



University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture

An Agricultural Law Research Project

## **Nutrient Management Plans Statutes & Regulations**

**Arizona**

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## Nutrient Management Plans

### STATE OF ARIZONA

#### **1) A.R.S. §§ 49-201 (28), 255, 255.01; A.A.C. §§ R18-9-D901—905; General Permit Fact Sheet**

*The statutes and Constitution are current through the 2018 regular and special legislative sessions. The statutes are subject to changes by the Arizona Legislative Council.*

#### **1) A.R.S. §§ 49-201 (28), 255, 255.01; A.A.C. §§ R18-9-D901—905; General Permit Fact Sheet**

##### **49-201. Definitions.**

[ . . . ]

28. “Point source” means any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance, including, but not limited to, any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation or vessel or other floating craft from which pollutants are or may be discharged to navigable waters. Point source does not include return flows from irrigated agriculture.

[ . . . ]

##### **49-255. Definitions**

In this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. “AZPDES” means the Arizona pollutant discharge elimination system program as adopted under section 402(b) of the clean water act.
2. “Discharge” means any addition of any pollutant to navigable waters from any point source.
3. “Indirect discharge” means the introduction of pollutants into a publicly owned treatment works from any nondomestic source that is regulated under section 307(b), (c) or (d) of the clean water act.
4. “Industrial user” means a source of indirect discharge.
5. “Publicly owned treatment works” means a treatment works owned by this state or a municipality of this state as defined in section 502(4) of the clean water act.

6. “Sewage sludge”:

(a) Means solid, semisolid or liquid residue that is generated during the treatment of domestic sewage in a treatment works.

(b) Includes domestic septage, scum or solids that are removed in primary, secondary or advanced wastewater treatment processes, and any material derived from sewage sludge.

(c) Does not include ash that is generated during the firing of sewage sludge in a sewage sludge incinerator or grit and screenings that are generated during preliminary treatment of domestic sewage in a treatment works.

7. “Treatment works” means any devices and systems that are used in the storage, treatment, recycling and reclamation of municipal sewage or industrial wastes of a liquid nature, the elements essential to providing a reliable recycled supply such as standby treatment units and clear well facilities, and any works that will be an integral part of the treatment process or that are used for residues resulting from that treatment. For the purposes of the programs required by sections 49-255.02 and 49-255.03, treatment works include intercepting sewers, outfall sewers, sewage collection systems, pumping, power and other equipment and any appurtenances, extensions, improvements, remodeling, additions and alterations.

8. “Upset”:

(a) Means an exceptional incident in which there is unintentional and temporary noncompliance with technology-based permit discharge limitations because of factors that are beyond the reasonable control of the permittee.

(b) Does not include noncompliance to the extent that it is caused by operational error, improperly designed treatment facilities, inadequate treatment facilities, lack of preventive maintenance or careless or improper operation.

**49-255.01. Arizona pollutant discharge elimination system program; rules and standards; affirmative defense; fees; general permit; exemption from termination**

A. A person shall not discharge except under either of the following conditions:

1. In conformance with a permit that is issued or authorized under this article.
2. Pursuant to a permit that is issued or authorized by the United States environmental protection agency until a permit that is issued or authorized under this article takes effect.

B. The director shall adopt rules to establish an AZPDES permit program consistent with the requirements of sections 402(b) and 402(p) of the clean water act. This program shall include requirements to ensure compliance with section 307 and requirements for the control of discharges consistent with sections 318 and 405(a) of the clean water act. The director shall not adopt any requirement that is more stringent than or conflicts with any requirement of the clean water act. The director may adopt federal rules pursuant to section 41-1028 or may adopt rules to reflect local environmental conditions to the extent that the rules are consistent with and no more stringent than the clean water act and this article.

C. The rules adopted by the director shall provide for:

1. Issuing, authorizing, denying, modifying, suspending or revoking individual or general permits.
2. Establishment of permit conditions, discharge limitations and standards of performance as prescribed by section 49-203, subsection A, paragraph 7, including case by case effluent limitations that are developed in a manner consistent with 40 Code of Federal Regulations section 125.3(c).
3. Modifications and variances as allowed by the clean water act.
4. Other provisions necessary for maintaining state program authority under section 402(b) of the clean water act.

D. This article does not affect the validity of any existing rules that are adopted by the director and that are equivalent to and consistent with the national pollutant discharge elimination system program authorized under section 402 of the clean water act until new rules for AZPDES discharges are adopted pursuant to this article.

