

Table of Contents

I.	Introduction	1
II.	Organization of the Final Permit and Summary of Changes from the MSGP 2019	2
II.A.	Structure of the 2024 MSGP/ Terminology	2
II.B.	Summary of Major Changes from the MSGP 2019	2
III.	Categories of Facilities Covered by the 2024 MSGP	3
	Detailed Part-by-Part Discussion of the Permit.....	3
IV.	Coverage under the 2024 MSGP (Part 1)	3
IV.A.	Eligibility (Part 1.1).....	3
IV.A.1.	Allowable Stormwater Discharges (Part 1.1.2).	4
IV.A.2.	Allowable Non-Stormwater Discharges (Part 1.1.3).....	4
IV.A.3.	Limitations on Coverage (Part 1.1.4).....	4
IV.B.	Permit Compliance (Part 1.2)	6
IV.C.	Authorization under the 2024 MSGP (Part 1.3).....	7
IV.D.	Coverage under Alternative Permits (Part 1.4)	8
IV.E.	Terminating Coverage (Part 1.5)	9
IV.F.	Inactive and Unstaffed Sites – Conditional Exemption from No Exposure Requirements (Part 1.6).....	9
V.	Effluent Limitations and Control Measures (Part 2)	10
V.A.	Water Quality Based Effluent Limitations and Control Measures (Part 2)	10
V.A.1.	Introduction to CWA Requirements to Control Pollutants in Discharges	11
V.A.2.	Numeric and Water-Quality Based Effluent Limitation	11
V.A.3.	Water Quality-Based Standards (Part 2.1)	11
V.B.	Explanation of the Use of Control Measures to Meet the Permit Limits	12
V.B.1.	Control Measure Selection and Design Considerations (Part 2.1.1.1).....	13
V.B.2.	Numeric Effluent Limitations Based on Effluent Limitations Guidelines (Part 2.2.2) (Applicable only to discharges to WOTUS)	14
VI.	Corrective Actions (Part 3)	14
VII.	Inspections (Part 4)	15
VII.A.	Routine Site Inspections (Part 4.1)	15
VII.A.1.	Routine Site Inspection Documentation (Part 4.1.1)	16
VII.A.2.	Exceptions to Routine Site Inspections for Inactive and Unstaffed Sites (Part 4.1.2)	16
VII.B.	Visual Assessment of Stormwater Discharges (Part 4.2)	16
VIII.	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) (Part 5)	17
VIII.A.	Contents of the Site’s SWPPP (Part 5.1).....	17
VIII.A.1.	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Team	18
VIII.A.2.	Site Description	18
VIII.A.3.	Summary of Potential Pollutant Sources	18
VIII.A.4.	Description of Control Measures	19
VIII.A.5.	Schedules and Procedures – Control Measures.....	19
VIII.A.6.	Schedules and Procedures – Inspections and Visual Monitoring	19
VIII.A.7.	Monitoring and Sampling Procedures	20
VIII.B.	Signature Requirements (Part 5.2).....	20
VIII.C.	Required SWPPP Modifications (Part 5.3).....	20
VIII.D.	SWPPP Availability (Part 5.4).....	20
VIII.E.	SWPPP Submittal (Part 5.5)	21
VIII.F.	Additional SWPPP Documentation Requirements (Part 5.6).....	21
IX.	Analytical Monitoring Program (Part 6)	21

