Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES)
General Permit for Non-Contact Cooling Water Discharges
Permit Fact Sheet

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Water Resources
November 2018

General Permit for Non-Contact Cooling Water Discharges Permit Development Document

1. BACKGROUND

The Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) regulations found under the Rhode Island Code of Regulations (See 250-RICR-150-10 §1.11), which were adopted pursuant to Chapters 46-12, 42-17.1 and 42-35 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, specifies that the discharge of pollutants is unlawful except in accordance with a valid RIPDES permit. In order to issue permits to specific categories of discharges, Rhode Island is authorized to issue "general permits" (See 250-RICR-150-10 §1.33).

The RIPDES permit program is authorized to issue a general permit if there are a number of point sources operating in a geographic area that:

- 1. Involve the same or substantially similar types of operations;
- Discharge the same types of wastes;
- 3. Require the same effluent limitations or operating conditions;
- 4. Require the same or similar monitoring requirements; and
- 5. are more appropriately controlled under a general permit than under individual permits.

This general permit is for facilities located in Rhode Island that discharge non-contact cooling water to a receiving water located in Rhode Island. Section 4 of the RIPDES Regulations define "Non-contact cooling water" as "water used to reduce temperature for the purpose of cooling. Such waters do not come into direct contact with any raw material, intermediate product (other than heat) or finished product." Therefore, even though a single industrial category or point source does not generate them, non-contact cooling water discharges involve substantially similar types of process operations, have similar types of waste, and require the same limitations and monitoring requirements.

Due to these similarities, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) has decided to develop this general permit. This permit will enable facilities to maintain compliance with State and Federal requirements and will extend environmental and regulatory controls to a large number of discharges. The issuance of this general permit is warranted by the similarity of (a) environmental conditions, (b) regulatory requirements applicable to the discharges and receiving waters, and (c) pollution control technologies employed.

Attachment A includes a list of facilities that currently discharge non-contact cooling water into Rhode Island waters under the 2013 non-contact cooling water general permit, their current permit number, their addresses, their receiving streams, and the receiving streams corresponding habitat and dilution category.

2. SUMMARY OF CHANGES

A summary of changes is provided below at each bullet point, with wording taken from the permit italicized for emphasis:

- A. Addition of Part I.B.(3).j. prohibits facilities that use surface water as their source of non-contact cooling water from coverage under the general permit. Facilities that use surface water as the source of their cooling water will be required to seek authorization under an individual permit.
- B. Addition of Part II.A. includes information on where to find referenced terms and water body classifications pertinent to the permit.
 - A. Definitions in this Section

Definitions of terms found in this permit, including "Freshwater", "Saltwater", "Habitat", and more, can be found in the Rhode Island Water Quality Regulations – see 250-RICR-150-05-1.

As an additional resource, water body classifications can be found on DEM's website and included on maps by navigating from the DEM homepage → Online Services → Data & Maps → Environmental Resource Map → Enabling Surface_Water layer (http://www.dem.ri.gov/maps/index.php).

C. Addition of monitoring requirement for total residual chlorine (TRC) if municipal water is used in the non-contact cooling water as seen in the table below. References, footnotes, and limits in the table reflect those seen in the NCCW General Permit and don't refer to footnotes found in this Fact Sheet. Further explanation for this change is included in the "Permit Limit Development" section following this section, under "Total Residual Chlorine".

Effluent Characteristic	Dilution Factor ¹	Discharge L	imitations	Monitoring Requirements			
		Avg. Monthly	Max Daily	Monitoring Frequency			
				Less than or equal to 50,000 GPD	More than 50,000 GPD	Sample Type	
Total Residual Chlorine: Discharge to Freshwater Habitat (not Lakes or Ponds)	See Part II.F.	See Part II.F.	See Part II.F.	1/Quarter	1/Quarter	Grab⁴	
Total Residual Chlorine: Discharge to Saltwater Habitat and Lakes or Ponds		0.02 mg/l ⁸	0.02 mg/l ⁸	1/Quarter	1/Quarter	Grab⁴	

- F. Total Residual Chlorine (Facilities Using Municipal Water Only).
 - (1) <u>Facilities Discharging to Flowing Freshwater Receiving Bodies Excluding Lakes or Ponds</u>

Any facility using municipal water as their source of non-contact cooling water is required to limit and monitor the amount of Total Residual Chlorine (TRC) in their effluent. The maximum daily and average monthly concentration of TRC allowed in the effluent are based on the appropriate water quality criterion and the available dilution of the receiving water. This is expressed in the following equation:

Effluent Limit = (Dilution Factor) x (Water Quality Criteria)

Note that the permittee's TRC effluent limits will be no greater than 1.0 mg/L, regardless of the dilution factor of the receiving water (See fact sheet). The appropriate water quality criteria for the calculation are shown below:

<u>Freshwater acute = 0.019 mg/L (19 ug/l); use for daily maximum</u> <u>Freshwater chronic = 0.011 mg/L (11 ug/l); use for average monthly</u>

<u>The dilution factor will be based on the same 7Q10 flow the permit applicant</u> determines for effluent temperature limits, as written in the NOI.

(2) <u>Facilities Discharging to Saltwater Receiving Bodies, or Lakes and Ponds</u>

Any facility using municipal water as their source of non-contact cooling water is required to limit and monitor the amount of Total Residual Chlorine (TRC) in their effluent. The maximum daily and average monthly concentration of TRC allowed in the effluent is 0.02 mg/L.

TRC concentrations are required to be measured (analyzed) within 15 minutes of collection of the sample per 40 CFR 136. Given the TRC limits of this permit, sampling methods require that TRC detection limits be at least 0.02 mg/L. The following methods may be used to analyze the grab samples: (1) Low Level Amperometric Titration, Standard Methods (18th Edition) No. 4500-CI E; (2) DPD Spectrophotometric, EPA No. 330.5 or Standard Methods (18th Edition) No. 4500-CI G.), all data below the detection level of 0.02 mg/L shall be reported as non-detect.

