
- D. The sample of washwater shall be taken after any treatment and before discharge into or onto the ground.
- E. A sampling port shall be provided after treatment and before discharge for Class II, Class III and Class IV vehicle washing
- F. Annual reporting requirements of test results are detailed in Part VIII.B.

- G. The requirement for reporting exceedances of the discharge limits is detailed in Part VIII.J, 'Noncompliance with discharge limits.'

## **PART VIII. MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

### **A. Representative Sampling.**

Samples and measurements, if required herein, shall be taken at such times as to be representative of the quantity and quality of the discharges during the specified monitoring periods.

### **B. Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR).**

#### **ANNUAL Submittal**

All monitoring results obtained by the permittee during each calendar year (per the requirements of Attachment 1) shall be submitted electronically using NetDMR. *See below to learn how to get access to this tool.*

***Annual DMR reporting is required for Class II, III, and IV vehicle washing (not Class I).***

You also have the option to submit a request to 'Opt-out' of NetDMR submittal. If granted, DMRs may then be submitted in hard copy form. *See below to learn how to submit an 'Opt-out' request, and if granted submit DMR reports via hard copy.*

#### **NetDMR**

NetDMR is a freely available U.S. EPA tool allowing permittees to submit monitoring reports electronically via a secure Internet application. You must apply for access to NetDMR at [www.epa.gov/netdmr](http://www.epa.gov/netdmr) and register for a NetDMR Webinar, unless you are able to provide a reasonable basis, such as technical or administrative infeasibility, that precludes the use of NetDMR for submitting DMRs ("opt-out request").

Before you can submit official DMRs using NetDMR you must attend a training Webinar and successfully set-up and submit test monitoring results electronically. You must complete all requirements to gain access to NetDMR within six (6) months of authorization under this permit, including applying for access within one (1) month of being registered.

NetDMR is designed to improve data quality, reduce reporting liabilities, save paper, and provide cost savings. It allows participants to discontinue mailing in hard copy forms. For more information call the MDE Water Management Administration, Compliance Program, at [410-537-3510](tel:410-537-3510) and ask to speak to a NetDMR coordinator.

Monitoring results submitted via NetDMR shall be submitted to the Department annually no later than January 31 following the end of the reporting year.

#### **Waiver Request**

The permittee may be eligible for a temporary waiver by MDE from electronic reporting requirements if the permittee has no current internet access and is physically located in a geographic area (i.e., zip code) that is identified as under-served for broadband internet access in the most recent National Broadband Map from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC); or if the permittee can demonstrate that such electronic reporting of the monitoring data and reports would pose an unreasonable burden or expense to the permitted facility.

Monitoring results submitted via hard copy shall be submitted to the Department annually and be postmarked no later than January 31 following the end of the reporting year. All waiver requests and, if approved, subsequent hardcopy DMRs should be sent to the following address:

Attn: DMRs  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
WMA – Compliance Program  
1800 Washington Blvd., Suite 425  
Baltimore, MD 21230

**C. Sampling and Analysis Methods.**

The analytical and sampling methods used shall conform to procedures for the analysis of pollutants as identified in Title 40 CFR Part 136 - "Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants" unless otherwise specified.

**D. Data Recording Requirements**

For each measurement of sample taken pursuant to the requirements of this permit, the permittee shall record the following information:

1. the exact place, date, and time of sampling or measurement;
2. the person(s) who performed the sampling or measurement;
3. the dates and times the analyses were performed;
4. the person(s) who performed the analyses;
5. the analytical techniques or methods used; and
6. the results of all required analyses.

**E. Monitoring Equipment Maintenance.**

The permittee shall periodically calibrate and perform maintenance procedures on all monitoring and analytical instrumentation to ensure accuracy of measurements.

**F. Additional Monitoring by Permittee.**

If the permittee monitors any pollutant more frequently than required by this general permit, the permittee shall use approved analytical methods as specified in Part VIII.C above, and shall report the results of such monitoring, including the increased frequency, in the calculation and reporting of the values required in the Discharge Monitoring Report.