IX.A.	Analytical Monitoring Types (6.1.1)	22
IX.A.1.	When to Collect a Sample (Part 6.1.2)	22
IX.A.2.	How to Collect a Sample (Part 6.1.3)	23
IX.A.3.	Where to Sample (Part 6.1.4)	24
IX.A.4.	Sampling and Analysis Plan (Part 6.1.5)	24
IX.B.	Required Monitoring (Part 6.2)	24
IX.B.1.	General Analytical Monitoring (Part 6.2.1)	25
IX.B.2.	Effluent Limitations Monitoring (Part 6.2.2)	26
IX.B.3.	Monitoring Discharges to Impaired Waters (Part 6.2.3)	27
IX.B.4.	Outstanding Arizona Water Monitoring (Part 6.2.4) (Applicable only to discharges to WOTUS)	28
IX.B.5.	Additional Monitoring Required by ADEQ (Part 6.2.5)	28
IX.C.	Accelerated Monitoring (Part 6.3) (Applicable only to discharges to WOTUS)	28
IX.D.1	Exemptions or Exceptions to Analytical Monitoring (Part 6.4)	28
X.	Reporting and Recordkeeping (Part 7)	30
X.A.	Reporting Monitoring Data to ADEQ	30
X.A.1	Electronic Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) (Part 7.1)	30
X.D.	Control Measure Assessment Report (Part 7.2)	30
X.E.	Other Reporting Requirements (Part 7.3)	31
X.F.	Recordkeeping (Part 7.4)	31
X.G.	Submitting Reports to ADEQ (Part 7.5)	31
XI.	Sector-Specific Requirements for Discharges Associated with the Mineral Industry (Part 8): Sector G – Metal Mining (Ore Mining and Dressing) and Sector J – Non-Metallic Mineral Mining and Dressing	32
XIII.	Included Appendices	32
X.III.A.	Appendix A – Definitions, Abbreviations	32
X.III.B.	Appendix B - Standard Permit Conditions	32
X.III.C.	Appendix C - Calculating Hardness for Certain Metals	33

I. Introduction

The Clean Water Act (“CWA”) establishes a comprehensive program “to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters” 33 U.S.C. § 1251(a). The CWA “also seeks to attain” water quality which provides for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife.” P.U.D. No. 1 of Jefferson City v. Washington Dept of Ecology, 511 U.S. 700, 704 (1994) (quoting 33 U.S.C. § 1251(a)(2)). To achieve these goals, the CWA requires U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to authorize discharges through issuance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (“NPDES”) permits.

The purpose of this Fact Sheet is to describe the AZPDES 2024 Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) for stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity from active and inactive mine sites in the mineral industry category iii of 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14). The industry sectors corresponding to category iii of 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14) includes all establishments primarily engaged in mining. The 1987 SIC Manual, Division B, U.S. Department of Labor explains that the term for mining is “used in the broad sense to include the extraction of minerals occurring naturally: solids, such as coal and ores; liquids, such as crude petroleum; and gases such as natural gas. The term mining is also used in the broad sense to include quarrying, well operations, milling (e.g., crushing, screening, washing, flotation), and other preparation customarily done at the mine site, or as a part of mining activity.”

Table 1-1 of the 2024 MSGP summarizes the permit eligibility based on Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Codes about each mining sector covered by the permit. More detail is presented in Section III of this Fact Sheet.

ADEQ is issuing the 2024 MSGP to replace the 2019 MSGP. The permit will have a five-year term. Pursuant to A.A.C. R18-9-C905 the Director may modify and reissue and revoke the permit before it expires if certain conditions, presented in 40 CFR 122.62(a) or (b), are met.

On September 21, 2021, ADEQ modified the 2019 MSGP to implement the State’s new Surface Water Protection Program (SWPP) in accordance with A.R.S Title 49 Chapter 2, Article 3.1 Notably, the terms Protected Surface Water, WOTUS and non-WOTUS protected surface waters were used throughout the modified permit and continue to be used in the 2024 MSGP. Protected Surface Waters means waters of the State listed on the protected surface water list under Section A.R.S. §49-221, Subsection G and all Waters of the United States (WOTUS). WOTUS means a protected surface water that are also navigable waters as defined by Section 502(7) of the Clean Water Act and are federally regulated. Non-WOTUS protected surface water means a protected surface water that is not a WOTUS, and is regulated by the State.

For discharges to a WOTUS, any permit noncompliance constitutes a violation of the Clean Water Act; A.R.S. Title 49, Chapter 2, Article 3.1; and A.A.C. Title 18, Chapter 9, Article 9, and is grounds for enforcement action, termination or modification of permit coverage, or denial of a permit renewal application. For discharges to non-WOTUS protected surface waters, any permit non-compliance is enforceable solely by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) pursuant to A.R.S. Title 49, Chapter 2, Article 4. The conditions of this permit that regulate discharges to non-WOTUS protected surface waters do not constitute effluent standards or limitations under 33 U.S.C. § 1365.

All mining facilities on non-tribal lands in Arizona subject to the permit, including those previously covered by the 2019 MSGP, must apply for coverage under ADEQ’s 2024 MSGP no later than April 16, 2025. To be covered by the new permit, operators must submit a complete and accurate Notice of Intent (NOI) and certify in the NOI that they meet the requisite eligibility requirements, described in Part 1 of the permit, including the requirement to select, design, and install control measures to comply with the numeric effluent limitations and water quality standards in Part 2 and to develop a SWPPP, pursuant to Part 5.