(3) Exemptions

Facilities may be exempt from TRC sampling requirements if:

- a. When discharging to a freshwater body the point of discharge from the facility is at least 2100 feet from the receiving water body (i.e. the discharge is to a stormwater system that conveys the NCCW discharge to the receiving water), or;
- b. When discharging to a saltwater body the point of discharge from the facility is at least 2400 feet from the receiving water body, or;
- c. If the facility has four consecutive quarters of non-detection for TRC the facility may request a waiver from DEM to be exempt from TRC requirements for the remainder of the permit period or until DEM determines there is a reason to resume sampling.

If the facility meets the requirements for at least one of these exemptions, the facility must submit a written request to DEM (See Part III.B. for where to submit). The exemption is only granted upon approval by DEM. If granted approval, the facility may be exempt from TRC monitoring for the effective period of the permit, unless DEM determines there is a reason to resume testing.

- C. Increased the monitoring frequency for flow, temperature, and pH from 1/month to 1/week for facilities that discharge more than 50,000 gallons per day. The monitoring requirements have been altered to yield data representative of the discharge under authority of Section 308(a) of the CWA and 40 CFR 122.41(j), 122.44(i), and 122.48, and as certified by the State.
- D. Lowered the maximum daily temperature limit for facilities discharging to freshwater waterbodies with a dilution factor greater than 15 from 100 °F to 92 °F to reflect available water temperature data for winter conditions (See Part 3: "Permit Limit Development", Temperature of this fact sheet for more information)
- E. Sample type altered to make provisions for continuous sampling. In Part II.E. sampling requirements for continuous monitoring devices to monitor for effluent and receiving water temperature and pH were added to give permittees greater flexibility in sampling. The following requirements were added as a footnote to the Discharge Limits and Monitoring Requirements tables to clarify reporting requirements for facilities that measure temperature with a continuous monitoring device:

Continuous monitoring devices may be used to measure effluent and water body temperature and pH. When required, the maximum temperature and monthly average temperature shall be reported based on the continuous dataset.

- F. Part II.H. reporting requirements changed to reflect the necessary use of NetDMR for submitting monitoring results. See section of this fact sheet "Monitoring and Reporting Requirements" for more details.
- G. Added General Requirement IV.F. Change in Discharge consistent with RIPDES Part II conditions.
- H. Added General Requirement IV.G. Reporting Requirements consistent with RIPDES Part II conditions.
- I. Added General Requirement IV.P. Other Laws consistent with RIPDES Part II conditions.
- J. Part IV.R.6 updated to include language on NetDMR.
 - 6. Monitoring results must be reported on a Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) using the electronic reporting application NetDMR (See Part II.H.).
- K. Added and updated language for General Requirement IV.S. Bypass consistent with RIPDES Part II conditions.
- L. Added and updated language on General Requirement IV.T. Upset Conditions consistent with RIPDES Part II conditions.

Explanations for changes to effluent limits and monitoring requirements can be found in the Permit Limit Development section below.

3. PERMIT LIMIT DEVELOPMENT

Section 301(a) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), 33 U.S.C. 1311(a), makes it unlawful to discharge pollutants to waters of the United States without a permit. Section 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. 1342, authorizes EPA to issue NPDES permits allowing discharges that will meet certain requirements, including CWA sections 301, 304, and 401 (33 U.S.C. 1331, 1314, and 1341). Those statutory provisions state that NPDES permits must include effluent limitations requiring authorized discharges to: (1) meet standards reflecting specified levels of technology-based treatment requirements; (2) comply with State Water Quality Standards; and (3) comply with other state requirements adopted under authority retained by states under CWA Section 510, 33 U.S.C. 1370. Since Rhode Island has been delegated NPDES permitting authority, the RIPDES permit serves as the NPDES permit and is the mechanism used to implement technology and water quality based effluent limitations and other requirements including monitoring and reporting.

Development of RIPDES permit limitations is a multi-step process consisting of the following steps: determining the applicable technology-based allowable discharge levels; determining necessary best professional judgment (BPJ) allowable discharge levels; calculating the water quality-based allowable discharge levels using in-stream criteria, background data and available dilution; comparing these three allowable discharge levels and taking the most stringent as the final allowable discharge level; conducting an antibacksliding/antidegradation analysis; and assigning final discharge limits.

Technology-Based Effluent Limitations

A technology-based limit is a numeric limit, which is determined by examining the capability of a treatment process to reduce or eliminate pollutants. Technology-based limits are identified in Federal Effluent Limitation Guidelines. However, Effluent Limitation Guidelines have not been promulgated for non-contact cooling water discharges. Therefore, technology-based allowable discharge levels were not assigned.

BPJ-Based Effluent Limitations

The DEM has limited the maximum Total Residual Chlorine (TRC) concentrations that may be discharged to 1.0 mg/L for discharges with large available dilution based on BPJ. Details regarding the requirement can be found in the Total Residual Chlorine section of this fact sheet.

Water Quality-Based Effluent Limitations

Water quality criteria are comprised of numeric and narrative criteria. Numeric criteria are scientifically derived ambient concentrations developed by EPA or States for various pollutants of concern to protect human health and aquatic life. Narrative criteria are statements that describe the desired water quality goal.

Allowable water quality-based discharge levels are established on the basis of acute and chronic aquatic life criteria and human health criteria using the following: available in-stream dilution; an allocation factor; and background concentrations when available and/or appropriate. The aquatic life and human health criteria are specified in the Rhode Island Water Quality Regulations, as amended. Aquatic life criteria have been established to ensure the protection and propagation of aquatic life. Human health criteria represent the pollutant levels that would not result in a significant risk to public health from the ingestion of aquatic organisms or the direct ingestion of water (Class AA receiving waters only).

When evaluating the need for water quality-based permit limits, the DEM first determines if there is "reasonable potential" for the discharge to cause an exceedance of the water quality criteria. The "reasonable potential" analysis is performed on a pollutant-by-pollutant basis. If it is determined that the pollutant in question has "reasonable potential", a limit is included in the permit.

