

Dewatering Question & Answers

1. What is dewatering?

- A. *Dewatering is the temporary lowering of the ground water level, by pumping or mechanical means to allow construction and extraction activities. Due to Florida's high-water table, it is very common to dewater during construction. Dewatering Activities is defined in Part 8.7 of the Generic Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Large and Small Construction Activities (CGP) as:*

8.7 "Dewatering activities"

For the purposes of this generic permit means temporarily lowering the ground water level, whether confined or unconfined, by mechanical pumping to allow for construction and excavation activities at the construction site covered by this generic permit.

2. Can I discharge water from groundwater dewatering operations under the Generic Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Large and Small Construction Activities (CGP)?

A: *Yes. If you selected or checked "dewatering operations" on your application or Notice of Intent and meet the following requirements. The property is either:*

1. *Not identified as a contaminated site and there is no identified contaminated site within 500 feet*
Or
2. *It is identified as a contaminated site, but documentation confirms that the contamination has been remediated*
Or
3. *The pollutants of concern are not present in groundwater at the project site at concentrations equal to or greater than the surface water criteria in [Rule 62-302.530, F.A.C.](#)*

3. How can you quickly determine if your CGP authorizes dewatering?

- A. *A CGP permit number that starts with **FLR20**, it authorizes dewatering. A CGP permit number that starts with FLR10 does not authorize dewatering discharges from the construction site.*

4. How do I determine if my site is uncontaminated?

A: You may use the DEP Contamination Locator Map (CLM) and DEP's Institutional Controls Registry (ICR) Web Viewer to determine cleanup restoration status.

[Contamination Locator Map \(CLM - Web site\)](#)

[Contamination Locator Map \(CLM - Mapping Application\)](#)

[DEP's Institutional Controls Registry \(ICR - Web site\)](#)

[DEP's Institutional Controls Registry \(ICR - Mapping Application\)](#)

Note: The permittee may use other information available to them to complete the Notice of Intent (NOI) or application such as Environmental Assessments which is common in real estate transactions and bank loans.

5. What do I do if my construction site is "contaminated" or within 500 feet of a contaminated site?

- A. Contact your local FDEP Office (Industrial Wastewater Permitting Section) to discuss your permitting options. For contaminated sites, an individual wastewater permit may be required. Other potential disposal options include discharge to sanitary sewer and collecting the dewatering discharge in a vac truck for disposal at a wastewater treatment facility. Visit [Florida Department of Environmental Protection - District Offices](#) to find your local FDEP Office.

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6. Are there other permits or authorizations that may be required?

A. Yes. Certain Water Management Districts (WMD) may require a permit or authorization to dewater. In addition, some Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) may have specific requirements to discharge dewatering wastewater into their MS4. Visit [Water Management Districts | FDEP](#) to find you local WMD Office. A comprehensive list of regulated Phase I and Phase II MS4s is available at [Stormwater Facility Information - FDEP](#).

7. What are some common methods or dewatering practices that you might see in the field?

A. *There are three main types / methods of dewatering that you may see in the field.*

1. *Sump Rim Ditch*
2. *Sock System (Horizontal Well)*
3. *Well Point System (Vertical Well)*

1. Filter Bag (Common Dewatering BMP)



2. Sump (rim) ditch with a filter bag



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3. Well-Point Dewatering (Vertical Well)



8. Does the CGP have any specific requirements for dewatering?

A. Yes. The CGP has several requirements for dewatering. For complete details, review the CGP.

Your Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) must include a description of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will be used to ensure that discharges of noncontaminated ground water from dewatering operations do not cause or contribute to violations of state water quality standards.

3.4.4 Documentation that the project site is uncontaminated must be kept at the project site with the SWPPP.

3.4.5 Appropriate dewatering BMPs shall be implemented to ensure that discharges from dewatering operations do not cause or contribute to violations of water quality standards. (See Part 5.8.) The BMPs must be included in the Dewatering Section of the SWPPP.

3.4.6 Discharges from dewatering operations must:

a) Not include visible floating solids or foam;

b) When feasible, discharge onto vegetated upland areas of the site where the water can infiltrate. As an alternative, the water can be discharged into the permitted stormwater system serving the project site.