The permit references various federal regulations. These regulations are incorporated by reference into the state AZPDES rules in the Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) R18-9-A905. As an aid to reviewers, however, the permit cites the federal and state regulations where specific regulatory language can be found.

Note: If any inadvertent conflict exists between this document and the permit, the permit language prevails.

II. Organization of the Final Permit and Summary of Changes from the MSGP 2019

II.A. Structure of the 2024 MSGP/ Terminology

Structure

ADEQ has divided the permit into eight parts:

Part 1 Permit Coverage;

Part 2 Effluent Limits and Control Measures;

Part 3 Corrective Actions;

Part 4 Inspections;

Part 5 SWPPP;

Part 6 Analytical Monitoring Program;

Part 7 Reporting and Recordkeeping; and

Part 8 Industry Sector-Specific Conditions.

Appendices include definitions, standard permit conditions and guidance for calculating hardness when monitoring for metals that have hardness-based surface water quality standards. Each of these parts is discussed in more detail in Section XIII of this Fact Sheet.

Terminology

Throughout this Fact Sheet certain terms are used when referring to different responsible entities. For instance, the permit holder is referred to either as the “permittee” or “operator”. Typically, the term “operator” or “applicant” is used when discussing those actions required prior to permit authorization, while “permittee” is used where this Fact Sheet and the permit refers to provisions that affect a covered discharger.

II.B. Summary of Major Changes from the MSGP 2019

The 2024 MSGP includes a number of new or modified requirements, and thus differs from the 2019 MSGP in various ways. The following list summarizes the more significant changes to the MSGP.

Addition of Action Levels – Part 6.2.1 and Part 8

The 2024 MSGP includes action levels for general analytical monitoring. The action levels are generally based on the lowest applicable acute surface water quality standards for the protected surface water. If no acute standard exists, the lowest chronic standard will apply.

For discharges to non-WOTUS ephemeral waters that may reach a downstream protected surface water, the aquatic and wildlife ephemeral (A&We) standards will be used to set action levels.

Part 6.2.1 also includes exceptions for action level exceedances for general analytical monitoring.

Control Measure Assessment Report for General Analytical Monitoring - Part 7.2

Following receipt of a general analytical monitoring result above an action level, the permittee must complete and submit a Control Measure Assessment Report with the information specified in the permit.

Control Measure Selection and Design Considerations – Part 2.2.1.1

In addition to the control measure selection and design considerations specified in the 2019 MSGP, the 2024 MSGP adds additional considerations for major storm events. Permittee must consider if any additional control measures should be selected and implemented on-site. ADEQ recognizes permittees may already be implementing the control measures listed. Permittees may evaluate the additional considerations listed in the permit and determine no changes are needed to the existing site and/or SWPPP.

III. Categories of Facilities Covered by the 2024 MSGP

Coverage under the permit is available for stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity from active and inactive mine sites in the mineral industry category iii of 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14) (the mineral industry Sectors G, H, I and J). The sector descriptions are based on the four-digit Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Codes.

The sectors are listed below:

TABLE 1 – Mineral Industry Sectors with Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity Covered by the Permit
Sector G – Metal Mining (Ore Mining and Dressing)
Sector H – Coal Mines and Coal Mining-Related Facilities – RESERVED
Sector I – Oil and Gas Extraction and Refining – RESERVED
Sector J – Mineral Mining and Dressing

The general permit applies only to category iii identified by 40 CFR Part 440 and the metal mining industry (Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code 10). SIC code 10 includes establishments primarily engaged in mining, developing mines, or exploring for metallic minerals (ores). This group also includes all ore dressing and beneficiating operations, whether performed at mills operated in conjunction with the mines served or at mills, such as custom mills, operated separately. Common activities at these mills include: crushing, grinding, and separation by gravity concentration, magnetic separation, electrostatic separation, flotation, or leaching. The following is a listing of the types of mining/milling facilities that are covered under SIC code 10: Iron Ores (SIC Code 1011); Copper Ores (SIC Code 1021); Lead and Zinc Ores (SIC Code 1031); Gold Ores (SIC Code 1041); Silver Ores (SIC Code 1044); Ferroalloy Ores, Except Vanadium (SIC Code 1061); Uranium-Radium-Vanadium Ores (SIC Code 1094); and Miscellaneous Metal Ores, Not Elsewhere Classified (SIC Code 1099).