By definition, non-contact cooling water discharges do not come into contact with raw materials, intermediate products, finished products, or process wastes. Therefore, the DEM has determined that these discharges do not have "reasonable potential" to contain pollutants from raw materials, intermediate products, finished products, or process wastes. However, since non-contact cooling water is used to remove excess heat, the DEM has determined that the discharges do have a "reasonable potential" to exceed the water quality criteria for temperature. Additionally, since the discharges may use well water as its source water, which may have a low pH, the DEM has determined that the discharge of non-contact cooling water has the "reasonable potential" to cause an exceedance of the in-steam water quality criteria for pH. Because some facilities may use municipal drinking water as a source of non-contact cooling water, the DEM has determined that the discharge of non-contact cooling water from such facilities has the "reasonable potential" to cause an exceedance of the in-stream water quality criteria for TRC. Therefore, water quality standards applicable to non-contact cooling water discharges covered by this general permit include temperature, pH, and TRC and are elaborated below.

Temperature

When establishing water quality-based limits for temperature, the DEM used a tiered limit structure for discharges to Saltwater and Freshwater (Warmwater Habitats and Coldwater Habitats) receiving waters. Specifically, limits were established for facilities with dilutions less than 15 and for facilities with dilutions of 15 or greater. To determine its dilution, each facility must complete and submit a dilution calculation with its Notice of Intent (NOI). DEM recommends facilities use the USGS application StreamStats to calculate the 7Q10 flow for dilution calculations.

Temperature impacts in freshwater, caused by heated discharges, are limited in the Rhode Island Water Quality Regulations such that the receiving water will not exceed 83 °F for warm water habitats and such that "Heated discharges into designated Cold Water habitats shall not raise the temperature above 68 degrees F outside an established thermal mixing zone (See 250-RICR-150-05 §1.10(D) and §1.10(E)). In no case shall the temperature of the receiving water be raised more than 4 degrees F". Based on this criteria, the maximum temperature limits for discharges

with a dilution less than 15 was set equal to the water quality criteria (68 °F into cold water habitats and 83 °F into warm water habitats). This will ensure that the in-stream temperature will not exceed the water quality criteria as a result of the discharge. All other permitted discharges into freshwater with a dilution equal to or greater than 15, were assigned a temperature limit of 92 °F. The resultant change in temperature is calculated by the equations listed below:

Summer Conditions

Summer Temp = 70 °F Wastewater Temp = 92 °F Dilution = 15

<u>Wastewater Temp + (Dilution - 1) * Summer Temp</u> – Summer Temp= Temp Change = 1.5 °F

Dilution

Winter Conditions River Winter Temp = 32 °F

<u>Wastewater Temp + (Dilution - 1) * Winter Temp</u> – Winter Temp= Temp Change = 4.0 °F Dilution

Since the in-stream temperature changes are less than or equal to those allowed by the Rhode Island Water Quality Regulations ($4.0\,^{\circ}$ F), it has been determined that a temperature limit of 92 °F would be protective of the water quality criteria. Therefore, this limit has been applied. The summer and winter conditions were selected based on available data from USGS stream gages with water temperature data, to determine a winter water condition of 32 °F.

Temperature increases in saltwater, caused by heated discharges, is limited in the Rhode Island Water Quality Regulations as "none except where the increase will not exceed the recommended limit on the most sensitive receiving water use and in no case exceed 83 degrees F nor raise the normal temperature more than 1.6 degrees F, 16 June through September and not more than 4 degrees F from October through 16 June". Based on this criteria, the maximum temperature limits for discharges to saltwater was set equal to the water quality criteria (83 °F) with a maximum instream temperature change of 1.6 °F (June 16 – September 30) and 4.0 °F (October 1 - June 16). This will ensure that the in-stream temperature will not exceed the water quality criteria as a result of the discharge.

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The Rhode Island Water Quality Regulations establishes water quality criteria for both freshwater and saltwater discharges (See 250-RICR-150-05 §1.10(D) and §1.10(E)). The pH criteria for freshwater discharges is "6.5 [standard units] – 9.0 [standard units] or as naturally occurs". The pH criteria for saltwater discharges is "6.5 [standard units] – 8.5 [standard units] but not more than 0.2 units outside of the normally occurring range". When establishing the pH permit limits for discharges of non-contact cooling water, the DEM divided the discharges into two (2) major categories.

The first category is for facilities that use private well water as the source for its non-contact cooling water. Due to the lack of approved pH controls on private well water sources, the DEM has assigned a pH limit that is equivalent to the water quality criteria for the receiving water (e.g., either 6.5 S.U. – 9.0 S.U. for freshwater or 6.5 S.U. – 8.5 S.U. for saltwater). By placing pH limitations on the discharge, which are equivalent to the water quality criteria, the DEM is ensured that the discharge will not cause the receiving waters to violate the applicable water quality criteria.

The second category is for facilities that use a municipal water supply as the source water for non-contact cooling. In these instances, the pH of the receiving water is controlled using an approved treatment process (e.g., municipal drinking water treatment). Therefore, the DEM's concern is that the pH of the non-contact cooling water may be changed as a result of a leak in

the cooling system. Therefore, to monitor this, the DEM has limited the pH change (effluent – influent) of the non-contact cooling water to 0.5 S.U.

Total Residual Chlorine

The Non-Contact Cooling Water General Permit will establish TRC monitoring requirements for permittees and will limit the allowable discharge TRC concentration. This will ensure that discharges comply with water quality standards for chlorine. Potable water sources typically are chlorinated to minimize or eliminate pathogens. Regulations at 40 CFR § 141.72 require that a public water system's residual disinfection concentration cannot be less than 0.2 mg/l for more than 4 hours. Therefore, the discharge of chlorinated drinking water has the potential to exceed water quality standards for chlorine. Since the permit does not cover discharges that add chemicals, discharges from facilities using other water sources are not likely to contain chlorine in concentrations sufficient to exceed water quality standards.

The TRC limits and associated monitoring requirements only apply to facilities that use municipal drinking water as a source of non-contact cooling water. The permittee may not add chlorine or any other biocide to non-contact cooling water used at the facility (See Part I.B.(3).)

