

FACT SHEET
REISSUANCE OF A GENERAL VPDES PERMIT FOR VEHICLE WASH FACILITIES AND LAUNDRY FACILITIES
Permit Effective January 1, 2023

The Virginia State Water Control Board has under consideration the reissuance of a VPDES general permit for point source discharges from facilities discharging vehicle wash and laundry wastewater to the surface waters of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Permit Number: VAG75

Name of Permittee: Any owner of a qualifying vehicle wash facility or laundry facility with point source discharges to the surface waters of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Facility Location: Commonwealth of Virginia

Receiving Waters: Surface waters within the boundaries of the Commonwealth of Virginia, except those specifically named in Board regulations which prohibit such discharges.

On the basis of preliminary review and application of lawful standards and regulations, the State Water Control Board proposes to reissue the general VPDES permit subject to certain conditions. The Board has determined that this category of discharges is appropriately controlled under a general permit. The category of discharges to be included involves facilities with the same or similar types of operations and the facilities discharge the same or similar types of wastes. The general permit requires that all covered facilities meet standardized effluent limitations, monitoring requirements and Water Quality Standards ([9VAC25-260](#)). This general permit will replace the general permit (VAG75) which expires on October 15, 2021 but will be administratively continued through December 31, 2022 at which time reissued permit coverage will begin on January 1, 2023. Owners covered under the expiring general permit who wish to continue to discharge under a general permit must register for coverage under the new permit.

A public hearing and comment period was scheduled for the draft permit. The public notice was mailed or emailed to all registered permittees, the regulatory development mailing list and the permit public notice mailing list. Notice of the public hearing was published in the Richmond Times Dispatch on November 8 and 15, 2021.

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Activities Covered By This General Permit

This general permit will cover point source discharges of vehicle wash and/or laundry wastewater to surface waters of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The type of systems for vehicle wash facilities to be covered includes wastewater generated from any fixed or mobile facility where the manual, automatic, or self-service exterior washing of vehicles is conducted. A manual type facility consists of manual washing, rinsing and/or waxing the vehicle by personnel. In a tunnel type facility the vehicle is driven or pulled by a conveyor through the length of a building where separate washing, rinsing, and waxing operations are performed. In a rollover type facility the vehicle remains stationary while the equipment passes over the vehicle using high pressure water streams and/or brushes to clean and wax it. The wand type facility uses high-pressure streams of water to clean the vehicle.

The "vehicle wash" definition includes, but is not limited to, automobiles, trucks (except below), motor homes, buses, motorcycles, ambulances, fire trucks, tractor trailers, and other devices that convey passengers or goods on streets or highways. This industry primarily comprises establishments engaged in cleaning, washing, or waxing automotive vehicles, such as passenger cars, trucks, and vans, and trailers as designated by NAICS Code 811192 and Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code 7542. This definition also includes incidental floor cleaning wash waters associated with facilities that wash vehicles where the floor wash water also passes through the vehicle wash water treatment system, golf course equipment, lawn maintenance equipment, maintenance and construction equipment and recreational boats less than 8.6' beam and 25' in length towed by a vehicle. Construction equipment, maintenance equipment and recreational boats were added as allowable vehicles in 2017. The recreational boats in the definition are generally fiberglass or aluminum and not coated with ablative paints. This does NOT include hull cleaning and scraping or any type of maintenance of hulls typically performed at marinas. Trailer-able recreational boats are often rinsed off in car washes, particularly in saltwater areas. The size chosen (8.6' beam and 25' length) reflects the maximum length and beam that are safely towed by cars, SUVs or pick-up trucks.

The regulation in 9VAC25-194-10 contains definitions for "construction equipment," "golf course equipment" and "lawn maintenance equipment." The latter two definitions were added in 2022.

Vehicle wash does not mean engine cleaning or degreasing, the cleaning of floors in vehicle maintenance areas, cleaning of the interior of tanks or trailers carrying bulk or raw material, cleaning of equipment used in the paving industry, cleaning of chemical, fertilizer or pesticide spreading equipment, or cleaning of tanker trucks, garbage trucks, livestock trailers, trains, boats larger than 8.6' beam and 25' in length or aircraft or the use of acid caustic metal brighteners or steam heated water. In 2017, construction equipment was moved from an excluded activity to an allowed activity and defined because of public comment received.