E. An upset constitutes an affirmative defense to any administrative, civil or criminal enforcement action brought for noncompliance with technology-based permit discharge limitations if the permittee complies with all of the following:

1. The permittee demonstrates through properly signed contemporaneous operating logs or other relevant evidence that:
  - (a) An upset occurred and that the permittee can identify the specific cause of the upset.
  - (b) The permitted facility was being properly operated at the time of the upset.

(c) If the upset causes the discharge to exceed any discharge limitation in the permit, the permittee submitted notice to the department within twenty-four hours of the upset.

(d) The permittee has taken appropriate remedial measures including all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge or sewage sludge use or disposal that is in violation of the permit and that has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment.

2. In any administrative, civil or criminal enforcement action, the permittee shall prove, by a preponderance of the evidence, the occurrence of an upset condition.

F. Compliance with a permit issued pursuant to this article shall be deemed compliance with both of the following:

1. All requirements in this article or rules adopted pursuant to this article relating to state implementation of sections 301, 302, 306 and 307 of the clean water act, except for any standard that is imposed under section 307 of the clean water act for a toxic pollutant that is injurious to human health.

2. Limitations for pollutants in navigable waters adopted pursuant to sections 49-221 and 49-222, if the discharge of the pollutant is specifically limited in a permit issued pursuant to this article or the pollutant was specifically identified as present or potentially present in facility discharges during the application process for the permit.

G. Notwithstanding section 49-203, subsection D, permits that are issued under this article shall not be combined with permits issued under article 3 of this chapter.

H. The decision of the director to issue or modify a permit takes effect on issuance if there were no changes requested in comments that were submitted on the draft permit unless a later effective date is specified in the decision. In all other cases, the decision of the director to issue, deny, modify, suspend or revoke a permit takes effect thirty days after the decision is served on the permit applicant, unless either of the following applies:

1. Within the thirty day period, an appeal is filed with the water quality appeals board pursuant to section 49-323.

2. A later effective date is specified in the decision.

I. In addition to other reservations of rights provided by this chapter, nothing in this article shall impair or affect rights or the exercise of rights to water claimed, recognized, permitted, certificated, adjudicated or decreed pursuant to state or other law.

J. Only for a one-time rule making after July 29, 2010, the director shall establish by rule fees, including maximum fees, for processing, issuing and denying an application for a

permit pursuant to this section. After the one-time rule making, the director shall not increase those fees by rule without specific statutory authority for the increase. Monies collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited, pursuant to sections 35-146 and 35-147, in the water quality fee fund established by section 49-210.

K. Any permit conditions concerning threatened or endangered species shall be limited to those required by the endangered species act.

L. When developing a general permit for discharges of storm water from construction activity, the director shall provide for reduced control measures at sites that retain storm water in a manner that eliminates discharges from the site, except for the occurrence of an extreme event. Reduced control measures shall be available if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The nearest downstream receiving water is ephemeral and the construction site is a sufficient distance from a water warranting additional protection as described in the general permit.
2. The construction activity occurs on a site designed so that all storm water generated by disturbed areas of the site exclusive of public rights-of-way is directed to one or more retention basins that are designed to retain the runoff from an extreme event. For the purposes of this subsection, "extreme event" means a rainfall event that meets or exceeds the local one hundred-year, two-hour storm event as calculated by an Arizona registered professional engineer using industry practices.
3. The owner or operator complies with good housekeeping measures included in the general permit.
4. The owner or operator maintains the capacity of the retention basins.
5. Construction conforms to the standards prescribed by this section.

M. If the director commences proceedings for the renewal of a general permit issued pursuant to this article, the existing general permit shall not expire and coverage may continue to be obtained by new dischargers until the proceedings have resulted in a final determination by the director. If the proceedings result in a decision not to renew the general permit, the existing general permit shall continue in effect until the last day for filing for review of the decision of the director not to renew the permit or until any later date that is fixed by court order.

N. This program is exempt from section 41-3102.

## **R18-9-D901. CAFO Designations**

A. Two or more animal feeding operations under common ownership are considered a single animal feeding operation if they adjoin each other or if they use a common area or system for the disposal of wastes.

B. The Director shall designate an animal feeding operation as a CAFO if the animal feeding operation significantly contributes a pollutant to a navigable water. The Director shall consider the following factors when making this determination:

1. The size of the animal feeding operation and the amount of wastes reaching a navigable water;
2. The location of the animal feeding operation relative to a navigable water;
3. The means of conveyance of animal wastes and process wastewaters into a navigable water;
4. The slope, vegetation, rainfall, and any other factor affecting the likelihood or frequency of discharge of animal wastes and process wastewaters into a navigable water; and
5. Any other relevant factor.