The Rhode Island Water Quality Regulations at 250-RICR-150-05 §1.20, states that in all surface waters, existing uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect the existing uses shall be maintained and protected, and is applicable to any new, reissued, or modified RIPDES permits. Establishing TRC monitoring requirements for permittees and limiting the allowable discharge TRC concentration is consistent with EPA Region 1 NCCW permitting practices; wherein the maximum effluent concentration of chlorine shall not exceed 1.0 mg/l TRC. In Rhode Island the TRC limits established for discharges with high dilution factors will be capped at 1.0 mg/l based on this policy. This upper TRC effluent limit will adequately protect aquatic organisms from toxic amounts of chlorine.

The dilution factor and applicable chlorine limits will be approved by DEM during review of the facilities' NOI. The permittee will be provided with these limits when notified of permit coverage.

Limits

Rhode Island has narrative criteria in the Rhode Island Water Quality Regulations that prohibit toxic discharges in toxic amounts (See 250-RICR-150-05 §1.26). The listed limits on chlorine will ensure that chlorine is not discharged in toxic amounts. The State of Rhode Island also has numeric water quality criteria for chlorine (See 250-RICR-150-05 §1.26(J)), which are the same as the recommended federal water quality criteria. DEM will base chlorine effluent limits on these water quality criteria for discharges to flowing freshwater bodies, which are listed below.

- Freshwater acute 19 ug/l (0.019 mg/l); use for daily maximum
- Freshwater chronic 11 ug/l (0.011 mg/l); use for average monthly

TRC effluent limits will be based on the following equation:

Effluent Limit = (Dilution Factor) x (Water-Quality Criterion)

The dilution factor will be based on the same 7Q10 flow the permit applicant determines for effluent temperature limits, as written in the NOI. The accompanying dilution factor worksheet details the use of StreamStats, a USGS application for determining values such as 7Q10 for where the permit applicant discharges into the receiving stream.

For any facility using municipal water as their source of non-contact cooling water and discharging to a saltwater habitat, or to non-flowing freshwater bodies such as lakes or ponds, the maximum daily and average monthly concentration of TRC allowed in the effluent

is 0.02 mg/L. This limit is based upon the quantitation limits of available methods approved by EPA as detailed in 40 CFR 136. Because lakes and ponds do not flow, DEM has assigned these freshwater bodies a dilution factor of 1 (one). Therefore, these non-flowing freshwater bodies will have the same effluent limits as saltwater bodies, also given a dilution factor of 1 (one). By limiting the TRC concentration such that the discharge will be below the quantitation limit the DEM will be assured that chlorine criteria will not be exceeded.

TRC concentrations are required to be measured (analyzed) within 15 minutes of collection of the sample per 40 CFR 136. The following methods may be used to analyze the grab samples: (1) Low Level Amperometric Titration, Standard Methods (18th Edition) No. 4500-CI E; (2) DPD Spectrophotometric, EPA No. 330.5 or Standard Methods (18th Edition) No. 4500-CI G.), all data below the detection level of 0.02 mg/L shall be reported as non-detect.

Dilution Factors for discharges to Freshwater

The available dilution shall be reviewed by DEM using the equations that can be found in the 2018 Freshwater Dilution Worksheet and described in Section VII of the 2018 NOI Instructions. Both the dilution factor and applicable chlorine limits will be reviewed by DEM during review of the facility's NOI. The permittee will be provided with these limits when notified of permit coverage.

Exemptions

The following dischargers are exempt from the TRC testing requirements of this rule unless DEM determines that there is a need for testing based on the nature, location, or circumstances of an individual discharge.

- a. When discharging to a freshwater body the point of discharge from the facility is at least 2100 feet from the receiving water body (i.e. the discharge is to a stormwater system that conveys the NCCW discharge to the receiving water), or;
- b. When discharging to a saltwater body the point of discharge from the facility is at least 2400 feet from the receiving water body, or;
- c. If the facility has four consecutive quarters of non-detection for TRC the facility may request a waiver from DEM to be exempt from TRC requirements for the remainder of the permit period or until DEM determines there is a reason to resume sampling.

If the facility meets the requirements for at least one of these exemptions, the facility may be exempt from TRC monitoring for the effective period of the permit, unless DEM determines there is a reason to resume testing.

The distance-based exemptions are based on calculations for chlorine dissipation from non-contact cooling water while traveling through storm-sewer systems (See Attachment B of this fact sheet) adapted from "Chlorine Dissipation from NCCW in Storm Drains" (Knutson, 2015) by Jason Knutson, P.E. at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Flow

A flow limit will be established for each facility based on the information contained in the NOI. The flow limit will ensure that the dilution does not fall below that which was listed in the NOI. This will guard against a facility increasing its flow to a point where adverse temperature impacts will be seen in the receiving waters. Additionally, to prevent any water quality impacts from large non-contact cooling water flows, facilities with flows greater than 1.0 Million Gallons per Day (MGD) are not eligible to obtain coverage under this general permit. These facilities must apply for an individual permit.

Antibacksliding and Antidegradation

The Antibacksliding Provision of the Clean Water Act (found in section 402(o) and repeated in 40 CFR 122.44(I)) prohibits issuing a permit containing less stringent effluent limits than the comparable limits from the previous permit. In terms of a RIPDES permit, an increased discharge is defined as an increase in any limitation, which would result in an increased mass loading to a receiving water. The baseline for this comparison would be the monthly average mass loading established by the previous permit. It would be inappropriate to use the daily maximum mass loading since the Policy is not applicable to short-term changes in water quality. Since none of the limits in the existing non-contact cooling water general permit are more stringent than the limits in this non-contact cooling water general permit, antibacksliding regulations are being met.

Antidegradation is intended to protect current water quality by preventing increases in the discharge of pollutants to surface waters. This general permit will not apply to any new or increased discharge unless it can be determined that such discharges will not result in significant effects to the receiving waters. This determination shall be made in accordance with the Rhode Island Antidegradation Policy prior to issuing a general permit.