Owners of mobile vehicle washes may apply for coverage under this permit; however the usual mode of operation for these operations is to prevent the discharge of wash waters to surface waters or the storm sewers. DEQ urges mobile car wash owners to avoid a discharge to state waters or storm drains by applying technologies to collect wash water and dispose of it properly, recycle it, or use best management practices (evaporation, blocking storm drain entrances, use of permeable surfaces, etc.). Many ideas to avoid a discharge are available online. Coverage as a mobile operator would require each discharge location to be covered separately and a registration statement submitted for each location.

Charity fundraising car washes are not covered under this general permit and are advised to conduct charity fund raising at permitted car wash facilities or avoid any surface water discharge via best management practices. As with mobile car washes, DEQ urges the charity car wash organizations to avoid a discharge to surface waters (see above). [Fundraising car wash guidelines](#) are available on the DEQ web site.

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This permit also allows coverage for point source discharges of laundry wastewater to surface waters of the State. These are generally facilities that are located in rural areas and are not served by central sewage facilities. The type of systems to be covered include wastewater generated from laundries designated by SIC 7215. These are establishments primarily engaged in the operation of coin-operated or similar self-service laundry equipment for use on the premises (e.g., laundromats), or in apartments, dormitories, and similar locations. However, this permit does not cover facilities that engage in dry cleaning, or commercial laundries of any type.

Any owner is authorized to discharge to surface waters of the Commonwealth of Virginia under this general permit if the owner submits and receives acceptance by the Board of the registration statement per 9VAC25-194-60, submits the required permit fee, complies with the effluent limitations and other requirements of 9VAC25-194-70, and provided that the Department has not notified the owner that the discharge is not eligible for coverage because of one of the following:

1. The owner is required to obtain an individual permit in accordance with [9VAC25-31-170 B 3](#) of the VPDES Permit Regulation;
2. Other board regulations prohibit such discharges;
3. The discharge violates or would violate the antidegradation policy in the Water Quality Standards at [9VAC25-260-30](#);
4. The discharge is not consistent with the assumptions and requirements of an approved TMDL; or
5. The discharge is to surface waters where there are central wastewater treatment facilities reasonably available, as determined by the board.

The regulation also contains section 9VAC25-194-50 E which allows for continuation of permit coverage when an owner authorized to discharge under the general permit submits a complete and timely registration statement and is not violating conditions under the expiring or expired general permit.

Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements Parts 1 A 1 and 1 A 2 (Vehicle Wash)

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Limitation</u>	<u>Monitoring</u> ⁽³⁾
Flow	5,000	Estimate
pH	9.0 max., 6.0 min. ⁽¹⁾	Grab
Total Suspended Solids	60 ⁽²⁾ mg/l max.	Composite ⁽⁴⁾
Oil and Grease	15 mg/l max.	Grab

Composite - Consisting of five grab samples collected at hourly intervals until the discharge ceases, or until a minimum of five grab samples have been collected.

- ⁽¹⁾ Where the Water Quality Standards ([9VAC25-260](#)) establish alternate standards for pH, those standards shall be the maximum and minimum effluent limitations.
- ⁽²⁾ Limit given is expressed in two significant figures.
- ⁽³⁾ Annual samples shall be collected by December 31 of each year and reported on the facility's Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR). Annual DMRs shall be submitted by January 10 of each year. Semi-annual samples in parts I A 2 shall be collected by December 31 and June 30 of each year and reported on the facility's Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) no later than January 10 and July 10 of each year.
- ⁽⁴⁾ 5 grab samples evenly spaced over an 8 hour period or 5 grab samples evenly spaced for the duration of the discharge, if less than 8 hours in length.

Two monitoring scenarios are proposed for vehicle wash facilities. Smaller facilities with average flow rates of less than or equal to 5,000 gallons per day are required to monitor once per year. All other facilities are required to monitor once per six months.

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Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements Part I A 3 (Laundry Wash)

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Limitation</u>	<u>Monitoring</u> ⁽³⁾
Flow	Monitoring	Estimate
pH	9.0 max., 6.0 min. ⁽¹⁾	Grab
Total Suspended Solids	60 ⁽²⁾ mg/l max.	Grab
BOD5	60 mg/l max. ^{(1), (2)}	Grab
Dissolved Oxygen	6.0 ⁽¹⁾ mg/l min.	Grab
Temperature °C	32 ^{(1), (4)}	Immersion Stabilization
Total Residual Chlorine	.011 ⁽¹⁾ mg/l	Grab
E. coli ⁽⁵⁾	235CFU/100ml	Grab
Enterococci ⁽⁶⁾	104CFU/100ml	Grab
Fecal Coliform ⁽⁷⁾	200CFU/100ml	Grab

(1) Where the Water Quality Standards ([9VAC25-260](#)) establish alternate standards for pH, BOD5, DO, TRC, and temperature in waters receiving the discharge, those standards shall be the maximum and/or minimum effluent limitations, as appropriate.

