



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)**

**Master General Sanitary Discharges at Farms (GFSD) Permit  
NJPDES Permit No. NJ0347833  
Division of Water Quality  
Bureau of Ground Water, Residuals and Permit Administration**

### **Background**

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Department) issued the final New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) Master General Permit for Sanitary Discharges at Farms (GFSD) with an effective date of May 1, 2024. This FAQ document has been developed as a companion document to aid eligible facilities in understanding the requirements of the GFSD permit. The questions and answers herein are provided for general information purposes only and are not intended to replace or alter the binding effect of any part or condition of the GFSD permit.

The permit, which is the subject of this FAQ, is available at [https://dep.nj.gov/dwq/permitting\\_information/permits\\_application\\_forms\\_and\\_checklists/#DGW](https://dep.nj.gov/dwq/permitting_information/permits_application_forms_and_checklists/#DGW). Please refer to [Appendix A](#) for definitions of certain terms utilized in this document. For further clarification regarding this FAQ document, please contact [dwq\\_groundwater@dep.nj.gov](mailto:dwq_groundwater@dep.nj.gov).

Relevant regulations, as cited throughout this document, are available through the hyperlinks below and include:

- [NJPDES Regulations at N.J.A.C. 7:14A](#) - these regulations apply to septic systems with a design volume over 2,000 gallons per day.
- [Standards for Individual Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems at N.J.A.C. 7:9A](#) - these regulations govern septic systems.

### **Questions and Answers are as follows:**

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### 1. What does this NJPDES permit regulate?

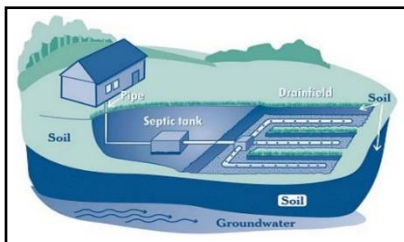
*This permit regulates the discharge of sanitary sewage to individual subsurface sewage disposal systems (also known as septic systems) on farms. In order to qualify for this permit, the aggregate design volume of sanitary sewage generated on the property must be greater than 2,000 gallons per day. The disposal of wastewater into a septic system is a regulated discharge to ground water under the NJPDES regulations.*

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### 2. What are individual subsurface sewage disposal systems?

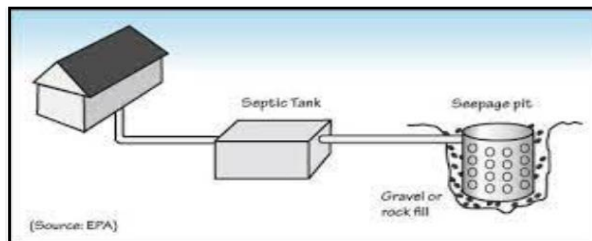
*Individual subsurface sewage disposal systems are commonly known as septic systems. Septic systems are designed to treat and dispose of sanitary wastewater. A typical septic system has four main components: a pipe from the building where sanitary sewage is generated (building sewer); a solids settling tank otherwise known as a septic tank; a disposal unit in the form of either a seepage pit or disposal field; and soil for infiltration to the ground. The sanitary sewage flows from the building to the septic tank where solids are settled out. After settling has occurred, and the septic tank reaches a certain capacity, the sanitary wastewater flows from the septic tank to the seepage pit or disposal field. Here, the sanitary wastewater is dispersed and infiltrates the ground, further treating and disposing of the wastewater before reaching the ground water. Please note that all septic systems must have a settling component before discharge to ground water occurs.*

**Septic System**



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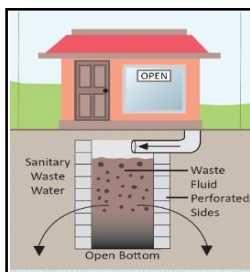
**Seepage Pit**



### 3. What is the difference between a septic system and a cesspool?

*Cesspools are not considered septic systems because they lack a settling component. With cesspools, raw sanitary wastewater discharges directly to the ground. Cesspools are prohibited; therefore, existing cesspools must be replaced with a new septic system.*

**Cesspool**



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### 4. Does this permit require me to replace my septic system?

