

CSWGP SAMPLING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Permittees must submit monthly discharge monitoring reports (DMRs) electronically using Ecology's secure online system, WQWebDMR unless you have been approved for a waiver. To sign up for WQWebDMR go to: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/permits/paris/webdmr.html>. The waiver request is available by contacting Ecology, please follow this link for Ecology contacts by county: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/construction/contacts.html>.

SAMPLING DOCUMENTATION

1. How often do I sample?

Once you disturb the soil, you must conduct sampling at least once every calendar week when stormwater (or authorized non-stormwater) flows off of the site, otherwise referred to as having a "discharge."

2. Where do I sample?

You must take samples from all discharge points where stormwater (or authorized non-stormwater such as de-watering water) flows off-site, including where it enters any on-site surface waters of the state (for example, a creek running through a site). For more information on authorized and prohibited discharges, please refer to Special Condition S1.C and D in the permit.

3. When stormwater leaves my site from more than one location, what do I need to do?

- a. Submit sample results on the WQWebDMR for each location where stormwater is discharged from the site.
- b. Enter a unique name or description of the monitoring location (for example: Pond 1; or West Ditch). You must use the **same** monitoring location name each month for the duration of your project.
- c. Identify all sampling point(s) on the map in your Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). You must also clearly mark each sample point in the field with a flag, tape, stake or other visible marker.

4. What if I don't have a discharge off site for an entire week?

If there was no discharge during **a calendar week**, you need not take a sample. Report "No Discharge" for that week on the DMR form by selecting the "No Discharge" box. You are required to submit DMR reports every month, whether or not you had a discharge that month.

5. If it rains at 3 AM on my site, do I have to get up and sample at that hour?

You need not sample outside of normal working hours or during unsafe conditions. If you are unable to sample during a monitoring period, you must report "Analysis Not Complete/Not Conducted/Not Reported" (Code E).

6. What kind of stormwater turbidity/transparency sampling do I have to do?

If construction activity disturbs 5 acres or more, the permit requires you to use a turbidity meter when conducting turbidity sampling. If construction activity disturbs greater than or equal to 1 acre, but less than 5 acres, you may use either a transparency tube **or** a turbidity meter. Enter the turbidity results under the appropriate WQWebDMR column for NTU or cm.

7. What if my turbidity result is greater than 250 NTUs or my transparency is less than 6 centimeters (cm)?

As indicated in detail in Special Condition S4 of the permit, if any discharge is greater than 250 NTU or less than 6 centimeters (cm) transparency, you must begin daily sampling.

Continue to sample daily until:

- a. Turbidity is 25 NTU (or lower); or
- b. Transparency is 33 cm (or greater); or
- c. You demonstrate compliance with the water quality limit for turbidity:
 - o No more than 5 NTUs over background turbidity, if background is less than 50 NTUs, or
 - o No more than 10% over background turbidity, if background is 50 NTU or greater; or
 - o The discharge stops or is eliminated.

8. When do I have to sample for pH?

- a. For *significant concrete work* (greater than 1,000 cubic yards poured concrete used over the life of a project), pH sampling begins when the concrete is first exposed to precipitation and continues weekly until stormwater pH is between 6.5 and 8.5 standard units prior to discharge.
- b. For sites with recycled concrete or engineered soils, the pH sampling period begins when the recycled concrete or soil amendments are first exposed to precipitation and continues until the recycled concrete or engineered soils are fully stabilized.
- c. Sample at least once per week and record the results in the site log book.
- d. Report the pH sample results on the WQWebDMR.

9. Where and how do I sample for pH?

- a. You must sample pH in the sediment trap/pond(s) or other locations that receive stormwater runoff from the area of significant concrete work, engineered soils, or recycled concrete before the stormwater discharge from the site.
- b. Obtain a representative sample of stormwater.
- c. pH analysis on site must be performed using a calibrated pH meter, pH test kit, or wide range pH indicator paper.
- d. Report the pH sample results on the WQWebDMR.

10. What if the pH is 8.5 (su) or greater?

- a. Prevent the high pH water (8.5 or above) from entering storm sewer systems or surface waters; or
- b. Adjust or neutralize the high pH water until it is in the range of 6.5 to 8.5 (su).
 - o Use appropriate treatment BMPs such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) sparging or dry ice to adjust the pH.
 - o Use of other treatment BMPs other than CO₂ sparging or dry ice requires written approval by Ecology. The Chemical Treatment Form can be found at:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/construction/permit.html>

11. How do I record treatment BMPs in WQWebDMR?

Use the pull down menu on the left of the DMR table titled “BMPs” for each week. Check the BMPs that were used.

12. What if I haven’t started clearing or grading my site?

If you have not begun initial soil disturbance activity, you need to report “Construction Not Started” for the DMR Reporting Codes in the Top box or enter by week (Code X) on the WQWebDMR.

13. Who should sign the DMR?

The DMR must be signed by the Facility Signer or Facility Coordinator. See <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/permits/paris/webdmr.html> for more information.

There are four different roles to choose from when you sign up for WQWebDMR:

- o Facility Coordinator – Can assign staff to the signer and preparer roles to work on DMRs, and can sign and prepare DMRs.
- o Facility Signer – Can sign and prepare DMRs (example: delegated authority like CESCL).
- o Facility Preparer – Can prepare DMRs (example: contractors, secretaries, data entry staff).
- o Facility Administrator – Can prepare DMRs and assist the Facility Coordinator in assigning others to prepare and sign DMRs (example: administrative assistant and project leads).

14. What if I take additional samples or have more information to submit?

You can upload additional information into WQWebDMR as an attachment.