Geothermal Systems at Three-Family or Smaller Residential Buildings

This permit establishes a separate category for groundwater discharges from geothermal systems at three-family and smaller residential buildings. These buildings typically use "Open loop" geothermal systems that use well water pumped into the heat pump unit where the heat is extracted and the water is then discharged into a surface water. Typical water requirements are approximately three gallons per minute of well water per ton of cooling capacity. As a result, a 3,000-square-foot, well-insulated home would typically require 10 to 15 gallons per minute.

B. Discharges from residential geothermal heat exchangers at three-family or smaller residential buildings are not required to submit monitoring results to the DEM, however, they are required to comply with appropriate water quality-based limits. The temperature limits chosen for this category are equivalent to the maximum temperature changes from the Rhode Island Water Quality Regulations for either freshwater discharges (receiving water's temperature not to be raised more than 4.0 °F) or for saltwater discharges (the receiving water's temperature not to be raised more than 4.0 °F from October 1 through June 15 or more than 1.6 °F from June 16 through September 30). Since this category only authorizes discharges from geothermal systems at three-family or smaller homes that use private well water, the DEM's concern is that the pH of the well water may be changed as a result of a leak in the system. Therefore, the permit also includes pH limits for this category based on the pH limits from the Rhode Island Water Quality Criteria. Discharges from these facilities into saltwater receiving waters shall not cause the pH of the receiving water to be more than 0.2 s.u. outside of the normally occurring range and discharges from these facilities into freshwater receiving waters shall not cause the receiving water's pH to be outside of the range of 6.5 – 9.0 s.u. DEM may require sampling to confirm that the above limits are being met on a case-by-case basis.

Discharges of non-contact cooling water from geothermal systems at three-family and smaller residential buildings shall be automatically granted authorization to discharge on the effective date of this permit. Any discharges from geothermal systems that are not associated with a three-family or smaller residential buildings cannot get coverage under this section. However, these discharges are eligible for coverage under the other sections of the general permit.

4. FINAL PERMIT LIMITATIONS

It is only necessary to establish permit limits for those pollutants in the discharge which have the reasonable potential to cause or contribute to the exceedance of in-stream criteria. Based on the analysis presented above, permit limits are required for Temperature, pH, TRC, and Flow.

5. LIMITATIONS ON COVERAGE

As previously indicated, to prevent any water quality impacts from large non-contact cooling water flows, facilities with flows greater than 1.0 Million Gallons per Day (MGD) are not eligible to obtain coverage under this general permit.

Also, to prevent water quality impacts from treatment chemicals, facilities that add water treatment chemicals to their non-contact cooling water are not eligible to obtain coverage.

Facilities that have been determined to be a potential cause of a water quality violation or have been determined that they may adversely impact a listed, endangered, or threatened species cannot obtain coverage under this general permit.

In accordance with 250-RICR-150-05 §1.25 of the Rhode Island Water Quality Regulations, discharges into the terminal reservoir of a public water supply cannot obtain coverage under this general permit.

Facilities that have non-contact cooling water, which uses ground water that is impacted by a release of a toxic or hazardous material, and/or non-contact cooling water that is contaminated from failing or leaking heat exchangers or process equipment cannot obtain coverage under this general permit. All permittees are required to perform annual testing of its cooling water system to verify that it is not leaking and maintain such records on site for a minimum period of five (5) years to be made available upon request.

Any owner or operator authorized by a general permit may request to be excluded from coverage of a general permit by applying for an individual permit. This request may be made by submitting a NPDES permit application together with reasons supporting the request. The Director may also require any person authorized by a general permit to apply for and obtain an individual permit. Any interested person may petition the Director to take this action. However, individual permits will not be issued for sources discharging non-contact cooling water covered by this general permit unless it can be clearly demonstrated that inclusion under the general permit is inappropriate. The Director may consider the issuance of individual permits when:

- A. The discharger is not in compliance with the terms and conditions of the general permit;
- B. A change has occurred in the availability of demonstrated technology or practices for the control or abatement of pollutants applicable to the point source;
- C. Effluent limitations guidelines are subsequently promulgated for the point sources covered by the general NPDES permit;
- D. A Water Quality Management plan or Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) containing requirements applicable to such point sources is approved;
- E. Circumstances have changed since the time of the request to be covered so that the discharger is no longer appropriately controlled under the general permit, or either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the authorized discharge is necessary; or
- F. The discharge(s) is a significant contributor of pollution.

In accordance with 40 CFR 122.28(b)(3)(iv), the applicability of the general permit is automatically terminated on the effective date of the individual permit.

6. MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Monitoring and reporting requirements as included in the permit are shown below. Major changes include the addition of language including NetDMR for reporting purposes.

More information and links regarding electronic reporting can be found from the Rhode Island DEM, RIPDES web page, under the section entitled "ELECTRONIC REPORTING" found at:

http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/water/permits/ripdes/reporting.php

Monitoring and Reporting

(1) Monitoring

All monitoring required by this permit shall begin on the first day of the quarter immediately following authorization and shall be done in accordance with sampling and analytical testing procedures specified in Federal Regulations (40 CFR Part 136).

(2) Submittal of DMRs Using NetDMR

Monitoring results obtained during the previous calendar quarter shall be summarized and reported to DEM in discharge monitoring reports (DMRs) submitted electronically using the NetDMR reporting tool (https://netdmr/epa.gov). When the permittee submits DMRs using NetDMR, it is not required to submit hard copies of DMRs to DEM.

The first report is due for the calendar quarter immediately following the date in which the facility obtained coverage under this general permit. Testing shall be reported as follows:

Quarter Testing	Report Due	Results Submitted		
to be Performed	No Later Than	with DMR for		
January 1 – March 31	April 15	March		
April 1 – June 30	July 15	June		
July 1 – September 30	October 15	September		
October 1 - December 31	January 15	December		

(3) Submittal of Reports as NetDMR Attachments

Unless otherwise specified in this permit, the permittee must submit electronic copies of documents in NetDMR that are directly related to the DMR. These include the following:

- DMR Cover Letters
- Below Detection Limit summary tables

All other reports should be submitted to DEM as a hard copy via regular US mail (See Part II.H.(4). below).