*No, this permit does not require you to replace your septic system(s) as long as it is not failing and the sewage generating activities discharging to the system are not expanding. Indications of a failing system may include back-up of sewage into the building served, ponding of sewage on the ground surface, leaking system components or contamination of nearby wells.*

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**5. Why do I need this permit?**

*The discharge of pollutants from sanitary wastewater to the ground, such as from a septic system, is a regulated activity based on the NJPDES regulations at N.J.A.C. 7:14A. This regulatory requirement is in place in order to ensure that such discharges do not endanger underground sources of drinking water. Specifically, N.J.A.C. 7:14A-8.1(b)1.iv, states that sanitary discharges, with a design volume in excess of 2,000 gallons per day, as calculated in accordance with the criteria listed in N.J.A.C. 7:9A-7.4, require a NJPDES permit.*

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**6. Who is eligible to obtain this permit?**

*Eligibility for this permit is limited to farms where the aggregate design volume of sanitary sewage generated on the property (excluding the flow from single family home(s) served by their own individual subsurface sewage disposal system) is greater than 2,000 gallons per day as calculated in accordance with the design criteria at N.J.A.C. 7:9A-7.4.*

*For purposes of this permit, “farm” means a property, in whole or in part, that qualifies for property tax assessment under the Farm Land Assessment Act of 1964, N.J.S.A. 54:4-23.1 et seq.*

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**7. How should my facility calculate design volume in order to determine if a permit is required?**

*Design volumes are calculated based upon the criteria defined for the listed activities in N.J.A.C. 7:9A-7.4, Tables 7.4 (a) and (b). In cases where the farm activity is not identified in Tables 7.4 (a) or (b), the facility shall contact the Department for additional guidance regarding the calculation of design flow. The flow from single family home(s) served by their own individual subsurface sewage disposal system shall not be included in the calculation of design flow. Such discharges are regulated by the local administrative authority.*

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**8. When should the flow from a single family home(s) be included in the calculation of design flow for determination of permit applicability?**

*The flow from a single family home(s) shall be included in the design flow for permit applicability under the following circumstances:*

- a. The flow from the single family home is directed to a combined system that also captures flow from other regulated activities onsite;*
- b. The flow from the single family home is directed to a combined system that also captures flow from one or more additional single family homes on the property and the design volume for this system is greater than 2,000 gallons per day; and*
- c. The design volume for the system serving the single family home is greater than 2,000 gallons per day (a single family home with more than 13 bedrooms).*

*If the calculated flow from farm activities is 2,000 gpd or less, but the property includes a single family home(s) that pushes the aggregate flow on the property over 2,000 gpd, a NJPDES permit for Discharges to Ground Water is not required when the single family home is on its own system and does not fall within the three circumstances for inclusion in the design volume for permit applicability as described above. In this instance, the property would fall under the jurisdiction of the local administrative authority.*

*Multiple single family homes, each served by their own individual subsurface sewage disposal system, which are designed, constructed, installed and operated in compliance with N.J.A.C. 7:9A, and each with a design volume of 2,000 gpd or less, are not included in the design volume for permit applicability. In these cases, the number of homes or the aggregate flow from these homes is not relevant for permit*

*applicability and will continue to be regulated by the local administrative authority. However, the flow from a single family home, served by its own individual subsurface sewage disposal system, will be included in the design volume for permit applicability, and regulated by this permit, when the design volume for that single family home is greater than 2,000 gpd.*

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**9. What if my actual flow is under 2,000 gallons per day, but my design volume, as calculated in accordance with the criteria listed in N.J.A.C. 7:9A-7.4, is greater than 2,000 gallons per day.**

**Do I still need a permit?**

*Yes. If your facility's design volume, as calculated in accordance with the criteria listed in N.J.A.C. 7:9A-7.4, is greater than 2,000 gallons per day, a NJPDES permit is required regardless of actual discharge volume. Design volume, not actual flows, are utilized to calculate flow capacity for discharges to ground water via septic systems as per the NJPDES Regulations. The flow from single family home(s) served by their own individual subsurface sewage disposal system shall not be included in the calculation of design flow for determination of permit applicability. Such discharges are regulated by the local administrative authority (i.e., local health department).*

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**10. Can I use portable toilets or water saving devices to reduce my flow to avoid the need for a permit?**