(2) Limit given is expressed in two significant figures.

(3) Reports of quarterly monitoring shall be submitted to the DEQ regional office no later than the tenth day of April, July, October, and January. Reports of once per six months shall be submitted no later than the tenth day of January and the tenth day of July for samples collected by December 31 and June 30 of each year.

(4) The effluent temperature shall not exceed a maximum 32°C for discharges to non-tidal coastal and piedmont waters, 31°C for mountain and upper piedmont waters, 21°C for put and take trout waters, or 20°C for natural trout waters. For estuarine waters, non-tidal coastal and piedmont waters, mountain and upper piedmont waters, and put and take trout waters, the effluent shall not cause an increase in temperature of the receiving stream of more than 3°C above the natural water temperature. For natural trout waters, the temperature of the effluent shall not cause an increase of 1°C above natural water temperature. The effluent shall not cause the temperature in the receiving stream to change more than 2°C per hour, except in the case of natural trout waters where the hourly temperature change shall not exceed 0.5°C.

(5) Applies only when the discharge is into freshwater (see [9VAC25-260-140 C](#) for the classes of waters and boundary designations).

(6) Applies only when the discharge is into saltwater or the transition zone (see [9VAC25-260-140 C](#) for the classes of waters and boundary designations).

(7) Applies only when the discharge is into shellfish waters (see [9VAC25-260-160](#) for the description of what are shellfish waters). DSS has provided the following to define the areas of the major river basins below as shellfish waters:

- Potomac River tributaries - Mathias Point upstream of the US 301 bridge
- Rappahannock River - Tappahannock Bridge (US 360)
- York River - upstream border of the Town of West Point
- James River - line connecting Swanns Point on the south bank to Glass House Point on the north bank (upper end of Jamestown Island).

Two monitoring frequencies are proposed. Flow, pH, TSS, BOD5, DO, TRC, are required to be monitored once per quarter. Temperature and bacteria (E. coli, enterococci or fecal coliform, as appropriate) are required to be monitored once per six months.

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Proposed Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements Part I A 4 (Combined Vehicle and Laundry Wash)

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Limitation</u>	<u>Monitoring</u> ⁽³⁾
Flow	Monitoring	Estimate
pH	9.0 max., 6.0 min. ⁽¹⁾	Grab
Total Suspended Solids	60 ⁽²⁾ mg/l max.	Grab
BOD5	60 mg/l max. ^{(1), (2)}	Grab
Oil and Grease	15 mg/l max.	Grab
Dissolved Oxygen	6.0 ⁽¹⁾ mg/l min.	Grab
Temperature °C	32 ^{(1), (4)}	Immersion Stabilization
Total Residual Chlorine	.011 ⁽¹⁾ mg/l	Grab
E. coli ⁽⁵⁾	235CFU/100ml	Grab
Enterococci ⁽⁶⁾	104CFU/100ml	Grab
Fecal Coliform ⁽⁷⁾	200CFU/100ml	Grab

(1) Where the Water Quality Standards ([9VAC 25-260](#)) establish alternate standards for pH, BOD5, DO, TRC, and temperature in waters receiving the discharge, those standards shall be the maximum and/or minimum effluent limitations, as appropriate.

(2) Limit given is expressed in two significant figures.

(3) Reports of quarterly monitoring shall be submitted to the DEQ regional office no later than the tenth day of April, July, October, and January. Reports of once per six months shall be submitted no later than the tenth day of January and the tenth day of July for samples collected by December 31 and June 30 of each year.

(4) The effluent temperature shall not exceed a maximum 32°C for discharges to non-tidal coastal and piedmont waters, 31°C for mountain and upper piedmont waters, 21°C for put and take trout waters, or 20°C for natural trout waters. For estuarine waters, non-tidal coastal and piedmont waters, mountain and upper piedmont waters, and put and take trout waters, the effluent shall not cause an increase in temperature of the receiving stream of more than 3°C above the natural water temperature. For natural trout waters, the temperature of the effluent shall not cause an increase of 1°C above natural water temperature. The effluent shall not cause the temperature in the receiving stream to change more than 2°C per hour, except in the case of natural trout waters where the hourly temperature change shall not exceed 0.5°C.

