



EPA Issues Compliance Advisory for Significant Non-Compliance Dischargers

Oct. 2020 – The EPA and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Water, are increasing attention to individually permitted Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) facilities in significant non-compliance (SNC).

Problem:

Compliance with NPDES permits is critical to protecting our nation's waters. There are approximately 46,000 major and minor individually NPDES-permitted facilities in the country. Over 29 percent of these facilities were in significant noncompliance (SNC) with their permits in FY 2018. Violations range from significant exceedances of effluent limits, which can cause harm to human health and the environment, to failure to submit reports, which can mask serious deficiencies.

Goal:

The objective of this initiative is to improve surface water quality and reduce potential impacts on drinking water by assuring that all NPDES permittees are complying with their permits, not just industrial contributors. This NCI aims to reduce by half the national SNC baseline rate of 29.4 percent by the end of FY 2022, while assuring that the worst SNC violators are timely and appropriately addressed.

This effort furthers the EPA's FY 2018–FY 2022 Strategic Plan, which calls for measurable efforts to increase the environmental law compliance rate.

Are you in SNC?

If you hold an individual APDES permit, we encourage you to review your discharge monitoring reports, check your compliance status, and see whether you have SNC violations using EPA's Enforcement & Compliance History Online (ECHO) tool.

The link to the ECHO can be found in the Resources column, as seen below.

COMPLIANCE		PERMITTEE SELF-REPORTING TOOLS
HIGHLIGHTS	RESOURCES	APDES STORMWATER FORMS
• Submit a Wastewater Complaint - <i>New</i> • NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule • Enforcement Response Guide Appendix J of APDES Program Description (PDF) • OASys Login • Compliance and Enforcement Program Improvement Plan (PDF) • State Review Framework, EPA Report, December 16, 2019 (PDF)	• Chapter 9 (Compliance and Enforcement) of the APDES Program Description (PDF) • DEC Permits • Environmental Crimes Unit • Primacy in Alaska • Find Enforcement & Compliance History Online (link to EPA webpage) 	STAFF CONTACTS
 Indicates an external site.		STATUTES AND REGULATIONS
		CLEAN WATER ACT 
		AAC TITLE 18: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (ASP)
		CFR TITLE 40: PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT 

If you are in SNC, or if you have questions about the information you are seeing in ECHO, please email us at decnetdmr@alaska.gov