*No. Water-saving plumbing fixtures, portable toilets, temporary restrooms, or holding tanks for sanitary sewage from activities at the facility cannot be used to reduce the design volume calculated under N.J.A.C. 7:9A-7.4, as per N.J.A.C. 7:9A-1.8(c) and N.J.A.C. 7:9A-7.4(e). The design criteria are fixed within the regulation and cannot be altered based on reduced actual flows.*

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**11. What if my property consists of multiple blocks and/or lots? Is each block and/or lot considered a different property? Do I need to get separate permits for each?**

*Only one (1) permit is needed for each property and N.J.A.C. 7:14A-1.2 defines property as:*

- 1. A single lot as defined by municipal lot and block or right of way; or*
- 2. The combined area contained within the legal boundaries of two or more contiguous lots where, for any part of each of those lots, there is a shared pecuniary, possessory, or other substantial common interest by one or more persons (such as common ownership and/or operation or a common plan of development or sale).*

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**12. How do I apply for this permit?**

*A complete Request for Authorization (RFA) Application for authorization under the General Permit for Sanitary Discharges at Farms includes the following documents:*

- *NJPDES – 1 Form;*
- *Topographic Map;*
- *Form R – Domestic Residuals;*
- *GFSD Facility Information Form;*
- *Pinelands approvals (where applicable). For projects located within the jurisdiction of the Pinelands Commission (as defined in N.J.S.A. 13:18A-1 et seq.), either a Certificate of Compliance, a Certificate of Filing, a Development Approval, or other approval from the*

*Pinelands Commission is required. A written statement from the Pinelands Commission that no approval is necessary also satisfies this requirement;*

- *Evidence that the system(s) is located on a property, in whole or in part, that qualifies for property tax assessment under the Farm Land Assessment Act of 1964, N.J.S.A. 54:4-23.1 et seq. Generally acceptable evidence will be the applicant's most recently available municipal tax bill; and*
- *Site Specific Technical Information, including but not limited to:*
  - *Plot Plan, signed and sealed by a New Jersey licensed P.E. which includes all the information detailed in Part IV.D.1.b. This includes but is not limited to measured distances between all structures, system components, wells, and property lines. This should include location of all septic systems and related components (septic tanks, pumping tanks, distribution boxes, disposal fields, seepage pits, etc.);*
  - *Well records for any well within 100 feet of an individual subsurface sewage disposal system;*
  - *Direction of ground water flow on the property; and*
  - *Estimated depth of seasonal high-water table (SHWT) for each disposal field area.*

*These forms and a checklist that expands upon each item listed above can be obtained at [https://dep.nj.gov/dwq/permitting\\_information/permits\\_application\\_forms\\_and\\_checklists/#DGW](https://dep.nj.gov/dwq/permitting_information/permits_application_forms_and_checklists/#DGW). The completed RFA shall be submitted to [dwq\\_groundwater@dep.nj.gov](mailto:dwq_groundwater@dep.nj.gov).*

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### **13. Can I opt out of this General NJPDES Permit and obtain an Individual NJPDES permit?**

*Yes, your facility has the ability to request authorization under an individual NJPDES permit rather than obtain authorization through this general permit. Information on Individual Discharge to Ground Water permits is available here:*

*[https://dep.nj.gov/dwq/permitting\\_information/permits\\_application\\_forms\\_and\\_checklists/#DGW](https://dep.nj.gov/dwq/permitting_information/permits_application_forms_and_checklists/#DGW).*

*However, part of the purpose behind the development of this general permit was to minimize the cost to the farmer by issuing a general permit to this group of applicants as a separate permit category with streamlined permit conditions.*

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### **14. What type of certification do I need from Pinelands in order to apply for this general permit?**

*For farms located in the Pinelands region, a certification from the Pineland's Commission must accompany the General Permit Request for Authorization stating that the property is either exempt from or meets the nitrate requirement of 2 ppm as required under N.J.A.C 7:50. Contact information regarding the required Pinelands Approval is available at*

*<https://www.state.nj.us/pinelands/home/contact/> or via phone at (609) 894-7300.*

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### **15. Once I obtain the permit, do I need a licensed operator for my septic system?**

*The owner of a system(s) covered under this General Permit is not required to employ a licensed operator in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:10A-1.10(c)5.*

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**16. What is the difference between ground water monitoring wells and piezometer wells?**