(5) Applies only when the discharge is into freshwater (see [9VAC25-260-140 C](#) for the classes of waters and boundary designations).

(6) Applies only when the discharge is into saltwater or the transition zone (see [9VAC25-260-140 C](#) for the classes of waters and boundary designations).

(7) Applies only when the discharge is into shellfish waters (see [9VAC25-260-160](#) for the description of what are shellfish waters). DSS has provided the following to define the areas of the major river basins below as shellfish waters:

- Potomac River tributaries - Mathias Point upstream of the US 301 bridge
- Rappahannock River - Tappahannock Bridge (US 360)
- York River - upstream border of the Town of West Point
- James River - line connecting Swanns Point on the south bank to Glass House Point on the north bank (upper end of Jamestown Island).

Two monitoring frequencies are proposed. Flow, pH, TSS, BOD5, DO, TRC, are required to be monitored once per quarter. Oil and grease, temperature and bacteria (E. coli, enterococci or fecal coliform, as appropriate) are required to be monitored once per six months.

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Basis For Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements PART I A

The Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed these categories of dischargers and concluded, in their *Guidance Document for Effluent Discharges From the Auto and Other Laundries Point Source Category*, dated February 1982, that the amounts and toxicity of pollutants in the discharges from these facilities did not justify national regulations.

In developing the proposed effluent limitations and special conditions the following information was reviewed: permitting strategies, effluent limitations, treatment technologies and special conditions that are being employed by the Department of Environmental Quality and the surrounding states for individual and general VPDES permits issued to car wash facilities and the Environmental Protection Agency's *Guidance Document for Effluent Discharges from the Auto and Other Laundries Point Source Category*, February 1982 and the *DRAFT Development Documents for Proposed Effluent Limitations Guidelines and New Sources Performance Standards for the Auto and Other Laundries Point Source Category*, April 1974.

Determined by the nature of the business, the parameters to be limited for vehicle wash are flow, pH, total suspended solids, and oil/grease. For laundries, the parameters are pH, total suspended solids, BOD₅, dissolved oxygen, temperature, total residual chlorine and bacteria (E. coli, enterococci or fecal coliform as appropriate for each water body). The pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, total residual chlorine and bacteria limitations are based upon Virginia's stream water quality standards ([9VAC25-260-50](#), [60](#), [70](#), [140](#), [160](#) and [170](#)). The enterococci and fecal coliform bacteria limits were added during the 2012 reissuance so that laundry discharges to salt water were clearly covered under this permit and have appropriate limitations. The total suspended solids, BOD₅ and oil/grease parameters are based on best judgment for the type of treatment employed by these systems. Complying with these parameters is an indication that the treatment system is being operated and maintained properly and is producing an acceptable quality effluent.

The basis for the reduced frequency of analysis for small vehicle wash dischargers with average flow rates of less than or equal to 5,000 gallons per day (GPD) (Part I A 1) is that their potential to affect water quality is minimal based on the small quantity of discharge. These are generally facilities that are located in rural areas and are not served by central sewerage facilities or car rental agencies that may discharge to municipal separate storm sewers (MS4) and may or may not have access to a central sewer that is feasible. The flow limit of 5,000 GPD was added in the 2022 reissuance at the request of a TAC (technical advisory committee) member to track when facilities need to be moved to the limits for a >5,000 GPD facility.

The treatment systems commonly utilized at vehicle wash facilities consist of sediment traps in the bays followed by a larger sedimentation basin baffled to contain any floating material, sand filtration and/or oil water separators. These treatment systems produce an acceptable quality effluent and operate well when maintained properly. Laundry facilities would have a sedimentation basin and depending on the size, would rarely discharge.

Basis and Rationale for Special Conditions PART I B

1. The permittee of a vehicle wash facility shall perform visual examinations of the effluent including sheens, floating solids, or visible foam and maintenance of the wastewater treatment facilities and inlet protection measures, if applicable, at least once per week and document this visual examination and maintenance activities in the operational log. This operational log shall include the examination date and time, examination personnel, presence of a discharge and the visual quality of the discharge. The operational log shall be made available for review by the department personnel upon request.

