

the Rain events

A Monthly Newsletter on the California
Industrial General Permit
By WGR Southwest, Inc.

QUALIFYING STORM EVENTS

understanding the regulations

Well, the rain season has officially started for California, and many parts of the State have already received their first rain events. As many industrial permittees already know, the new Industrial General Permit has dramatically changed the definition of a Qualifying Storm Event, and coupled with the possibility of a historically large El Niño bringing a torrential amount of rain to California, this year could be a very interesting year for storm water sampling. For those of you who may be a little foggy on Qualifying Storm Events, here is a brief refresher.

So, what all has changed in the new Industrial General Permit regarding Qualifying Storm Events?

Well first of all, starting this year, the "3 dry days" between storm events rule no longer applies. The time between Qualifying Storm Events has been reduced to 48 hours with no discharge. But notice that this doesn't necessarily mean 48 hours without precipitation – it could drizzle on and off for two days before enough rain falls to cause a discharge, which would trigger the start of the Qualifying Storm Event. Once discharge starts at your facility, the Permit allows a 4-hour window for collecting samples. If the discharge started during non-business hours, the Permit makes allowance for this by permitting facilities to collect samples when business hours begin, provided that 12 hours have not elapsed since the discharge began. Another change in the new Permit is that there is no longer a "wet season." Permittees are now required to collect storm water samples regardless of the time of year. Thunderstorms in July can now be classified as Qualifying Storm Events if they cause storm water to discharge from your site. One last significant change to the new permit is the required number of samples that must be collected per year. The new Permit requires dischargers to collect a total of four (4) samples per reporting year: two during July-December, and two during January-June.



When do you have to collect samples? As stated in the previous paragraph, the Permit only requires dischargers to collect four samples per year, so there's no need to run out and collect samples from each Qualifying Storm Event. First of all, only collect samples during a Qualifying Storm Event that meets

all the criteria in Section XI.B of the IGP – one that produces a discharge from at least one drainage area, and is preceded by 48 hours with no discharge. But there are a few exceptions to this rule. If hazardous conditions are present, or if the storm event happens during non-business hours, you are not required to collect storm water samples (see Section XI.C.6). So, when the first Qualifying Storm Event comes along, don't miss the opportunity to collect your samples – but remember that there is a four-hour window to do so. Resist the urge to collect samples as

soon as the discharge begins, because the resulting sample will probably not be representative of your facility's overall discharge. Also, don't allow any Qualifying Storm Events to go by with the excuse of "I'm busy; I'll just sample the next storm." You need two samples per 6 months (Jul-Dec & Jan-Jun), so get them out of the way; but at the same time, be safe and don't try to sample in dangerous conditions. *(Continued on next page)*

(Continued from page 1) **What should you do to get ready for the next Qualifying Storm Event?** A good place to start is to make sure that the sample bottle kit you received from your laboratory is complete. It's a good idea to check your sample bottle kit against the Chain of Custody form to make sure everything is there. Next, prepare your sampling equipment. Get your PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) together, along with your rain coat, rubber boots, sample collection devices, and everything else you may need. Don't forget to get a bag of ice or two to keep your samples cold while transporting them to the lab. Once you get everything organized, it's a good idea to store it all in a single location so you can grab it and run at a moment's notice. Finally, keep an eye on the weather forecast – know if there are any rain storms coming, and be ready to collect your samples.

Don't let the rain catch you sleeping. And remember, every discharger only has one chance at Baseline status under the new Industrial General Permit. If any of your sampling results come back over the Numeric Action Levels in Table 2 of the IGP, at the beginning of the next reporting year you will be moved to Level 1 status for that parameter – which could end up costing quite a bit of money. Make sure your BMPs are maintained and adequate for your situation. It may save you a headache (and a wallet-ache) later on. ☁

the Compliance corner

Weather Tracking with WGR's Storm Chaser

If you come into the WGR office on a cloudy day, you are likely to find Aaron Ortiz, WGR's storm chaser, surrounded by monitors filled with every different type of weather report and Doppler Radar readouts imaginable. In this brief podcast, Aaron gives some tips for checking the weather forecast and determining which storms could be a Qualifying Storm Event, along with storm water sampling advice gleaned from years of experience.