*Ground water monitoring wells are wells that are used to measure or monitor the level, quality, quantity, or movement of subsurface water within an aquifer. Ground water monitoring data will be used to ensure the ground water is not being impacted by the discharge of sanitary wastewater to the ground.*

*Piezometer wells are wells that are installed and used to collect water level data from the septic disposal bed area.*

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**17. What is a ground water monitoring well and why is it important?**

*Ground water monitoring wells are wells that are drilled into the underlying aquifer and used to measure or monitor the level, quality, quantity, or movement of subsurface water within an aquifer. These wells are required to be sampled at regular intervals (e.g., monthly, quarterly, annually), to understand trends over time and to ensure that the regulated activity is not negatively impacting ground water quality.*

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**18. How many ground water monitoring wells am I required to install?**

*For those facilities utilizing Treatment Options 1 or 2 (see FAQ 24 for further details), the installation of one (1) upgradient monitoring well and one (1) down gradient monitoring well for each disposal area on the property is required. Accordingly, the number and installation of monitoring wells shall be determined by the number and spacing of disposal areas, rather than by property. If proposed monitoring wells are determined to be representative of multiple disposal areas on the property, the number of wells required to be installed may be reduced by the Department on a case-by-case basis. This determination will be made during the Department's technical review of the permit application.*

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**19. Where should the required monitoring wells be installed and what is the purpose of installing an upgradient monitoring well and a downgradient monitoring well?**

*The upgradient monitoring well shall be installed in a location that is upgradient of the regulated activities on the subject property and otherwise be installed in accordance with Part IV.G.1 of the permit. Data from the upgradient monitoring well may assist the permittee and the Department in determining if water quality issues can be attributed to an offsite source.*

*The downgradient monitoring well shall be installed in a location that is downgradient of the regulated activities on the subject property and otherwise be installed in accordance with Part IV.G.1 of the permit. Data from the downgradient monitoring well serves to ensure that the discharge activities are not causing a contravention of the Ground Water Quality Standards (GWQS).*

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**20. What is a piezometer well and why is it important?**

*Piezometer wells are wells that are installed and used to collect water level data but are not used for the collection of groundwater samples. For purposes of this permit, piezometer wells need to be drilled to the depth of the water table for each septic disposal area to gain water level measurement information.*

*The purpose of the piezometer measurements is to ensure an adequate unsaturated zone beneath the disposal field to allow infiltration of the wastewater through the soil to primarily treat the wastewater prior to reaching the water table and to indicate there is no standing water in the septic system disposal bed. This can be an indication of whether a disposal field is functioning appropriately. Generally*

*speaking, piezometer wells need to be closer to the septic bed than ground water monitoring wells to ensure the drainage through the bed is not impeded.*

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**21. How many piezometer wells am I required to install?**

*The installation of one (1) piezometer well for each disposal area on the property is required. Accordingly, the number and installation of piezometer wells shall be determined by the number and spacing of disposal areas, rather than by property. If proposed piezometer wells are determined to be representative of multiple disposal areas on the property, the number of wells required to be installed may be reduced by the Department on a case-by-case basis. This determination will be made during the Department's technical review of the permit application.*

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**22. What is the required timeframe for installing the ground water monitoring wells and piezometer well(s)?**

*The permittee shall install any wells required by this permit within ninety (90) days of the effective date of the permit authorization, unless otherwise approved by the Department in writing.*

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**23. What are the monitoring requirements of this permit?**

*Monitoring requirements will vary based on the level of treatment provided for each individual system regulated on the property. The goal of the permit conditions is to ensure that Ground Water Quality Standards (GWQS) are met at the property line or nearest sensitive receptor (e.g., potable well, surface water body, wetlands, etc.).*

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**24. What are the different levels of treatment and associated monitoring requirements of this permit?**

*The following three treatment options and associated monitoring requirements dependent on the level of treatment utilized are required by this permit:*

*Treatment Option 1: Facilities utilizing a conventional septic system without the addition of advanced treatment and ultraviolet disinfection prior to discharge to the disposal field(s). These facilities will be required to meet the GWQS on a quarterly basis for Nitrate, Ammonia, and Fecal Coliform in the designated downgradient monitoring well(s).*

*Treatment Option 2: Facilities utilizing advanced treatment, but not incorporating ultraviolet disinfection in their system prior to discharge to the disposal field(s). Based on the incorporation of advanced treatment in the system, these facilities will be required to meet the GWQS on a monthly basis for Nitrate and Ammonia prior to the point of discharge to the disposal field and meet the GWQS for Fecal Coliform on a quarterly basis in the designated downgradient monitoring well(s).*