Detailed Part-by-Part Discussion of the Permit

IV. Coverage under the 2024 MSGP (Part 1)

This part describes eligibility requirements for mining facilities included in Category iii of 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14) must meet to be covered by the permit. Part 1 describes how to apply for coverage, limitations on coverage, types of non-stormwater discharges that are allowed under the 2024 MSGP, permit compliance, authorization under the permit, alternative permits, termination, and obtaining a conditional exemption from no exposure requirements.

IV.A. Eligibility (Part 1.1)

As with previous permits, to be eligible for coverage under the 2024 MSGP, the discharges from industrial facilities must meet the eligibility provisions described in Part 1.1 of the permit. If they do not meet the eligibility requirement, operators must either obtain coverage under another AZPDES permit or eliminate the discharges.

To be eligible for authorization under this permit, the site must discharge stormwater associated with industrial activity (as defined in Arizona Administrative Code, R18-9-A902(B)(8)(a)) to waters on the protected surface water list, which includes waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) and non-WOTUS protected surface waters either directly or by means of a conveyance. The requirements of discharges to non-WOTUS protected surface waters are state-only, and enforceable solely by ADEQ. If a site not required to obtain a permit because stormwater is not discharged to a protected surface water.

If a site not required to obtain a permit because stormwater is not discharged to a protected surface water, the operator may apply for a No Discharge Certification, when available through myDEQ. Sites obtaining a No Discharge Certificate should meet one of the following eligibility requirements:

1. The site is engineered and constructed to have contained the maximum historic precipitation event (or series of events) using the precipitation data collected from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency’s website (or other nearby precipitation data available from other

- government agencies) so that there will be no discharge of industrial stormwater to a protected surface water; or,
2. The site is located in a basin or other physical location that is not hydrologically connected to a protected surface water.

Operators should be certain no discharge will reach a protected surface water before obtaining a No Discharge Certificate. The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and Arizona rules specify that it is a violation to discharge industrial stormwater without a permit.

IV.A.1. Allowable Stormwater Discharges (Part 1.1.2).

Part 1.1.2 specifies which stormwater discharges are eligible for coverage under the permit. As described in Section IV.A.3 of this Fact Sheet, not all stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity are eligible for coverage under the permit (e.g., stormwater discharges regulated by certain national effluent limitations guidelines). Dischargers should use this section to determine which stormwater discharges from their site can be covered under the MSGP.

IV.A.2 Allowable Non-Stormwater Discharges (Part 1.1.3).

This provision lists the non-stormwater discharges authorized under the permit and are exceptions to the general prohibition of non-stormwater discharge from. To be authorized under the permit, any sources of non-stormwater (except flows from fire-fighting activities) must be identified in the SWPPP. These non-stormwater discharges must be ancillary to the primary permitted use.

Also, specifically identified as being authorized are discharges of stormwater listed in Parts 1.1.2 or allowable non-stormwater discharges in Part 1.1.3, mixed with a discharge authorized by a different AZPDES permit and/or a discharge that does not require AZPDES permit authorization. ADEQ notes that all other non-stormwater discharges requiring AZPDES permit coverage that are not listed in Part 1.1.3 or described in Part 8, are not authorized under this permit. If non-stormwater discharges requiring AZPDES permit coverage other than those specifically authorized in Part 1.1.3 will be discharged, such non-stormwater discharges are not authorized by the permit and must either be eliminated or covered under another AZPDES permit.

The permit requires pavement wash waters to be treated with appropriate control measures to minimize discharges of mobilized solids and other pollutants. Other control measures must be considered when doing such cleaning including vacuuming, using the least amount of water in pressure washing to reduce the quantity of discharge, and running the wash water through a filter to remove pollutants prior to discharge. Other options are to direct the wash water flow through a green infrastructure feature(s) (or some similar treatment), or to capture and infiltrate the flow so there is no discharge. If there are doubts regarding the presence of contaminants in the wash water, even after treatment, operators should not discharge it.

Uncontaminated groundwater or spring water is allowed as a non-stormwater discharge, provided the source is naturally occurring or required for the industrial activity to proceed and includes aquifer testing and well development.