**G. Records Retention.**

All records and information resulting from the monitoring activities required by this permit, including all records of analyses performed, calibration and maintenance of instrumentation, and original recordings from continuous monitoring instrumentation shall be retained for a minimum of three (3) years. This period shall be automatically extended during the course of litigation, or when requested by the Department.

**H. Noncompliance with Discharge Limits.**

If for any reason the permittee does not comply with or will be unable to comply with any daily maximum or daily minimum discharge limitation specified in this permit, the permittee shall notify the Compliance Program by telephone at 410/537-3510 within 24 hours of becoming aware of the noncompliance.

Within five days, the permittee shall provide the Department with the following information in writing:

1. a description of the noncomplying discharge including its impact upon the receiving waters;
2. the cause or causes of noncompliance;
3. anticipated time the condition of noncompliance is expected to continue or, if such condition has been corrected, the duration of the period of noncompliance;
4. steps taken by the permittee to reduce and eliminate the noncomplying discharge;
5. steps to be taken by the permittee to prevent recurrence of the condition of noncompliance; and
6. a description of the accelerated or additional monitoring by the permittee to determine the nature and impact of the noncomplying discharge.

## **Part IX. GENERAL DISCHARGE PERMIT AUTHORIZATION.**

### **A. How to Obtain Authorization**

#### **1. Notice of Intent (NOI) Application Form Must be Completed and Submitted**

- a. Applicants shall complete all required information on this permit's corresponding NOI application Form MDE-WMA-PER015 (<http://www.mde.maryland.gov>). An application can also be mailed upon request. Please call 410.537.3778 to receive an application form in the mail.
- b. A site map shall be included with the NOI identifying the vehicle washwater discharge location(s). The map should provide significant points of reference (i.e., road, building etc.) near the discharge location and must identify all surface waters within a quarter mile of the discharge point. All washwater discharge locations shall correspond to those identified on the NOI.

#### **2. Application Fee**

- a. Please do not submit payment with the NOI. You will be billed according to the requirements in COMAR 26.08.04.
- b. If you pay the permit fee by a check that does not clear for any reason, you will have 30 calendar days to make proper payment. If payment is not received, your coverage under this permit must be considered void from the outset. You should save the cancelled check, a copy of the completed NOI, and the letter confirming your authorization from the Department. These documents must be provided to the Department upon request.

#### **3. Washwater Chemical Analysis Submittal.**

- a. For Existing Vehicle Washing Operations – the applicant shall submit a chemical analysis of a representative sample of the vehicle washwater. The required test parameters are: a) Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH), and b) Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC),
- b. The representative washwater sample, required in Part IX..A.4 below shall be taken after treatment and before discharge.

4. Material Safety Data Sheets/Safety Data Sheets (MSDS/SDS): MSDS/SDS of any cleaning products or washwater additives shall be submitted for review and approval prior to their use.
5. NOI Application Submission.

Send to the address below: (1) the completed NOI application form and site map, (2) for existing vehicle washing operations a wastewater analysis, and (3) Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS):

Maryland Department of the Environment  
P.O. Box 2057  
Baltimore, MD 21203-2057

#### **B. Notification of authorization to discharge exterior vehicle washwater.**

1. Coverage under this permit is effective on the date that the NOI is accepted by the Department. The applicant will be notified by the Department of this acceptance and that exterior vehicle washing is authorized under the terms and conditions of this permit.
2. The permittee should save the canceled check, a copy of the completed NOI, the acceptance letter from the Department and the logbook as required in Part V. These documents shall be provided to the Department on request.

#### **C. Options if you have an individual discharge permit for vehicle washwater**

Any person who has an existing individual discharge permit for activities covered under this general permit:

1. may wait to obtain coverage under this general permit until the individual discharge permit expires. With this, at least 180 calendar days prior to the expiration of the individual discharge, a person shall submit a NOI requesting coverage under this general permit, or
2. may request coverage under this general permit by submitting an NOI and fee in accordance the requirements of this permit's authorization process.
3. retain authorization to discharge exterior vehicle washwater via their individual discharge permit.