Weather Resources (Mentioned by Aaron in the podcast)

Weather.com Radar Map: <http://www.weather.com/weather/radar/interactive//>

Weather Underground Radar Map: <http://www.wunderground.com/wundermap/>

KCRA Radar Map: <http://www.kcra.com/weather/radar>

Need a SWPPP revision for the new permit?
Give us a call at (209) 334-5363, ext. 114

"To Do List" for October:

- ☁ Perform the October monthly inspection
- ☁ If you haven't done so, perform your Fall storm water training for facility personnel.
- ☁ Inspect your facility for housekeeping and maintenance items that need to be addressed before the rain season begins.

Storm Water Awareness Week Keynote Sessions

If you missed any of the keynote sessions for Storm Water Awareness Week 2015, you can still watch them (free of charge) by going to www.stormwaterawareness.org or clicking on the images below.



Please contact us if you have any questions ...

The Rain Events

Newsletter Editor: **John Teravskis**
QSD/QSP, QISP, CPESC, ToR, IGPTT Participant
jteravskis@wgr-sw.com
(209) 334-5363 ext. 110 or (209) 649-0877

Technical Questions about Environmental Compliance?

Call ...

Aaron Ortiz, QISP, ToR, aortiz@wgr-sw.com
(209) 334-5363 ext. 114

Steve Teravskis, steravskis@wgr-sw.com
(209) 334-5363 ext. 115

Chelsea Dreyer, cdreyer@wgr-sw.com
(562) 799-8510 ext. 1003

CHANGE YOUR COURSE!

Under the new Industrial General Permit, you
only have one chance at baseline status.

Let us help navigate the storm.

*A single NAL exceedance will change your
facility from Baseline to Level 1.*

**What does this mean?
More money.**

Level 1 Dischargers must:

- Appoint a QISP
- Perform a Level 1 Evaluation
- Evaluate the Need for Additional BMPs
- File a Level 1 ERA Report

Level 2 Dischargers must:

- Further Evaluate BMP Options
- Install additional BMPs, which may include structural or mechanical devices
- Prepare a Level 2 Action Plan

Exceedance Avoidance Strategic Investigation

Take the EASI route to safe harbor!

Schedule Your Free No-Obligation Consultation Today!



(209) 334-5363, ext. 114 • aortiz@wgr-sw.com • www.wgr-sw.com

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Are you ready to perform field pH tests? The new Industrial General Permit requires dischargers to analyze pH **within 15 minutes of collecting storm water samples**. Grab your pH quickly and accurately with the **Oakton Waterproof pHTestr 30**, a necessary tool for all storm water samplers. This handy device is completely waterproof, and is designed to float in case it gets dropped in water. The device analyzes to +/- 0.01 pH accuracy, and has a quick and simple calibration process. The **pHTestr** also measures the temperature of your sample, allowing you to record both results simultaneously. Also, the pH sensor can be easily removed and replaced to ensure years of accurate operation.

Product Specifications:

- Accuracy: +/- 0.01 pH accuracy
- Range: -1 to 15 pH
- Temperature Range: 32° to 122° F
- Batteries: (4) 1.5V button batteries
- Battery Life: 500 hours under normal conditions
- Dimensions: 6.5" Long x 1.5" Diameter



ONLY
\$117.50



Are you stocked up for the storm season?

We are.

Come and get your storm water supplies at our BMP Warehouse. We have Filtrexx® SiltSoxx, drain inlet filters, fiber rolls, rock bags, field testing equipment, and more!

Come check us out!
11780 N Highway 99
Lodi, CA 95240

New Phone! **(916) 918-0408**

Storm Water Contest...

Each month, we invite our readers to participate in a contest to test their knowledge of the Industrial General Permit and their storm water compliance program. We enter all submittals to our monthly newsletter question into a drawing, and one person is selected at random to receive a \$25 gift card.

Last month, the question was...

List three (3) minimum BMPs according to the Industrial General Permit

Congratulations, Chuck DeJong - you are correct! Of the seven Permit-required minimum BMPs, the first three are good housekeeping, preventative maintenance, and spill and leak prevention and response.

Chuck wins a \$25 gift card to Starbucks for an iced vanilla spice latte!

This Month's Contest Question:

If your facility begins discharging at 2:00 AM, can you still collect a storm water sample when the facility opens at 7:00?

By October 31, 2015, submit your response to the above question by sending an email to jteravskis@wgr-sw.com. All persons submitting the correct answer will be placed in a drawing. The winner will receive a \$25 gift card to Subway.



THANK YOU!

**FOR EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED BY ATTENDING AND HOSTING WORKSHOPS,
THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS YEAR'S EVENT A SUCCESS!**

WATCH THE KEYNOTE RECORDINGS AT WWW.STORMWATERAWARENESS.ORG