The use of reclaimed wastewater for dust control, although not an allowable non-stormwater discharge, may be conducted by permittees provided the reclaimed water is not used in such amounts as to constitute disposal and is not applied during heavy storm events, such that it is mixed with stormwater that discharges offsite. The 2024 MSGP does not prohibit the use of reuse/reclaimed or potable waters on-site for dust control or for landscape irrigation that is consistent with the reclaimed water rules (A.A.C. R18-9-704(G)(3)(c)), provided such uses are managed in a way that there is no discharge of reclaimed water off site or to a protected surface water.

Permittees should be aware that many of the allowable non-stormwater discharges in Part 1.1.3 may still require permit coverage under ADEQ's aquifer protection program (APP).

IV.A.3 Limitations on Coverage (Part 1.1.4).

Part 1.1.4 describes the limitations on what is covered under this permit. Any discharges not expressly authorized under the 2024 MSGP cannot become authorized or shielded from liability under

CWA Section 402(k) by disclosure to ADEQ, EPA, or local authorities after issuance of the MSGP by any means, including the NOI to be covered by the permit, the SWPPP, or during an inspection.

Discharges Mixed with Non-Stormwater (Part 1.1.4.1). The MSGP does not authorize stormwater discharges that are mixed with non-stormwater other than those non-stormwater discharges listed in Part 1.1.3. Where a stormwater discharge is mixed with non-stormwater, that this MSGP or another AZPDES permit does not authorize, the operator must submit the appropriate application forms to obtain an individual AZPDES permit to gain permit coverage for the non-stormwater portion of the discharge.

Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activity (Part 1.1.4.2). Stormwater discharges associated with construction activity, defined in 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14)(x) and (b)(15) are covered by the permit, if they are in conjunction with mining or oil and gas activities, where the applicable sector-specific requirements for construction stormwater discharges as specified in Sectors G, H, I and J, (Part 8) are met. Many of the industrial activities associated with mining and oil and gas extraction include construction activities and having construction activities for these sectors establishes a more streamlined approach for operators preferring to be covered by one permit, instead of two.

Discharges Currently or Previously Covered by another Permit (Part 1.1.4.3). This section describes cases where an operator is ineligible for coverage under the MSGP because of coverage under another permit. The objective is to avoid conflict with the anti-backsliding provisions of the CWA. The cases this applies to include operators currently covered under an individual permit or an alternative AZPDES general permit; operators covered by a permit within the past five years prior to the effective date of the 2024 MSGP, which established site-specific numeric water quality-based limitations developed for the stormwater component of the discharge; or operators with discharges from facilities where the associated AZPDES permit has been or is in the process of being denied, terminated (permit termination does not refer to the routine expiration and reissuance of permits every five years), or revoked by ADEQ.

Discharges Subject to Effluent Limitations Guidelines (Part 1.1.4.4). (Applicable only to discharges to WOTUS) Discharges subject to stormwater-specific federal effluent limitations guidelines that are eligible for coverage under the permit are listed in Table 2-2 of the permit. All other stormwater and non-stormwater discharges subject to effluent limitation guidelines must be covered under an applicable alternate permit. Discharges subject to effluent limitations guidelines are discussed in greater detail in Section IX.B.2. ELGs do not apply for discharges to non-WOTUS protected surface waters. See A.R.S 49-255.04(B)(2).

New Dischargers and New Sources: Based on Water Quality Standards (Part 1.1.4.5). (Applicable only to discharges to WOTUS) This section describes permit eligibility for the construction or operation of facilities classified as new sources and/or new dischargers (as defined in Appendix A), pursuant to A.A.C. R18-9-A903. Facilities classified as “new source” or “new discharger” are not eligible for coverage under the 2024 MSGP for any discharges to a WOTUS that ADEQ determines will cause or contribute to a violation of a surface water quality standard. ADEQ may notify such operators that an individual permit application is necessary in accordance with Part 1.4, or, alternatively, ADEQ may authorize coverage under the MSGP after the operators have implemented measures designed to ensure the discharge does not cause or contribute to a violation of a surface water quality standard. ADEQ notes other water quality-based requirements apply to new and existing dischargers. Part 2.1 of the permit includes water quality-based effluent limits applicable to all dischargers, which are designed to ensure that discharges from both new and existing permittees are controlled as necessary to not cause or contribute to a violation of a surface water quality standard. This section does not apply to discharges to non-WOTUS protected surface waters. See A.R.S 49-255.04(B)(1).