C. The Director shall conduct an onsite inspection of the animal feeding operation before the making a designation under subsection (B).

D. The Director shall not designate an animal feeding operation having less than the number of animals established in R18-9-A901(19)(a) as a CAFO unless a pollutant is discharged:

1. Into a navigable water through a manmade ditch, flushing system, or other similar manmade device; or
2. Directly into a navigable water that originates outside of and passes over, across, or through the animal feeding operation or otherwise comes into direct contact with the animals confined in the operation.

E. If the Director makes a designation under subsection (B), the Director shall notify the owner or operator of the operation, in writing, of the designation.

#### **R18-9-D902. AZPDES Permit Coverage Requirements**

A. Any person who owns or operates a CAFO, except as provided in subsections (B) and (C), shall submit an application for an individual permit under R18-9-B901(B) or seek coverage under a general permit under R18-9-C901(B) within the applicable deadline specified in R18-9-D904(A).

B. If a person who owns or operates a large CAFO receives a no potential to discharge determination under R18-9-D903, coverage under an AZPDES permit described in this Part is not required.

C. The discharge of manure, litter, or process wastewater to a navigable water from a CAFO as a result of the application of manure, litter, or process wastewater by the CAFO to land areas under its control is subject to AZPDES permit requirements, except where it is an agricultural stormwater discharge as provided in section 502(14) of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1362(14)). For purposes of this Section, an "agricultural stormwater discharge" means a precipitation-related discharge of manure, litter, or process wastewater from land areas under the control of a CAFO when the person who owns or operates the CAFO has applied the manure, litter, or process wastewater according to site-specific nutrient management practices to ensure appropriate agricultural use of the nutrients in the manure, litter, or process wastewater, as specified under 40 CFR 122.42(e)(1)(vi) through (ix).

### **R18-9-D903. No Potential To Discharge Determinations for Large CAFOs**

A. For purposes of this Section, "no potential to discharge" means that there is no potential for any CAFO manure, litter, or process wastewater to enter into a navigable water under any circumstance or climatic condition.

B. Any person who owns or operates a large CAFO and has not had a discharge within the previous five years may request a no potential to discharge determination by submitting to the Department:

1. The information specified in 40 CFR 122.21(f) and 40 CFR 122.21(i)(1)(i) through (ix) on a form obtained from the Department, by the applicable date specified in R18-9-D904(A); and
2. Any additional information requested by the Director to supplement the request or requested through an onsite inspection of the CAFO.

C. Process for making a no potential to discharge determination.

1. Upon receiving a request under subsection (B), the Director shall consider:
  - a. The potential for discharges from both the production area and any land application area, and
  - b. Any record of prior discharges by the CAFO.
2. The Director shall issue a public notice that includes:
  - a. A statement that a no potential to discharge request has been received;



- b. A fact sheet, when applicable;
- c. A brief description of the type of facility or activity that is the subject of the no potential to discharge determination;
- d. A brief summary of the factual basis, upon which the request is based, for granting the no potential to discharge determination; and
- e. A description of the procedures for reaching a final decision on the no potential to discharge determination.

3. The Director shall base the decision to grant a no potential to discharge determination on the administrative record, which includes all information submitted in support of a no potential to discharge determination and any other supporting data gathered by the Director.

4. The Director shall notify the owner or operator of the large CAFO of the final determination within 90 days of receiving the request.

D. If the Director determines that the operation has the potential to discharge, the person who owns or operates the CAFO shall seek coverage under an AZPDES permit within 30 days after the determination of potential to discharge.

E. A no potential to discharge determination does not relieve the CAFO from the consequences of a discharge. An unpermitted CAFO discharging a pollutant into a navigable water is in violation of the Clean Water Act even if the Director issues a no potential to discharge determination for the facility. If the Director issues a determination of no potential to discharge to a CAFO facility but the owner or operator anticipates a change in circumstances that could create the potential for a discharge, the owner or operator shall contact the Director and apply for and obtain permit authorization before the change of circumstances.

F. When the Director issues a determination of no potential to discharge, the Director retains the authority to subsequently require AZPDES permit coverage if:

- 1. Circumstances at the facility change;
- 2. New information becomes available; or
- 3. The Director determines, through other means, that the CAFO has a potential to discharge.