Rationale: 9VAC25-31-190 E and 40 CFR 122.41(e) require proper operation and maintenance of the permitted facility. The operational log is required so inspection staff can ensure the visual examinations have been taking place. Wastewater treatment facilities associated with vehicle wash facilities require more maintenance than at a laundry facility with a sedimentation basin so this condition does not apply to laundries.

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2. The effluent shall be free of sheens. There shall be no discharge of floating solids or visible foam in other than trace amounts.

Rationale: This is a common condition for effluents that may have oil and grease. This special condition was taken from the footnotes of Tables 1A from both the 2006 car wash permit and the 2011 coin laundry permit. This is a standard requirement for all permits per the VPDES Permit Manual (2010) and conforms to the general water quality criteria at 9VAC25-260-20.

3. No sewage shall be discharged from a point source to surface waters from this facility except under the provisions of another VPDES permits specifically issued for that purpose.

Rationale: The effluent limitations do not address pollutants typical of treated sewage; therefore, no sewage discharge to surface waters are permitted under the general permit.

4. There shall be no chemicals added to the water or waste which may be discharged other than those listed on the owner's accepted registration statement, unless prior approval of the chemical is granted by the board.

Rationale: This special condition assures protection of water quality and beneficial uses of the waters receiving the discharge.

5. Wastewater should be reused or recycled whenever feasible.

Rationale: The permit encourages reuse or recycle of wastewater whenever feasible. This language is included in keeping with DEQ's pollution prevention philosophy.

6. The permittee of a vehicle wash facility shall comply with the following solids management plan, where applicable:

a. Any settling basins or oil water separators shall be cleaned in accordance with the schedule outlined in the O&M manual and at a frequent enough interval to achieve effective treatment.

b. Any solids from settling basins, oil water separators, trash or other debris shall be handled, stored, and disposed of so as to prevent a discharge to state waters of such solids.

Rationale: This is a best management practice to ensure solids in treatment equipment does not accumulate to the point of impairing the treatment system and/or getting into surface waters. Best management practices are an integral part of pollution control in [9VAC25-31-220 K](#). This is an expansion of the boilerplate language present in all VPDES permit in Part II R which requires that solids, sludges or other pollutants removed in the course of treatment or management of pollutants shall be disposed of in a manner so as to prevent any pollutant from such materials from entering state waters. This special condition is specific to the solids pollution that may be present at a vehicle wash facility.

7. Washing of vehicles or containers bearing residue of animal manure or toxic chemicals (fertilizers, organic chemicals, etc.) is prohibited. If the facility is a self-service operation, the permittee shall post this prohibition on a sign prominently located and of sufficient size to be easily read by all patrons.

Rationale: This prohibition will reduce the risk of toxics pollution and eliminate the need for a Toxic Management Program (Whole Effluent Toxicity Program) under [9VAC25-31-220 D 1 d](#).

8. If the facility has a vehicle wash discharge with a monthly average flow rate of less than 5,000 gallons per day, and the flow rate increases above a monthly average flow rate of 5,000 gallons per day, an amended registration statement shall be filed within 30 days of the increased flow.

Rationale: This requirement repeats the registration requirement from Section 60 A 2 d of regulation. It is important to repeat this in the permit itself so the owner will see the requirement in their permit.

9. A permittee submitting a registration statement in accordance with Part II M and discharging into a municipal separate storm sewer shall notify the owner of the municipal separate storm sewer system of the existence of the discharge at the time of registration under this permit and include that notification with the registration statement. The notice shall include the following information: the name of the facility, a contact person and contact information (phone number and email), the location of the discharge, the nature of the discharge, and the facility's VPDES general permit number, if known or existing.

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Rationale: The general permit for MS4s ([9VAC25-890-40](#)) Part I 3 b and individual MS4 permits require the MS4 to prohibit unauthorized (illicit) nonstormwater discharges (i.e., non-permitted commercial vehicle wash or laundry facilities). A VPDES permitted vehicle or laundry facility discharging to the MS4 is not an illicit discharge but some MS4 localities have asked to be informed of all registrations under DEQ general permits. Furthermore, the locality can also advise DEQ on the feasibility of connecting to central wastewater treatment facilities per the registration requirement in [9VAC25-194-60 C 7](#).

10. Approval for coverage under this general permit does not relieve any owner of the responsibility to comply with any other federal, state or local statute, ordinance or regulation.

Rationale: This special condition repeats the requirement in [9VAC25-194-50](#) (Authorization to discharge). This is important so the owner will see the requirement in their permit.

11. The owner of a facility discharging vehicle wash water directly to a stormwater drain shall provide inlet protection measures in addition to meeting all other requirements of the permit.