#### **D. Required Signature**

1. Certification.

Any person signing a NOI shall make the following certification as part of the NOI:

"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

2. Signatories.

The NOI shall be signed as follows:

- a. For a corporation: by a responsible corporate officer. For the purpose of this section, a responsible corporate officer means a president, secretary, treasurer, or vice-president of the corporation in charge of a principal business function, or any other person who performs similar policy or decision-making

functions for the corporation; or

- b. For a partnership or sole proprietorship: by a general partner or the proprietor, respectively; or
- c. For a municipal, State, federal, or other public agency: by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official. For purposes of this section, a principal executive officer of a federal agency includes:
  - i.) The chief executive officer of the agency; or
  - ii.) A senior executive officer having responsibility for the overall operations of a principal geographic unit of the agency

### 3. Report Submission.

- a. All reports required by permits, and other information requested by the Department shall be signed by a person described in Part IX.D.2 or by a duly authorized representative of that person. A person is a duly authorized representative only if:
  - i.) The authorization is made in writing by a person described in Part IX.D.2;
  - ii.) The authorization specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated facility or activity such as the position of plant manager, operator of a well or a well field, superintendent, position of equivalent responsibility or an individual or position having overall responsibility for environmental matters for the company; and
  - iii.) The written authorization is submitted to the Department.
- b. If an authorization under this subsection is no longer accurate because a different individual or position has responsibility for the overall operation of the facility, a new authorization satisfying the requirements of Part IX.D.3.a must be submitted to the Department prior to or together with any reports, information or applications to be signed by an authorized representative.

### E. Submission of Annual Permit Fee.

The Department will bill the permittee for an annual fee according to the requirements of COMAR 26.08.04.

### F. Failure to Notify.

Persons who engage in an activity covered under this general permit, who fail to notify the Department of their intent to be covered under this general permit, and who discharge to waters of this State without a discharge permit, are in violation of the federal Clean Water Act and of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and may be subject to penalties.

### G. Change in Discharge.

- 1. The permittee shall submit a new NOI for any anticipated facility expansions, production increases or decreases, process modifications or any other factor which will result in an increased discharge of pollutants or the discharge of additional pollutants. Based on its evaluation of the NOI, the Department may:
  - a. Continue to authorize the discharge under this general permit; or
  - b. Require the permittee to apply for an individual State or State/NPDES discharge permit or obtain coverage under another general permit.

2. If any anticipated facility expansions, production increases or decreases, process modifications or any other change will not result in a violation of the discharge limitations specified in this permit, the permittee shall report the change to the Department in writing.

#### **H. Permit Expiration and Renewal.**

Upon issuance of this general permit you may submit to the Department either:

1. A notice that discharge will cease by the expiration date of this general permit; or
2. A new NOI in accordance with the requirements of the issued general permit in order to be covered under this general permit; or
3. Continue coverage under an Individual Discharge Permit.

#### **I. Transfer of Authorization.**

1. The authorization under this permit is not transferable to a change in facility location.
2. The authorization under this general permit is not transferable to any person except in accordance with this section.
3. Authorization to discharge under this general permit may be transferred to another person if:
  - a. The current permittee notifies the Department in writing of the proposed transfer,
  - b. A written agreement, indicating the specific date of the proposed transfer of permit coverage and acknowledging the responsibilities of the current and new permittee for compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit, is submitted to the Department; and
  - c. Neither the current permittee nor the new permittee receives notification from the Department, within 30 days, of intent to terminate coverage under this permit.
4. The Department may continue coverage for the new permittee under this general permit or may require the new permittee to apply for and obtain an individual discharge permit.
5. A new owner of a facility is responsible for any permit fees unpaid by the former owner.

### **Part X. Standard Permit Conditions.**

#### **A. Facility Operation.**

The permittee shall maintain in good working order and efficiently operate all systems used or installed and all treatment and control facilities.

#### **B. Submitting Additional or Corrected Information.**

When you becomes aware that you failed to submit any relevant facts or submitted incorrect information in the NOI or in any other report to the Department, you must submit the facts or information to the Department within 30 calendar days.