*Treatment Option 3: Facilities utilizing advanced treatment and ultraviolet disinfection in their system prior to discharge to the disposal field. Based on the incorporation of advanced treatment and ultraviolet disinfection in the system, these facilities will be required to meet the GWQS on a quarterly basis for Nitrate, Ammonia, and Fecal Coliform prior to the point of discharge to the disposal field(s).*



GWQS Point of Compliance Based on Level of Treatment			
	<i>Nitrate</i>	<i>Ammonia</i>	<i>Fecal Coliform</i>
<i>Treatment Option 1</i>	<i>Downgradient Monitoring Well</i>	<i>Downgradient Monitoring Well</i>	<i>Downgradient Monitoring Well</i>
<i>Treatment Option 2</i>	<i>Point of Discharge</i>	<i>Point of Discharge</i>	<i>Downgradient Monitoring Well</i>
<i>Treatment Option 3</i>	<i>Point of Discharge</i>	<i>Point of Discharge</i>	<i>Point of Discharge</i>

*In addition to the monitoring requirements for the sanitary parameters mentioned above, the discharge to each septic system on the property is required to be monitored on a continuous basis for flow and annually for Volatile Organics to ensure these compounds are not present in the waste stream.*

*For those facilities with food service components, quarterly monitoring for Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), Total Suspended Solids, Oil and Grease, and Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) will also be required.*

*Part III of your facility's permit will detail the monitoring locations, parameters and frequency of monitoring required.*

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## **25. The permit requires continuous flow monitoring. What does this mean and how do I report results?**

*Continuous flow monitoring measures to amount of sanitary sewage being discharged to the septic system. Continuous flow monitoring is required for each regulated septic system on the property. The monitoring is continuous and should be read and recorded at about the same time every day. The daily maximum and monthly average flows from the reporting month shall be reported on the appropriate monitoring report form provided by the Department.*

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## **26. What methods can be used to monitor flow in accordance with this permit?**

*A continuously recording in-line flow measuring device shall be used to determine the daily flow. This device must be installed at a location that is representative of all wastewater discharging to the disposal field. Alternatively, other methods, such as counting pump cycles or monitoring water use for each septic system, may be used instead of a continuous flow monitoring device upon approval by the Department.*

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## **27. What activities are defined as food service?**

*Food service includes those activities associated with the handling, preparing or serving of food and/or drinks for sale to any individual or group that does not work at the facility that will result in the generation of wastewater. These activities are typically characterized by the use of heating, cooling, cooking or cleaning equipment including walk-in refrigeration units, stoves, fryers, ovens, warmers,*

*steamers, dishwashers and sinks typically used for food or dish washing. Examples of food service include, but are not limited to, cafes, snack bars, ice cream making, bakeries, and wineries/breweries/distilleries (with and without tasting rooms).*

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## **28. When do I need to start submitting monitoring report forms?**

*Monitoring reports forms are required to be submitted once your facility receives their general permit authorization. Monitoring shall be conducted on a routine basis as specified in Part III of your general permit authorization.*

*The effective date of the general permit authorization is always the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month after issuance. Monitoring data is required to be submitted to the Department within 25 days following the end of the monitoring period. For instance, if the effective date of the permit authorization is July 1, then the monthly monitoring period sample shall be collected between July 1-July 31 and reported to the Department by August 25.*

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## **29. Several of my operations onsite are seasonal. Do I need to sample and report during periods of no discharge?**

*Monitoring Report Forms required by this permit must be submitted at the frequency set forth in Part III of the individual authorization issued to the facility, regardless of the seasonal nature of the activity.*

*During months that no discharge is occurring to a regulated system(s), the monthly Discharge Monitoring Report form can be submitted with the “NODI” (No Discharge) box checked.*

*The ground water monitoring wells must be sampled, and results reported on a quarterly basis, on a Waste Characterization Report form, even when no discharge is occurring. This is so the Department can compare the ground water quality when there is an active discharge to periods of no discharge to determine impact on ground water.*

*Finally, the annual discharge monitoring for volatile organics must be conducted and results reported on a Waste Characterization Report form, once per year during a period of active discharge for each regulated system.*