Rationale: This addresses a compliance issue associated with some vehicle wash facilities that were discharging directly to storm drains (MS4s) with no wastewater treatment and appearing as illicit discharges or potential water quality concerns in some MS4 monitoring programs. The general permit for MS4s ([9VAC25-890-40](#)) Part I 3 b requires the MS4 to prohibit unauthorized (illicit) nonstormwater discharges.

12. The permittee shall notify the Department as soon as they know or have reason to believe:

a. That any activity has occurred or will occur which would result in the discharge, on a routine or frequent basis, of any toxic pollutant which is not limited in this permit, if that discharge will exceed the highest of the following notification levels:

- (1) One hundred micrograms per liter;
- (2) Two hundred micrograms per liter for acrolein and acrylonitrile; five hundred micrograms per liter for 2, 4-dinitrophenol and for 2-methyl-4, 6-dinitrophenol; and one milligram per liter for antimony;
- (3) Five times the maximum concentration value reported for that pollutant in the permit application; or
- (4) The level established by the Board.

b. That any activity has occurred or will occur which would result in any discharge, on a nonroutine or infrequent basis, of a toxic pollutant which is not limited in this permit, if that discharge will exceed the highest of the following notification levels:

- (1) Five hundred micrograms per liter;
- (2) One milligram per liter for antimony;
- (3) Ten times the maximum concentration value reported for that pollutant in the permit application; or
- (4) The level established by the Board.

Rationale: [9VAC25-31-200](#) A of the permit regulation requires these notifications for all manufacturing, commercial, mining, and silvicultural discharges.

13. Operation and maintenance manual requirement. The permittee shall develop and maintain an accurate operations and maintenance (O&M) manual for the treatment works and applicable inlet protection measures. This manual shall detail the practices and procedures that will be followed to ensure compliance with the requirements of this permit. The permittee shall operate and maintain the treatment works and the inlet protection measures in accordance with the O&M manual. The O&M manual shall be reviewed and updated at least annually and shall be signed and certified in accordance with Part II K of this permit. The O&M manual shall be made available for review by the department personnel upon request. The O&M manual shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following items, as appropriate:

- a. Techniques to be employed in the collection, preservation, and analysis of effluent samples;
- b. Stormwater inlet protection measure directions for use and maintenance of equipment;
- c. Best management practices employed:

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- d. Treatment system operation, routine preventive maintenance of units within the treatment system, critical spare parts inventory, and recordkeeping;
- e. A sludge/solids management plan including the schedule for settling basin or oil water separator cleaning and solids handling as required by Part I B 6;
- f. Procedures for performing the visual examination and maintenance required by Part I B 1 and the location of the operational log; and
- g. Date(s) when the O&M manual was updated or reviewed and any changes that were made.

Rationale: Originally this special condition was taken from (with some changes) from the 2011 coin operated laundry general permit. The 2007 car wash general permit did not have an O&M manual requirement. It was added here but the need to submit and receive approval from DEQ on the O&M manual per the 2011 coin laundry general permit was eliminated. Also, the requirement to review and update the O&M manual annually was added during the 2012 reissuance. In addition, adherence to an O&M manual is a vital pollution management mechanism in all general permits and individual permits, especially those with less frequent monitoring requirements. Operations and maintenance of the facility is integral to maintaining limits during the rest of the year when effluent monitoring may not be required. [See 9VAC25-194-70](#) Part II Q, [9VAC25-120-80](#) Part I B and Part II Q, [9VAC25-193-70](#) Part I B 8 and Part II Q, [9VAC25-196-70](#) Part I B5 and Part II Q and [9VAC25-860-70](#) Part I B 9 and Part II Q, 2010 VPDES Permit Manual Part IN-3. O&M manual is also required by the VPDES Permit Regulation [9VAC25-31-190](#) E, and [40 CFR 122.41\(e\)](#). These require proper operation and maintenance of the permitted facility.

14. Compliance Reporting under Part I A 1- 4.

- a. The quantification levels (QL) shall be as follows:

Effluent Characteristic	Quantification Level
BOD ₅	2 mg/l
TSS	1.0 mg/l
Oil and Grease	5.0 mg/l
Chlorine	0.10 mg/l

The QL is defined as the lowest concentration used to calibrate a measurement system in accordance with the procedures published for the test method.