New Dischargers and New Sources to Water-Quality Impaired Waters (Part 1.1.4.6). (Applicable only to discharges to WOTUS). This section requires any new source or new discharger to demonstrate its ability to comply with A.A.C. R18-9-A903 (i.e., prohibiting the issuance of permits to new sources and new dischargers that will cause or contribute to the violation of water quality standards) prior to coverage under the permit for discharges to a WOTUS. To satisfy the requirements of A.A.C. R18-9-A903, an operator must complete one of the following: (a) the site will employ measures to prevent all exposure to stormwater of the pollutant(s) for which the protected surface water is impaired, and retain documentation with the SWPPP on how this was accomplished; (b) submit technical information or other documentation in the SWPPP along with the NOI, to support a claim that the discharge from the site has no potential to contain the pollutants causing the impairment; or (c) submit data or other technical documentation in the

SWPPP along with the NOI to support a conclusion that the discharge will not cause or contribute to an exceedance of an applicable surface water quality standard (A.A.C. R18-11-107.F). This section does not apply to discharges to non-WOTUS protected surface waters. See A.R.S 49-255.04(B)(1).

For discharges to waters without an established or approved TMDL, the information must demonstrate that the discharge of the pollutant for which the water is impaired will meet water quality criteria at the point of discharge to the protected surface water. For discharges to waters with an approved or established TMDL, the demonstration should include that the discharges are consistent with the provision in the TMDL, including established TMDL and implementation plans. In order to be eligible under Part 1.1.4.6, the operator must demonstrate with data or other technical documentation in the SWPPP, along with the NOI submission, that the discharge will meet applicable water quality standards (A.A.C. R18-11-107.F).

If the discharge is to an upstream tributary within 2.5 miles of an impaired water, the applicant must submit their SWPPP along with the demonstration required above, with their NOI. The SWPPP must identify additional control measures needed to further minimize the discharge of pollutants to ensure that the discharge will not cause or contribute to the non-attainment of standards in the impaired water. ADEQ has 30 calendar days to review the NOI and SWPPP for discharges to impaired waters and notify the applicant in writing that: coverage is granted, request modifications to the SWPPP, or that the discharge is ineligible for coverage under this permit. Note: a SWPPP does not have to be submitted if the discharge is to a non-WOTUS impaired or not-attaining water.

Note: In accordance with A.A.C. R18-11-109(D)(2), suspended sediment concentrations in surface waters within 48 hours of a local storm event are not used in assessing compliance with the water quality standard. Therefore, if a protected surface water is impaired for suspended solids, turbidity or sediment/ sedimentation, a mine operator seeking authorization to discharge under the permit may satisfy the requirement of Part 1.1.4.5(1)(c)(i) of the permit either by discharging only within the first 48 hours after a local storm event or by demonstrating that any discharge after that time satisfies the requirements of Part 1.1.4.6.

New Dischargers and New Sources to Outstanding Arizona Waters (Part 1.1.4.7). (Applicable only to discharges to WOTUS)

This section does not apply for discharges to non-WOTUS protected surface waters. See A.R.S. 49-221(A)(1).

Per the antidegradation rules, coverage under the 2024 MSGP is not available for new discharges and new sources that discharge directly to waters designated as Outstanding Arizona waters (OAW). The 2024 MSGP specifically reflects 40 CFR 131.12(a)(3) by indicating that any new or increased discharges to OAWs are ineligible for permit coverage. Except for certain temporary changes, water quality cannot be degraded in OAWs (see 40 CFR 131.12(a)(3)).

This section also provides additional requirements for applicants seeking new or expanded discharges to tributaries upstream of an OAW. The applicant must prepare a SWPPP that demonstrates the discharge will not degrade existing water quality in the OAW and outline basic information that must be included with the SWPPP, including a sampling and analysis plan (SAP) for required water quality monitoring. If the discharge is within 2.5 miles of an OAW, the SWPPP must be submitted with the NOI. ADEQ has 30 calendar days to review NOIs for discharges to OAWs and notify the applicant in writing that: coverage is granted, request modifications to the SWPPP, or that the discharge is ineligible for coverage under this permit.