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## **30. How should monitoring data be submitted?**

*The Department requests that all data be submitted via the Department’s Online Portal - [NJDEP Online](#). If your facility has not done so already, you are encouraged to register. For more information on the Department’s online portal system, please visit <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/mrf.htm>. This site provides written and video guidance on the NJPDES MRF Submission Service. Training Videos, which will walk you through the sign up and MRF submission process, include modules on the following topics:*

*Part 1: Registration for NJDEP Online Services*

*Part 2: Adding a Facility/Permit to My Workspace*

*Part 3: Adding a Facility/Permit to My Workspace from the MRF Service*

*Part 4: Overview of the Manage MRF Services Screen*

*Part 5: Completing an Electronic DMR*

*Part 6: Completing an Electronic WCR*

*Part 8: Notifying Responsible Officials of MRFs Awaiting Certification*

*Part 9: Certifying MRFs*

*Part 10: Correcting MRFs*

*Part 11: Managing Users Through Facility Administration*

*If you are in need of assistance, please contact the Ground Water Unit via email at [dwg\\_groundwater@dep.nj.gov](mailto:dwg_groundwater@dep.nj.gov) or by phone at (609) 984-4428 and reference the 'NJPDES MRF Submission Service' in your inquiry.*

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### **31. Does the Department offer funding for septic system replacement?**

*Replacement of septic tanks may be eligible for traditional water infrastructure funding through the New Jersey Water Bank since replacement of a septic tank could qualify as a capital improvement. This would require a local government unit (i.e., municipality) to serve as the project sponsor; the sponsor must meet New Jersey Water Bank credit-worthiness requirements. However, note that this general permit does not require the septic system(s) to be replaced but rather requires measures to ensure compliance with the NJPDES Regulations. Monitoring well installation and administrative costs associated with this permit do not qualify for these funding mechanisms.*

*For more information, please contact [waterbankinfo@dep.nj.gov](mailto:waterbankinfo@dep.nj.gov).*

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### **32. How do I find a list of certified laboratories?**

*The samples shall be analyzed by a New Jersey certified laboratory certified for a non-potable water (NPW) certified method that can quantify the required parameters in wastewater. A list of certified laboratories can be obtained at <https://njems.nj.gov/DataMiner>. Please select "Search by Category", submit the Report Category "Certified Laboratories", and select the report entitled "Laboratories Certified by Parameter". Please be sure to select a laboratory with the matrix description of Non-Potable Water.*

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### **33. Who should I contact if I have any questions?**

*If there are any further questions, please direct them to [dwg\\_groundwater@dep.nj.gov](mailto:dwg_groundwater@dep.nj.gov).*

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## **APPENDIX A**

**For purposes of this permit, the following definitions have been incorporated:**

**"Advanced wastewater pretreatment device"** means a National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) International Standard 40 or Standard 245 certified technology which may be incorporated as a part of an onsite wastewater treatment system, which bears the NSF mark and is designed, installed, operated, monitored and maintained in accordance with that certification and this chapter. This definition also includes those technologies that are authorized for use in the Pinelands Area through the Pinelands Advanced Wastewater Treatment Systems Pilot Program at N.J.A.C. 7:50-10.23.

**"Aliquot"** means a sample of specified volume used to make up a total composite sample.

**"Annual(ly)"** means monitoring conducted at a minimum of once every twelve calendar months.

**"Authorized service provider"** means an individual who maintains an advanced wastewater pretreatment device and/or drip dispersal system in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:9A-12.3, who monitors the system remotely and who responds appropriately to alarm conditions. This individual must either hold an S2 or greater license pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:10A; or have completed all training required by a manufacturer of an advanced wastewater pretreatment device that is listed by the Department in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:9A-8.3; and/or be a listed system integrator of a drip dispersal system in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:9A-10.8.

**"Cesspool"** means a covered pit with open-jointed lining into which untreated sewage is discharged, the liquid portion of which is disposed of by leaching into the surrounding soil, the solids or sludge being retained within the pit.

**"Congregate Living"** means those activities at structures such as dormitories, motels, nursing/rest homes, group homes, assisted living facilities, boarding houses. These structures typically have one or more amenities and/or activities that service the establishment and not typically an individual unit, such as common bathrooms, kitchens, dining areas and/or laundry facilities.