#### **C. Removed Substances.**

Wastes such as solids, sludge, or other pollutants removed from or resulting from treatment or control of wastewaters, or facility operations, must be disposed of in a manner to prevent any wastes or runoff from wastes

from contacting waters of this State.

#### **D. Right of Entry.**

The permittee shall permit the Secretary of the Department, the Regional Administrator for the EPA, or their authorized representatives, upon the presentation of credentials:

1. To enter upon the permittee's premises where an effluent source is located or where any records are required to be kept under the terms and conditions of this permit;
2. To access and copy, at reasonable times, any records required to be kept under the terms and conditions of this permit;
3. To inspect, at reasonable times, any monitoring equipment or monitoring method required in this permit;
4. To inspect, at reasonable times, any collection, treatment, pollution management, or discharge facilities required under this permit;
5. To sample, at reasonable times, any discharge of pollutants; and
6. To take photographs.

#### **E. Availability of Reports.**

Except for data determined to be confidential under the Maryland Public Information Act, and 40 CFR § 123.25, all submitted data shall be available for public inspection at the Department.

#### **F. Permit Modification.**

The Department may revoke this permit or modify this permit to include different limitations and requirements, in accordance with the procedures contained in COMAR 26.08.04.10.

#### **G. Toxic Pollutants.**

The permittee shall comply with effluent standards or prohibitions for toxic pollutants established under the federal Clean Water Act, or under Section 9-314 and Sections 9-322 to 9-328 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland. Compliance shall be achieved within the time provided in the regulations that establish these standards or prohibitions, even if this permit has not yet been modified to incorporate the requirement.

#### **H. Oil and Hazardous Substances Prohibited.**

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve the permittee from any responsibility, liability, or penalties to which the permittee may be subject under the Federal Act or under the Annotated Code of Maryland.

#### **I. Civil and Criminal Liability.**

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve the permittee from any civil or criminal responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties for noncompliance with Title 9 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland or any federal, local or other State law or regulation.

#### **J. Property Rights/Compliance with Other Requirements.**

The issuance of this permit does not convey any property rights in either real or personal property, or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights, nor does it authorize any infringement of federal, State or local laws or regulations.

#### **K. Severability.**

The provisions of this permit are severable. If any provisions of this permit shall be held invalid for any reason, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect. If the application of any provision of this permit to any circumstances is held invalid, its application to other circumstances shall not be affected.

#### **L. Water Construction and Obstruction.**

This permit does not authorize the construction or placing of physical structures, facilities, or debris or the undertaking of related activities in any waters of this State.

#### **M. Compliance with This General Permit and Water Pollution Abatement Statutes.**

The permittee shall comply at all times with the terms and conditions of this permit, the provisions of the Title 7, Subtitle 2, Title 9, Subtitles 2 and 3 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and the federal Clean Water Act.

#### **N. Action on Violations.**

The issuance or reissuance of this permit does not constitute a decision by the State not to proceed in an administrative, civil, or criminal action for any violations of State law or regulations occurring before the issuance or re-issuance of this permit, nor a waiver of the State's right to do so.

#### **O. Civil Penalties for Violations of Permit Conditions.**

In addition to civil penalties for violations of State water pollution control laws set forth in Section 9-342 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the federal Clean Water Act provides that any person who violates Section 301, 302, 306, 307, 308, 318, or 405 of the Act, or any permit condition or limitation implementing any of such sections in a permit issued under Section 402 of the Act or in a permit issued under Section 404 of the Act, is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$37,500 per day for each violation.

#### **P. Criminal Penalties for Violations of Permit Conditions.**

In addition to criminal penalties for violations of State water pollution control laws set forth in Section 9-343 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the federal Clean Water Act provides that:

