
These documents are required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Every city is required to participate in this program produce theses documents annually and make them available to the public. The Clean Water Act prohibits anyone from discharging "pollutants" through a "point source" into a "water of the United States" unless they have a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The permit will contain limits on what you can discharge, monitoring and reporting requirements, and other provisions to ensure that the discharge does not hurt water quality or people's health. In essence, the permit translates general requirements of the Clean Water Act into specific provisions tailored to the operations of each person discharging pollutants. For answers to common questions about the NPDES permit and program, visit the US EPA's website.