(4) Submittal of Requests and Reports to DEM

The following requests, reports, and information described in this permit shall be submitted as hard copy to the DEM.

- A. Transfer of Permit notice
- B. Request for changes in sampling location
- C. Request for termination
- D. Written notifications required under Part II
- E. Notice of unauthorized discharges

These reports, information, and requests shall be submitted to DEM by hard copy mail to the address listed at Part III.B.

(5) Verbal Reports and Verbal Notifications

Any verbal reports or verbal notifications, if required in Parts I - IV of this permit, shall be made to the DEM. This includes verbal reports and notifications required under Part IV.G. General Requirements. Verbal reports and verbal notifications shall be made to DEM at (401) 222-4700 or (401) 222-3070 at night.

Table #1: Final Permit Limitations – note references in the table refer to sections in the NCCW General Permit.

Permit.	Dilution Factor ¹	Discharge Limitations		Monitoring Requirements			
Effluent Characteristic		Avg. Monthly	Max Daily	Monitoring	Sample Type		
				Less than or equal to 50,000 GPD	More than 50,000 GPD		
Flow: All Discharges		Report	XXX	1/Month	1/Week	Calculated ²	
Temperature: Discharge to	Less than Fifteen (15) ¹		83 °F³	1/Month	1/Week	Grab or Continuous	
Freshwater, Warm Water Habitat	Equal to or Greater than Fifteen (15) ¹		92 °F³	1/Month	1/Week	Grab or Continuous	
Temperature: Discharge to Freshwater, Cold Water Habitat	Less than Fifteen (15) ¹		68 °F³	1/Month	1/Week	Grab or Continuous	
	Equal to or Greater than Fifteen (15) ¹		92 °F³	1/Month	1/Week	Grab or Continuous	
Temperature: Discharge to Saltwater Habitat			83 °F ⁵	1/Month	1/Week	Grab or Continuous	
pH: Facilities that use a private water source and discharge to a Freshwater Habitat		6.5 s.u. (min)	9.0 s.u. (max)	1/Month	1/Week	Grab or Continuous	
pH: Facilities that use a private water source and discharge to a Saltwater Habitat		6.5 s.u. ⁶ (min)	8.5 s.u. ⁶ (max)	1/Month	1/Week	Grab or Continuous	
pH: Facilities that use a municipal water supply as its source water and discharge to either a Freshwater or Saltwater Habitat			A pH change of equal to or less than 0.5 s.u. ⁷	1/Month	1/Week	Calculated ⁷	
Total Residual Chlorine: Facilities that use a municipal water supply as its source water and discharge to Freshwater Habitats (not Lakes or Ponds)	See Part II.F.	See Part II.F.	See Part II.F.	1/Quarter	1/Quarter	Grab⁴	
Total Residual Chlorine: Facilities that use a municipal water supply as its source water and discharge to Saltwater Habitat and Lakes or Ponds		0.02 mg/L ⁸	0.02 mg/L ⁸	1/Quarter	1/Quarter	Grab⁴	

XXX Signifies a parameter that, for each permittee, will be limited based upon the maximum non-contact cooling water design flow in the applicant's Notice of Intent.

Sampling shall be performed on a typical operating day.

- ¹ See NCCW NOI Instructions for dilution factor calculations.
- ² Flow shall be either calculated using a flow totalizer or estimated using the cooling water pumping rate.
- ³ In no case shall the discharge cause the temperature of the receiving water to be raised more than 4.0 °F
- ⁴ Compliance with these limitations shall be determined by taking a minimum of four (4) grab samples equally spaced over the course of a normal operating day. The maximum value to be reported is the highest individual measurement obtained during the monitoring period. The minimum value to be reported is the lowest individual measurement obtained during the monitoring period. Continuous monitoring devices may be used to measure effluent and water body temperature and pH. When required, the maximum temperature and monthly average temperature shall be reported based on the continuous dataset.
- ⁵ In no case shall the discharge cause the temperature of the receiving water to be raised more than 4.0 °F (from October 1 through June 15) or more than 1.6 °F (from June 16 through September 30).
- ⁶ In no case shall the discharge cause the pH of the receiving water to be more than 0.2 s.u. outside the normally occurring range.
- ⁷ Sampling for influent and effluent shall be conducted using appropriate allowances for hydraulic detention (flow-through) time. These values will then be used to calculate the pH change. The maximum value to be reported is the largest individual pH change calculated for the reporting period. In no case shall the discharge cause the receiving water's pH to be outside the range of 6.5-9.0 s.u. for discharge to all Freshwater Habitats or the pH to be outside the range of 6.5-8.5 s.u. for Saltwater Habitats.
- ⁸ The limit at which compliance/noncompliance determinations will be based is the Quantitation Limit which is defined as 0.02 mg/l for TRC. These values may be reduced by permit modification as more sensitive methods are approved by EPA and the State. The following methods may be used to analyze the grab samples: (1) Low Level Amperometric Titration, Standard Methods (18th Edition) No. 4500-Cl E; (2) DPD Spectrophotometric, EPA No. 330.5 or Standard Methods (18th Edition) No. 4500-Cl G.

7. COMMENT PERIOD, HEARING REQUESTS, AND PROCEDURES FOR FINAL DECISIONS

All persons, including applicants, who believe any condition of the draft permit is inappropriate must raise all issues and submit all available arguments and all supporting material for their arguments in full by the close of the public comment period, to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Office of Water Resources, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02908-5767. Any person, prior to such date, may submit a request in writing for a public hearing to consider the draft permit to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. Such requests shall state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing. A public hearing may be held after at least thirty days public notice whenever the Director finds that response to this notice indicates significant public interest. In reaching a final decision on the draft permit the Director will respond to all significant comments and make these responses available to the public at DEM's Providence Office.

Following the close of the comment period, and after a public hearing, if such hearing is held, the Director will issue a final permit decision and forward a copy of the final decision to the applicant and each person who has submitted written comments or requested notice. Within 30 days following the notice of the final permit decision any interested person may submit a request for a formal hearing to reconsider or contest the final decision. Requests for formal hearings must satisfy the requirements of 250-RICR-150-10 §1.50 of the Regulations for the Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.

