

567—63.7(455B) Submission of operation records.**63.7(1) *Electronic reporting.***

a. Except as provided in this rule and 63.3(4) and 63.5(2), operation records required by NPDES permits shall be submitted electronically to the department within 15 days following the close of the reporting period specified in 63.7(5) and in accordance with monitoring requirements derived from this chapter and incorporated in the NPDES permit.

b. Operation records required by operation permits shall be submitted to the department within 15 days following the close of the reporting period specified in 63.7(5) and in accordance with monitoring requirements derived from this chapter and incorporated in the operation permit.

63.7(2) *Temporary or permanent paper submittal of operation records.* Upon satisfaction of the following criteria and written approval from the department, temporary or permanent paper submittal of operation records may be allowed in lieu of electronic reporting.

a. Written request for paper submittal.

(1) To obtain an approval for temporary or permanent paper submittal of operation records, a permittee must submit a paper copy of a written request to the department's NPDES section. The written request for paper submittal must include all of the following:

1. The facility name;
2. The individual NPDES permit number or GP authorization number;
3. The facility address;
4. The owner's name and contact information;
5. The name and contact information of the person submitting operation records (if different than the owner); and
6. The reason for the request, including a justification of why electronic submission is not feasible at this time.

(2) Requests for paper submittal that do not contain all of the above information will not be considered. Electronic (email) requests for paper submittal will not be considered.

b. Temporary paper submittal.

(1) The department will approve or deny a request for temporary paper submittal of operation records within 60 days of receipt. Paper submittal requests shall be approved or denied at the director's discretion.

(2) All approvals for temporary paper submittal will expire five years from department approval. After an approval for temporary paper submittal expires, the permittee must submit all operation records electronically, unless another approval is obtained.

(3) Approved temporary paper submittals are nontransferable.

c. Permanent paper submittal.

(1) The department will approve or deny a request for permanent paper submittal of operation records within 60 days of receipt. Permanent paper submittal approvals shall only be granted to facilities and entities owned or operated by members of religious communities that choose not to use certain modern technologies (e.g., computers, electricity). Permanent approvals for paper submittal shall not be granted to any other facilities or entities.

(2) Approved permanent paper submittals are nontransferable.

d. Paper copies of operation records. All permittees who have received temporary or permanent paper submittal approvals must submit paper copies of all operation records to the department within 15 days following the close of the reporting period specified in 63.7(5) and in accordance with monitoring requirements derived from this chapter and incorporated in the NPDES permit.

63.7(3) *Electronic reporting pursuant to NPDES general permits (GPs).* Both electronic and paper reporting options are available to permittees covered under GP No. 5. Paper operation records are accepted under GP No. 4.

63.7(4) *Episodic paper submittal of operation records.* In accordance with this subrule, episodic paper submittal of operation records may be allowed in lieu of electronic reporting. The department shall provide notice, individually or through means of mass communication, regarding when episodic paper submittal is allowed, the facilities and entities that qualify for episodic paper submittal, and the likely

duration of episodic paper submittal. The department shall determine if and when episodic paper submittal is warranted.

a. Episodic paper submittal is only allowed under the following circumstances:

(1) Large-scale emergencies involving catastrophic circumstances beyond permittee control, such as forces of nature (e.g., hurricanes, floods, fires, earthquakes) or other national disasters.

(2) Prolonged electronic reporting system outages (i.e., outages longer than 96 hours).

b. Permittees are not required to request episodic paper submittal. If the department determines that episodic paper submittal is warranted, a permittee shall submit paper copies of all operation records to the department within 15 days following the close of the reporting period specified in 63.7(5) and in accordance with monitoring requirements derived from this chapter and incorporated in the NPDES permit.

c. Episodic paper submittal is not transferable and cannot last more than 60 days.

63.7(5) *Submission frequency.* Except as provided in 63.3(4) and 63.5(2), or as specified in an NPDES GP issued in accordance with 567—subrule 60.4(2), operation records required by these rules shall be submitted at monthly intervals. The department may vary the submission frequency in certain cases for only non-NPDES permits. Variation from the monthly interval shall be made only under such conditions as the department may prescribe in writing to the permittee.

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