#### **R18-9-D904. AZPDES Permit Coverage Deadlines**

A. Any person who owns or operates a CAFO shall apply for or seek coverage under an AZPDES permit and shall comply with all applicable AZPDES requirements, including the duty to maintain permit coverage under subsection (C).

1. Permit coverage deadline for an animal feeding operation operating before April 14, 2003.

a. An owner or operator of an animal feeding operation that operated before April 14, 2003 and was defined as a CAFO before February 2, 2004 shall apply for or seek permit coverage or maintain permit coverage and comply with the conditions of the applicable AZPDES permit;

b. An owner or operator of an animal feeding operation that operated before April 14, 2003 and was not defined as a CAFO until February 2, 2004 shall apply for or seek permit coverage by a date specified by the Director, but no later than February 13, 2006;

c. An owner or operator of an animal feeding operation that operated before April 14, 2003 who changes the operation on or after February 2, 2004, resulting in the operation being defined as a CAFO, shall apply for or seek permit coverage as soon as possible, but no later than 90 days after the operational change. If the operational change will not make the operation a CAFO as defined before February 2, 2004, the owner or operator may take until April 13, 2006 or 90 days after the operation is defined as a CAFO, whichever is later, to apply for or seek permit coverage;

d. An owner or operator of an animal feeding operation that operated before April 14, 2003 who constructs additional facilities on or after February 2, 2004, resulting in the operation being defined as a CAFO that is a new source, shall apply for or seek permit coverage at least 180 days before the new source portion of the CAFO commences operation. If the calculated 180-day deadline occurs before February 2, 2004 and the operation is not subject to this Article before February 2, 2004, the owner or operator shall apply for or seek permit coverage no later than March 3, 2004.

2. Permit coverage deadline for an animal feeding operation operating on or after April 14, 2003. An owner or operator who started construction of a CAFO on or after April 14, 2003, including a CAFO subject to the effluent limitations guidelines in 40 CFR 412, shall apply for or seek permit coverage at least 180 days before the CAFO commences operation. If the calculated 180-day deadline occurs before February 2, 2004 and the operation is not subject to this Article before February 2, 2004, the owner or operator shall apply for or seek permit coverage no later than March 3, 2004.

3. Permit coverage deadline for a designated CAFO. Any person who owns or operates a CAFO designated under R18-9-D901(B) shall apply for or seek permit coverage no later than 90 days after receiving a designation notice.

B. Unless specified under R18-9-D903(E) and (F), the Director shall not require permit coverage for a CAFO that the Director determines under R18-9-D903 to have no potential to discharge. If circumstances change at a CAFO that has a no potential to discharge determination and the CAFO now has a potential to discharge, the person who owns or operates the CAFO shall notify the Director within 30 days after the change in circumstances and apply for or seek coverage under an AZPDES permit.

C. Duty to maintain permit coverage.

1. The permittee shall:

a. If covered by an individual AZPDES permit, submit an application to renew the permit no later than 180 days before the expiration of the permit under R18-9-B904(B); or

b. If covered by a general AZPDES permit, comply with R18-9-C903(B).

2. Continued permit coverage or reapplication for a permit is not required if:

a. The facility ceases operation or is no longer a CAFO; and

b. The permittee demonstrates to the Director that there is no potential for a discharge of remaining manure, litter, or associated process wastewater (other than agricultural stormwater from land application areas) that was generated while the operation was a CAFO.

### **R18-9-D905. Closure Requirements**

A. Closure.

1. A person who owns or operates a CAFO shall notify the Department of the person's intent to cease operations without resuming an activity for which the facility was designed or operated.

2. A person who owns or operates a CAFO shall submit a closure plan to the Department for approval 90 days before ceasing operation. The closure plan shall describe:

a. For operations that met the "no potential to discharge" under R18-9-D903, facility-related information based on the Notice of Termination form for the applicable general permit;

b. The approximate quantity of manure, process wastewater, and other materials and contaminants to be removed from the facility;

c. The destination of the materials to be removed from the facility and documentation that the destination is approved to accept the materials;

d. The method to treat any material remaining at the facility;

e. The method to control the discharge of pollutants from the facility;

f. Any limitations on future land or water use created as a result of the facility's operations or closure activities;

g. A schedule for implementing the closure plan; and

h. Any other relevant information the Department determines necessary.

B. The owner or operator shall provide the Department with written notice that a closure plan has been fully implemented within 30 calendar days of completion and before redevelopment.

## **Fact Sheet for the Issuance of AZPDES Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO)**

[General Permit Fact Sheet](#)