8. DEM CONTACT

Additional information concerning the permit may be obtained between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays from:

Travis J. Babikoff
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
RIPDES Program

235 Promenade Street
Providence, Rhode Island, 02908
Telephone: (401) 222-4700 ext: 7274

E-mail: travis.babikoff@dem.ri.gov /

11/8/18

Joseph B. Haberek, P.E. Supervising Sanitary Engineer Office of Water Resources

Department of Environmental Management

ATTACHMENT A

Existing Non-Contact Cooling Water Permittees

Attachment A Currently Permitted Noncontact Cooling Water (NCCW) Dischargers

Permit Number	Facility	Facility Location	Mailing Address	Receiving Stream	Habitat	Dilution	Source Water
RIG250001	International Manufacturing Services, Inc.	50 Schoolhouse Lane Portsmouth, RI	50 Schoolhouse Lane Portsmouth, RI 02871	Sakonnet River	Salt	>15	Municipal
RIG250004	Original Bradford Soap Works	200 Providence Street West Warwick, RI	200 Providence Street West Warwick, RI 02893	South Branch Pawtuxet River	Warm	>15	Private Well
RIG250006	Induplate, Inc.	1 Greystone Drive North Providence, RI	P.O. Box 3855 North Providence, RI 02911	Woonasquatucket River	Warm	>15	Private Well
RIG250012	CNC International	20 Privilege Street Woonsocket, RI	P.O. Box 3000 Woonsocket, RI 02895	Mill River	Cold	>15	Municipal
RIG250013	Toray Plastics, Inc.	560 Old Baptist Road North Kingstown, RI	50 Belver Avenue North Kingstown, RI 02852	Sandhill Brook	Warm	<15	Municipal
RIG250018	Immunex RI Corp., Sub of Amgen	40 Technology Way W. Greenwich, RI	40 Technology Way W. Greenwich, RI	Unnamed Tributary to Tiogue Lake	Warm	<15	Municipal
RIG250019	Leonard Valve Company	1360 Elmwood Ave. Cranston, RI	1360 Elmwood Ave. Cranston, RI 02910	Fenner Pond	Warm	<15	Municipal
RIG250021	Twin Oaks Restaurant	100 Sabra St. Cranston, RI	100 Sabra St. Cranston, RI 02910	Spectacle Pond	Warm	<15	Municipal

ATTACHMENT B
Chlorine Dissipation from NCCW in Storm Drains

Chlorine Dissipation from Non-Contact Cooling Water (NCCW) in Storm Drains
Adapted from "Chlorine Dissipation from NCCW in Storm Drains" (Knutson, 2015) by Jason Knutson, P.E. at Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Purpose:

The purpose of this calculation is to calculate the travel distance within storm drains required for chlorine to dissipate from concentrations typically found in drinking water (0.2 mg/L – see 40 CFR § 141.72) to Rhode Island's Water Quality Standards listed below.

- Freshwater acute 19 ug/l (0.019 mg/l); use for daily maximum
- Freshwater chronic 11 ug/l (0.011 mg/l); use for average monthly
- Saltwater acute 13 ug/l (0.013 mg/l); use for daily maximum
- Saltwater chronic 7.5 ug/l (0.0075 mg/l); use for average monthly

The nature of this calculation is intentionally conservative in that it neglects two significant sinks of chlorine during transport: (1) dissipation during the wastewater's drop into the storm drain and (2) degradation of chlorine due to contact with organic material within the storm drain. It only considers dissipation of chlorine during laminar flow through the storm drain.

Summary:

Chlorine levels in non-contact cooling water (NCCW) will be reduced to Rhode Island's Water Quality standards for acute toxicity by the time the NCCW travels 1950 feet within storm sewers for discharges to saltwater bodies and 1700 feet for discharges to freshwater bodies. Dischargers covered under Rhode Island's NCCW General Permit who are situated greater than the above listed distances from the receiving body they discharge to may be exempted from compliance requirements for chlorine, so long as chlorine concentrations within their discharge are not above the typical concentration in potable water (0.2 mg/L).

Inputs and Justifications:

- Flow rate (Q) = 1.0 MGD (1.547 fps). This effluent flow rate is the maximum allowable effluent flow rate for NCCW General Permit holders in the state. It was selected as the Q for conservative purposes.
- Manning Coefficient (n) = 0.013. Concrete pipes typically have Manning coefficients between 0.012 and 0.014 (Munson et al 569). The 0.013 value was confirmed by the DEM's stormwater engineers as the typical for storm drain calculations.
- Slope of storm drains (S) = 1%. DEM's stormwater engineers concurred that a typical slope for storm drains is around 1%, and cited the Rhode Island Stormwater Design Manual minimum slope criteria.
- Storm drain pipe diameter (D) = 1.5 feet. The typical minimum size for storm drains is 12" diameter. However, size increases with proximity to the receiving water, so storm drain outfalls less than 18" in diameter are uncommon. Because the calculations in this

model are focused on the final few thousand feet before the outfall, a size of 18" was used as an input.

- Concentration of chlorine (C_o) = 0.2 mg/L. The concentration of chlorine within typical potable water, at the point of use, is 0.2 mg/L.
- Rhode Island's Water Quality Standard for Chlorine (C) = 0.019 mg/L for freshwater acute and 0.013 mg/L for saltwater acute.
- Molecular Weight of O₂ = 32.0 g/mol
- Molecular Weight of Cl₂ = 70.9 g/mol
- **K** = **1.49.** This is the correction factor for use of British Units in the Manning equation.

