

June 2015

RENEWAL OF THE GENERAL PERMIT FOR NITROGEN DISCHARGES

On January 2, 2002, pursuant to Public Act 01-180, the Department of Environmental Protection (now the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection) issued the General Permit for Nitrogen Discharges. The original General Permit was effective on January 1, 2010 and will expire on December 31, 2015. The general permit authorized the discharge of nitrogen from seventy-nine Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) and established a limit for each POTW. These limits are based on the total maximum daily load (TMDL) of nitrogen from Connecticut and New York that will attain dissolved oxygen standards in Long Island Sound.

No changes are proposed to the general permit except for the following minor technical revisions:

1. A definition of “Sample Date” has been added to clarify that it is the date on which the daily composite sampling ended;
2. A definition of “Total Daily Flow” has been added to replace the term “Average Daily Flow” and to clarify that it is the flow of wastewater over an operating day.
3. The effective date of the permit was modified to the period commencing January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2020.

The renewal proposes that the POTWs covered by the General Permit continue with the same permit limits as listed in the current General Permit for the year 2014. These facilities, in aggregate, must continue to achieve a reduction in the annual loading of total nitrogen to Long Island Sound by approximately 64% from the original baseline established in the TMDL in order to continue to meet the target 2014 wasteload allocation.

A public notice of the draft general permit renewal will be sent by electronic mail to the POTW Superintendents, Water Pollution Control Authorities, Chief Elected Officials and Public Works Directors of the 79 municipalities covered by the general permit. The public notice will also be published in all major State newspapers.

For more information on the Nitrogen Control Program for Long Island Sound see <http://www.ct.gov/deep/nitrogencontrol>.