**"Daily"** means monitoring conducted every calendar day, including weekends and holidays.

**"Design Criteria Level (DCL)"** means a pollutant concentration that the Department has determined that when exceeded represents a level of concern. For the purpose of this permit, design criteria are established as design goals for high strength wastewater pretreatment that actively treats and reduces fats, oils and grease (FOG), total suspended solids (TSS) and biological (BOD) and chemical (COD) oxygen demand and are not established as numeric effluent limitations. Sampling results exceeding the design criteria will not be deemed violations.

**"Farm"** for the purposes of this permit means a property, in whole or in part, that qualifies for property tax assessment under the Farm Land Assessment Act of 1964, N.J.S.A. 54:4-23.1 et seq.

**"Farm Labor Housing"** means structures located on farm operation property that are being inhabited by the employees of the farm. These structures are typically dormitory style housing that may include amenities such as common bathrooms, kitchens, or laundry facilities.

**"Flow Rate"** means the volume per time unit given to the flow of gases or other fluid substance which emerges from an orifice, pump, or turbine or passes along a conduit or channel.

**“Food service”** means those activities associated with the handling, preparing or serving of food and/or drinks for sale to any individual or group that does not work at the facility that will result in the generation of wastewater. These activities are typically characterized by the use of heating, cooling, cooking or cleaning equipment including walk-in refrigeration units, stoves, fryers, ovens, warmers, steamers, dishwashers and sinks typically used for food or dish washing. Examples of food service include, but are not limited to, cafes, snack bars, ice cream making, bakeries, and wineries/breweries/distilleries (with and without tasting rooms).

**“Grab sample”** means an individual sample collected over a period not exceeding 15 minutes.

**“Individual subsurface sewage disposal system”** (also called “septic system” or “system”), per N.J.A.C. 7:9A, means a collection of components for disposal of sanitary sewage into the ground which is designed and constructed to treat sanitary sewage in a manner that will retain most of the settleable solids in a septic tank or may incorporate an advanced wastewater pretreatment device and discharges liquid effluent of typical domestic strength to a disposal field.

**“Month(ly)”** means monitoring conducted at a minimum of once every calendar month.

**“Non-sanitary waste”** means any waste not considered to be from human origin or contain putrescible material and is considered to be industrial, hazardous, or toxic. Examples of non-sanitary waste on farms include, but are not limited to the wastewater associated with the washing of crops, farm equipment, crop packaging processes, slaughter/butcher liquid waste, egg washing, or wine production waste.

**“Property” means:**

- i. A single lot as defined by municipal lot and block or right of way; or
- ii. The combined area contained within the legal boundaries of two or more contiguous lots where, for any part of each of those lots, there is a shared pecuniary, possessory or other substantial common interest by one or more persons (such as common ownership and/or operation or a common plan of development or sale).

**“Quarter(ly)”** means monitoring conducted at a minimum frequency of once every three calendar months.

**“Regulated Unit”** means any part of a wastewater disposal system, including but not limited to all septic tanks, grease traps, distribution boxes, dosing tanks, disposal tanks, and disposal fields, that is monitored under the requirements of this permit.

**“Sanitary Sewage”** means any liquid waste containing animal or vegetable matter in suspension or solution, or the water carried wastes resulting from the discharge of water closets, laundry tubs, washing machines, sinks, dishwashers, or any other source of water carried wastes of human origin or containing putrescible material. This term specifically excludes industrial, hazardous or toxic wastes and materials.

**“Single family home”** for the purposes of this permit means a structure designed for residential use by one family. This does not include congregate living facilities, apartments, condominiums, townhouses and/or duplex homes.

**“Volume of Sanitary Sewage”** also referred to as design flow or design volume means the maximum volume of sanitary sewage which may reasonably be expected to be discharged from a residential, commercial, or institutional facility on any day of operation, determined as prescribed in N.J.A.C. 7:9A-7.4 and expressed as gallons or in gallons per day.

*The volume of sanitary sewage shall not be considered as an average daily flow but shall incorporate a factor of safety over and above the average daily flow which is adequate to accommodate peak sanitary sewage flows or facilities which discharge greater than the average volumes of sanitary sewage either occasionally or on a regular basis. The use of water saving devices shall not be used as a basis for reducing estimates of the volume of sanitary sewage.*

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