- b. Reporting. Any single datum required shall be reported as "<QL" if it is less than the QL in subdivision a. Otherwise the numerical value shall be reported.
- c. Monitoring results shall be reported using the same number of significant digits as listed in the permit. Regardless of the rounding convention used by the permittee (e.g., 5 always rounding up or to the nearest even number), the permittee shall use the convention consistently, and shall ensure that consulting laboratories employed by the permittee use the same convention.

Rationale: This matches similar language in compliance reporting special conditions going into other recent general and individual permits. This special condition helps to ensure consistent compliance reporting under the VPDES permit regulation [9VAC25-31-190](#) J 4 and [220](#) I. This condition is necessary when pollutants are monitored by the permittee and a maximum level of quantification and/or a specific analytical method is required in order to assess compliance with a permit limit or to compare effluent quality with a numeric criterion. The condition also establishes protocols for calculation of reported values.

15. The discharges authorized by this permit shall be controlled as necessary to meet applicable water quality standards in [9VAC25-260](#).

Rationale: Similar special conditions are in all VPDES general permits. This is consistent with the VPDES permit regulation in [9VAC25-31-220](#) D and EPA recommendations. [9VAC25-31-220](#) D requires VPDES permits to meet water quality standards. The Department does this by including water quality-based effluent limits (WQBELs) in permits where

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necessary. Unlike individual permits that include requirements tailored to site-specific considerations, general permits, while tailored to specific industrial processes or types of discharges often do not contain site-specific WQBELs. Instead, in general, a narrative statement is included that addresses WQBELs.

16. Discharges to waters with an approved "total maximum daily load" (TMDL). Owners of facilities that are a source of the specified pollutant of concern to waters where an approved TMDL has been established shall implement measures and controls that are consistent with the assumptions and requirements of the TMDL.

Rationale: This special condition is in all VPDES general permits. The condition was developed since general permit discharges are considered insignificant to the overall TMDL waste load allocation. This special condition allows staff more flexibility to allow permit coverage for discharges without requiring immediate modification of the TMDL and to enable the waste load allocation to be implemented in the general permit instead of requiring an individual permit. DEQ will track all the general permit discharges and once they become significant for purposes of the TMDL, the TMDL will be modified to include the load.

17. Notice of Termination

a. The owner may terminate coverage under this general permit by filing a complete notice of termination. The notice of termination may be filed after one or more of the following conditions have been met:

- (1) Operations have ceased at the facility and there are no longer wastewater discharges from vehicle wash or laundry activities from the facility.
- (2) A new owner has assumed responsibility for the facility. A notice of termination does not have to be submitted if a VPDES Change of Ownership Agreement form has been submitted;
- (3) All discharges associated with this facility have been covered by an individual or an alternative VPDES permit; or
- (4) Notice of termination is requested for another reason provided the board agrees that coverage under this general permit is no longer needed.

b. The notice of termination shall contain the following information:

- (1) Owner's name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address (if available);
- (2) Facility name and location;
- (3) VPDES vehicle wash facilities and laundry facilities general permit number;
- (4) The basis for submitting the notice of termination, including:
 - i. A statement indicating that a new owner has assumed responsibility for the facility;
 - ii. A statement indicating that operations have ceased at the facility and there are no longer wastewater discharges from vehicle wash or laundry activities from the facility;
 - iii. A statement indicating that all wastewater discharges from vehicle wash facilities and laundry facilities have been covered by an individual VPDES permit; or
 - iv. A statement indicating that termination of coverage is being requested for another reason (state the reason).

c. The following certification: "I certify under penalty of law that all wastewater discharges from vehicle wash or laundry facilities from the identified facility that are authorized by this VPDES general permit have been eliminated, or covered under a VPDES individual or alternative permit, or that I am no longer the owner of the industrial activity, or permit coverage should be terminated for another reason listed above. I understand that by submitting this notice of termination, that I am no longer authorized to discharge wastewater from vehicle wash facilities or laundry facilities in accordance with the general permit, and that discharging pollutants in wastewater from vehicle wash facilities or laundry facilities to surface waters is unlawful where the discharge is not authorized by a VPDES permit. I also understand that the submittal of this notice of termination does not release an owner from liability for any violations of this permit or the Clean Water Act."

d. The notice of termination shall be signed in accordance with Part II K.

e. The notice of termination shall be submitted to the DEQ regional office serving the area where the vehicle wash or laundry facility is located.