1. Any person who negligently violates Section 301, 302, 306, 307, 308, 318, or 405 of the Act, or any permit condition or limitation implementing any of such sections in a permit issued under Section 402 of the Act, or in a permit issued under Section 404 of the Act, is subject to a fine of not less than \$2,500 nor more than \$25,000 per day of violation, or by imprisonment for not more than one (1) year, or by both.
2. Any person who knowingly violates Section 301, 302, 306, 307, 308, 318, or 405 of the Act, or any permit condition or limitation implementing any of such sections in a permit issued under Section 402 of the Act, or in a permit issued under Section 404 of the Act, is subject to a fine of not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$50,000 per day of violation, or by imprisonment for not more than three (3) years, or by both.
3. Any person who knowingly violates Section 301, 302, 306, 307, 318, or 405 of the Act, or any permit condition or limitation implementing any of such sections in a permit issued under Section 402 of the Act, or in a permit issued under Section 404 of the Act, and who knows at that time that he thereby places another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury, is subject to a fine of not more than \$250,000 or imprisonment of not more than fifteen (15) years, or both. A person which is a corporation shall, upon conviction, be subject to a penalty of not more than \$1,000,000.
4. Any person who knowingly makes any false statement, representation or certification in any application, record, report, plan, or other document filed or required to be maintained under this permit, including monitoring reports or reports of compliance or noncompliance, or who knowingly falsifies, tampers with or renders

inaccurate any monitoring device or method required to be maintained under this permit shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 per violation, or by imprisonment for not more than 6 months per violation, or by both. The Federal Clean Water Act provides that any person who knowingly falsifies, tampers with, or renders inaccurate any monitoring device or method required to be maintained under the Act, or who knowingly makes any false statement, representation, or certification in any records or other documents submitted or required to be maintained under this permit, including monitoring reports or reports of compliance or noncompliance shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000, or by imprisonment for not more than 2 years, or by both.

**Q. Duty to Provide Information.**

The permittee shall provide within a reasonable time, any information which the Department may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, or terminating this permit, or to determine compliance with this permit to the Department. The permittee shall also provide to the Department, upon request, copies of records required to be kept by this permit.

**R. Bypasses.**

Any bypass of treatment facilities needed to maintain compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit is prohibited unless:

1. The bypass is unavoidable to prevent a loss of life, personal injury or substantial physical damage to property, damage to the treatment facilities which would cause them to become inoperable, or substantial and permanent loss of natural resources;
2. There are no feasible alternatives;
3. Except under emergency conditions, the permittee notifies the Department ten calendar days in advance of the date of the anticipated bypass or at the earliest possible date if the period of advance knowledge is less than ten calendar days;
4. Under emergency conditions, the permittee notifies the Department within 24 hours of becoming aware of the bypass. If the notification is given orally, the permittee shall follow the oral notification with written notification to the Department within five calendar days of the oral notification; and
5. The bypass is allowed by the Department under conditions determined by the Department to be necessary to minimize adverse effects.

**S. Demonstration of an Upset.**

An upset shall constitute an affirmative defense to an action brought for noncompliance with technology-based discharge limitations only if the permittee demonstrates, through properly signed, contemporaneous operating logs, or other relevant evidence, that:

1. An upset occurred and that the permittee can identify the specific cause(s) of the upset;
2. The permitted facility was at the time being operated in a prudent and workman-like manner and in compliance with proper operation and maintenance procedures;
3. The permittee submitted notification of upset within 24 hours. If the notification was given orally, the permittee submitted written notification to the Department within five calendar days following the oral notification; and
4. The permittee submitted, within five calendar days of becoming aware of the upset, documentation to support and justify the upset; and
5. The permittee complied with any remedial measures required to minimize adverse impact.

## **PART XI. GENERAL PERMIT EXPIRATION AND REAUTHORIZATION**

On April 12, 1984 the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approved the proposal submitted by the State of Maryland for the operation of the Underground Injection Control Program pursuant to Section 1422 of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Pursuant to the aforementioned approval, this permit is both a State of Maryland Discharge Permit and an Underground Injection Control Permit if the discharge is into the subsurface.

This permit and the authorization to discharge shall expire at midnight on the expiration date of the permit and the permittee shall not discharge after that date. In order to receive authorization to discharge after the expiration date, the permittee shall submit such information, forms, and fees as are required by the Department no later than 180 days prior to the expiration date to obtain reauthorization to discharge vehicle washwater to groundwaters of the State.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lynn Buhl, Director  
Water Management Administration

## ATTACHMENT 1

### VEHICLE WASHWATER MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

#### Class-Specific Monitoring Frequency and Washwater Discharge Limits

During the effective period of this permit, the permittee is authorized to discharge vehicle washwater to groundwaters of the State.