Equations used:

Manning equation
$$V = \frac{K}{n} R_h^{\frac{2}{8}} S^{\frac{1}{2}}$$
 (1) (V [ft/s], K [], n [], R_h [ft], S[]) or $Q = \frac{K}{n} A R_h^{2/3} S^{1/2}$ (2) (Q [ft³/s], K [], n [], A [ft²], R_h [ft], S []) (2) (Q [ft³/s], K [], n [], A [ft²], R_h [ft], S []) (3) Wetted Perimeter $P = \frac{D\theta}{2}$ (4) Hydraulic Radius $R_h = \frac{A}{p} = \frac{D(\theta - \sin \theta)}{4\theta}$ (5) Depth of Flow $d = \frac{D}{2} (1 - \cos(\frac{\theta}{2}))$ (6) from Thin Film Theory:
$$\frac{k_{Cl_2}}{k_{O_2}} = \frac{\sqrt{MW_{Cl_2}}}{\sqrt{MW_{O_2}}}$$
 (7) Reaeration Equation (Owens et al) $k_{O_2} = \frac{23.2 \ V^{0.78}}{d^{1.75}}$ (8) (k_{O2} [d⁻¹], V [ft/s], d [ft]) First Order Decay $C = C_0 e^{-k_{Cl_2} t}$ (9)

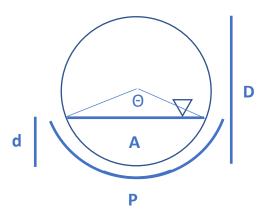


Figure 1: Cross-section of a pipe, for use with equations (3) - (5).

A = Cross-sectional area of flow

d = depth

D = Diameter

P = Wetted Perimeter

R_h = Hydraulic Radius

V = Average velocity of NCCW in storm drain surface

t = time

 Θ = Angle from pipe center to NCCW

Calculation:

Step 1: Calculate depth of flow in storm drain

Substitute the Area Under Chord equation (3) and the Hydraulic Radius equation (5) into the Manning equation (2) for A and R_h :

$$Q = \frac{K}{n} (A) (R_h)^{2/3} S^{1/2}$$

$$Q = \frac{K}{n} (\frac{D^2 (\theta - \sin \theta)}{8}) (\frac{D (\theta - \sin \theta)}{4\theta})^{2/3} S^{1/2}$$

$$Q = \frac{K}{n} \frac{D^{8/3}}{2^{13/3}} \frac{(\theta - \sin \theta)^{5/3}}{\theta^{2/3}} S^{1/2}$$

Solving this equation for Θ , using the inputs stated above, gives:

$$\theta = 2.1357 \ radians$$

Plug this into the Depth of Flow equation:

$$d = \frac{D}{2}(1 - \cos\left(\frac{(2.1357)}{2}\right))$$
$$d = 0.38849 \ feet$$

Step 2: Calculate the average velocity of NCCW in the storm drain

Find the submerged cross-sectional area using Θ and the Area Under Chord equation (3):

$$A = \frac{D^2 ((2.1357) - \sin(2.1357))}{8}$$
$$A = 0.36310$$

Divide the Flow Rate by the cross-sectional Area to find the average flow velocity:

$$V = \frac{Q}{A} = \frac{2.47557 \, ft^3/s}{.50841 \, ft^2}$$

$$V = 4.2612 feet/second$$

Step 3: Calculate the distance required for sufficient dissipation of chlorine

The Owens, et al. reaeration equation is an empirical equation used to model the rate at which oxygen is exchanged between air and water (the reaeration rate or gas exchange rate for O₂):

$$k_{O_2} = \frac{23.2 \, V^{0.73}}{d^{1.75}}$$

According to the Thin Film Theory, the ratio of the square roots of molecular weights of two gases is equal to the ratio of their gas exchange coefficients. Solve for the gas exchange rate for Cl_2 by substituting in the Owens, et al. equation:

$$\frac{k_{\mathcal{Cl}_2}}{k_{\mathcal{O}_2}} = \ \frac{\sqrt{MW_{\mathcal{Cl}_2}}}{\sqrt{MW_{\mathcal{O}_2}}}$$

$$k_{Cl_2} = k_{O_2} * \frac{\sqrt{MW_{Cl_2}}}{\sqrt{MW_{O_2}}}$$

$$k_{Cl_2} = \frac{23.2 V^{0.73}}{d^{1.75}} * \frac{\sqrt{MW_{Cl_2}}}{\sqrt{MW_{O_2}}}$$

Assuming that the concentration of Chlorine in the air is negligible, the following first-order decay equation represents the dissipation of chlorine from water:

$$C = C_0 e^{-k_{Cl2} t}$$

Solve it for time:

$$t = \frac{\ln(C/C_0)}{-k_{\rm Gl2}}$$

Multiply by velocity to solve for distance the water must travel for chlorine to dissipate:

$$distance = \frac{\ln(C/C_0)}{-k_{C/2}} * V$$

Factor in a correction of units:

distance =
$$\frac{\ln(\frac{c}{c_0})[]}{-k_{C/2}[d^{-1}]} * V [ft/s] * \frac{60*60*24 s}{1 day}$$

Substitute the derived equation for k_{Cl2} into this equation, and solve for distance:

$$distance \ = \ - \ \frac{\ln \left(\frac{C}{C_0}\right) * d^{1.75} \sqrt{MW_{O_2}}}{23.2 \ * \sqrt{MW_{Cl_2}}} * V^{0.27} * \frac{86,400 \ s}{1 \ day}$$

Substitute either a) 0.019 mg/L for concentration (C) to get the distance for dischargers to freshwater bodies or b) 0.013 mg/L for concentration (C) for dischargers to saltwater.

a)
$$distance = -\frac{\ln\left(\frac{0.019}{0.2}\right) * (0.38849\,ft)^{1.75} \sqrt{32.0\frac{g}{mol}}}{23.2 * \sqrt{70.9\frac{g}{mol}}} * \left(4.2612\frac{ft}{s}\right)^{0.27} * \frac{86,400s}{1\,day}$$

b)
$$distance = -\frac{\ln\left(\frac{0.012}{0.2}\right) * (0.38849\,ft)^{1.75} \sqrt{32.0\frac{g}{mol}}}{23.2 * \sqrt{70.9\frac{g}{mol}}} * \left(4.2612\frac{ft}{s}\right)^{0.27} * \frac{86,400s}{1\,day}$$

- a) distance = 1700 feet required for dissipation of chlorine to freshwater acute WQS
- b) distance = 1950 feet required for dissipation of chlorine to saltwater acute WQS