Rationale: Notification requirement is usually in the regulation (e.g. [VAC9VAC25-194-10 – 60](#)) but it is better served in the permit part of the regulation so the owner can see the requirement in their permit. Permits may be terminated upon the

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request of the permittee or upon initiative by the Board ([9VAC25-31-370](#) A). Permits may be terminated for the reasons specified in [9VAC25-31-410](#). The condition in 17 a (4) ("*Notice of termination is requested for another reason provided the board agrees that coverage under this general permit is no longer needed.*") is not specifically in the permit regulation ([9VAC25-31-410](#)) but the language is in many general permits (e.g., the Industrial Stormwater general permit [9VAC25-151-70](#) Part I B 14, Seafood Processing ([9VAC25-115-50](#) Part I B 10, Nonmetallic Mineral Mining ([9VAC25-190-70](#) Part I B 17, Concrete ([9VAC25-193](#) Part I B 18), Noncontact Cooling Water ([9VAC25-196-70](#) Part I B 10) and Potable Water Treatment Plants ([9VAC25-860-70](#) Part I B 12). The condition in 17 a (4) was added as a 'catch all' reason that an owner may request a termination as there may be other reasons an owner requests termination (e.g., connects to sanitary, goes to complete recycle and reuse) besides the other reasons that are listed (operations have ceased, new owner, covered by an individual permit).

Basis for Conditions Applicable to all VPDES Permits Part II

The entire Part II is based on [9VAC25-31-190](#) of the Permit Regulation. Several differences include:

- A requirement for electronic reporting of discharge monitoring reports (DMRs) in Part II C. e-DMRs are required after timely notification (3 months) from the department.
- The submittal of a new registration statement is 60 days before expiration instead of 180 days in Part II M. This matches the same new deadline for existing discharges in the regulation at [9VAC25-194-60](#) A 2 b (effective January 1, 2023).
- Automatic transfers to a new permittee may occur if the current permittee notifies the department within 30 days of the transfer of the title to the facility or property instead of at least 30 days in advance of the title in Part II Y. DEQ regional office staff has also stated this advance transfer notification is unnecessary and we should be able to accept a transfer notification at any time.

Administrative

The general permit has a fixed term of five years. Every authorization under this general permit will expire at the same time and all authorizations will be renewed on the same date, provided a complete registration statement has been filed prior to the general permit's expiration date. The 2022 reissuance will be administratively continued per the VPDES permit regulation ([9VAC25-31-70](#)) until January 1, 2023 to correspond with a calendar year and facilitate e-DMR population.

All owners/operators desiring to be covered by this general permit must register with the Department by filing a registration statement and payment of applicable fees. The registration statement shall be submitted and a notification of coverage issued prior to any discharges or other activities for which this permit is required. Vehicle wash facilities or laundry facilities that are discharging to surface waters on the effective date of this general permit, and which have not been issued an individual VPDES permit, may submit the registration statement.

Existing operations with individual VPDES permits that wish to seek coverage under the proposed general permit would have to file a registration statement at least 240 days prior to the expiration date of the individual VPDES permit (currently there are no individual permits for vehicle wash or laundry facilities). This allows for 30 days to review the registration and then if denied, the permittee can still meet their individual permit requirement of 180 days to reapply for an individual permit. For all new dischargers that will begin activities after the effective date of this permit, the registration statement shall be filed at least 60 days prior to the commencement of operation of the facility or a later submittal established by the board.

This general permit does not cover activities or discharges covered by an individual VPDES permit until the individual permit has expired or has been revoked. Any person conducting an activity covered by an individual permit, which could be covered by this general permit, may request that the individual permit be terminated and register for coverage under this

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general permit. Any owner or operator not wishing to be covered or limited by this general permit may make application for an individual VPDES permit, in accordance with VPDES procedures, stating the reasons supporting the request.

This general permit does not apply to any new or increased discharge that will result in significant effects to the receiving waters. That determination is made in accordance with the State Water Control Board's Antidegradation Policy contained in the Virginia Water Quality Standards, [9VAC25-260-30](#). This general permit will maintain the Water Quality Standards adopted by the Board.

All facilities that the board determines are eligible for coverage under this general permit will be authorized to discharge under the terms and conditions of the permit after a complete registration statement is submitted, the applicable permit fee is paid, and the Department sends a copy of the general permit to the applicant. If this general permit is inappropriate, the applicant will be so notified.

Vehicle or laundry wash facilities with point source discharges that do not qualify for coverage under this general permit may apply for an individual VPDES permit.