As specified below, such discharge shall be limited and monitored by the permittee after any treatment and before discharge into groundwater (onto or below the ground surface).

<u>WASHWATER MONITORING REQUIREMENTS</u>	<u>WASHWATER DISCHARGE LIMITS</u> (Specified Units)	<u>CLASS-SPECIFIC MONITORING FREQUENCY (1)</u>				<u>TYPE OF SAMPLE</u>
		<u>Class I</u> Less than 500 gallons/week	<u>Class II</u> 500 to less than 3,000 gallons/week	<u>Class III</u> 3,000 to less than 7,000 gallons/week	<u>Class IV</u> 7,000 to 25,000 gallons/week	
Flow (Quantity of Washwater Discharged) (2)	Flow is limited according to its 'Class' (gallon per week)	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Estimated
Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH)	15 mg/L (parts per million)	Initial Analysis (5)	Every 6 months	Every 3 months	Monthly	Grab
Total Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) (3) (4)	100 µg/L (3)(4) (parts per billion)	Initial Analysis (5)	Every 6 months	Every 3 months	Every 3 months	Grab

## ATTACHMENT 1 Continued: FOOTNOTES

- (1) The test results for Flow, TPH and VOC shall be submitted **annually** according to the reporting requirements of Part VIII.B.  
*(not required for Class I operations)*
- (2) Reported in logbook per Part V.B.5. (required for all vehicle washing Classes)
- (3) Total Volatile Organics Compounds (VOC) is defined as the sum of the concentrations of the constituents present in the wastewater according to EPA Method 624. The permittee shall include in the Annual Discharge Monitoring Report (see Part VIII) the total sum of volatile organics, and each individual concentration of detected constituents. In addition to meeting the limitation of 100 ug/L total volatile organics, the wastewater shall not exceed the Effluent Limit of any individual volatile organic chemical that has an Effluent limit in **Attachment 2**.
- (4) The Detection limit for individual VOC's tested per this chart, shall be equal to, or less than the Discharge Limits on **Attachment 2**.
- (5) For **NEW** Class I vehicle washing operations, a washwater analysis shall be taken and submitted to the Department within 90 days of the startup of vehicle washing operations. These test results shall be submitted to the Department's Compliance Program to the address in Part VIII.B.

Note: If you had an existing Class I vehicle washing operation, these test results were already submitted with your application.

## Attachment 2

### Discharge Limits of Regulated Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)

(EPA 624 Purgeables)

Regulated Volatile Organic Chemicals * (VOC)	CAS Registry Number	Discharge Limit  µg/L (parts per billion)
Benzene	71-43-2	5
Bromodichloromethane (THM)	75-27-4	80 (1)
Bromoform (THM)	75-25-2	80 (1)
Carbon tetrachloride	56-23-5	5
Chlorobenzene	108-90-7	100
Chloroform (THM)	67-66-3	80 (1)
Dibromochloromethane (THM)	124-48-1	80 (1)
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	95-50-1	100
1,4-Dichlorobenzene	106-46-7	75
1,2-Dichloroethane	107-06-2	5
1,1-Dichloroethene	75-35-4	7
<i>trans</i> -1,2-Dichloroethene	156-60-5	100
Dichloromethane (2)	75-09-2	5
1,2-Dichloropropane	78-87-5	5
Ethylbenzene	100-41-4	100
Tetrachloroethene	127-18-4	5
Toluene	108-88-3	100
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	71-55-6	100
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	79-00-5	5
Trichloroethene	79-01-6	5
Vinyl chloride	75-01-4	2

In addition to the "Discharge Limits" listed above, the total (arithmetic sum) of the above VOCs shall not exceed 100 ug/l.

\* The analytical Detection limit for individual VOC's shall be equal to, or less than the Discharge Limits listed above.

(1) - total trihalomethanes (THM's).

(2) - also known as Methylene chloride.

(January 15, 2015)