IV.B. Permit Compliance (Part 1.2)

Part 1.2 states that any noncompliance with any of the requirements of this permit constitutes a violation of the Clean Water Act and A.R.S. Title 49, Chapter 2, Article 3.1. Non-compliance with requirements of this permit that apply to discharges to WOTUS constitute a violation of the CWA. For discharges to a WOTUS, where requirements and schedules for taking corrective actions are included, the time intervals are schedules considered reasonable for making repairs and improvements. For provisions specifying a time period to remedy noncompliance, the initial failure, such as a violation of a numeric or non-numeric effluent limitation, constitutes a violation of the CWA, and subsequent failure to

remedy such deficiencies within the specified time periods constitutes an independent, additional violations of the permit and CWA.

Requirements of this permit that regulate discharges to non-WOTUS protected surface waters were not adopted pursuant to the CWA and do not constitute effluent standards or limitations under 33 U.S.C. § 1365. Non-compliance with requirements of this permit that apply to discharges to non-WOTUS protected surface waters is enforceable solely by ADEQ pursuant to A.R.S. Title 49, Chapter 2, Article 4.

IV.C. Authorization under the 2024 MSGP (Part 1.3)

Obtaining Authorization to Discharge (Part 1.3.1). To obtain authorization under the permit, operators must: meet the Part 1.1 eligibility requirements; select, design, install, and implement control measures in accordance with Part 2.1 to meet numeric limits and water quality standards; develop a SWPPP according to the requirements of A.A.C R18-9 C901(C) and submit a complete and accurate Notice of Intent (NOI) to ADEQ.

How to Submit Your NOI (Part 1.3.1). The requirements in Part 1.3.1 clarify that operators must submit their NOIs electronically, using myDEQ. The applicant is authorized to discharge stormwater from an eligible site upon receipt of the Notice of Intent Certificate that is issued immediately after the submission of a complete and accurate NOI and the receipt of the applicant's payment, unless the additional review is necessary due to potential impacts to special waters.

NOI Submission Deadlines (Table 1-2). ADEQ's discharge authorization is organized according to type of discharger. The majority of dischargers must file a complete and accurate NOI for coverage under the 2024 MSGP between January 16, 2025 and April 16, 2025. A discussion of the Table 1-2 information follows:

- **Existing dischargers** in operation and authorized for coverage under the 2019 MSGP must submit a NOI for coverage under the 2024 MSGP no later than April 16, 2025. The operator's authorization under the 2019 MSGP is administratively continued until coverage under this or an alternative permit is granted, or a Notice of Termination (NOT) is submitted. Coverage begins upon the applicant's receipt of the Notice of Intent Certificate. If an existing permittee does not submit a new NOI before April 16, 2025, coverage is automatically terminated and any subsequent discharges are subject to enforcement action;
- **Other eligible dischargers** in operation but not covered under the 2019 MSGP must submit an NOI for coverage under the 2024 MSGP within 60 calendar days from the effective date of the 2024 MSGP. Coverage begins upon the applicant's receipt of the Notice of Intent Certificate;
- **New dischargers** commencing after issuance of the 2024 MSGP, an NOI must be submitted at least 30 calendar days before discharge is anticipated. Coverage begins upon the applicant's receipt of the Notice of Intent Certificate;
- **Change of ownership** on to a new owner or operator of an existing site (discharger) whose discharge is authorized under the permit: The permitted owner/ operator must submit an NOT to ADEQ within 30 calendar days after the new owner/ operator assumes responsibility for the site. At least thirty (30) calendar days prior to taking operational control of the site, the new owner/ operator must submit a NOI to ADEQ. Coverage for the new owner / operator begins upon the applicant's receipt of the Notice of Intent Certificate.
- **Change in site location** to a new site location, whose discharge is authorized by this permit. The permitted owner or operator must submit a NOT to ADEQ within 30 calendar days after the change in site location. At least thirty (30) calendar days prior to taking operational control of the site, the site with the new site location must submit a NOI to ADEQ. Coverage begins upon the applicant's receipt of the Notice of Intent Certificate.
- **Change of site name** to a different site name whose discharge is authorized by this permit. The permitted owner or operator must submit a NOT to ADEQ within 30 calendar days after the name change of the site. At least thirty (30) calendar days prior to taking operational control of the site, the site with the new name must submit a NOI to ADEQ. Coverage begins upon the applicant's receipt of the Notice of Intent Certificate.

- **NOI revisions** - The permittee is required to submit a revised (modified) NOI for the following changes to their previous NOI application: site contact, site discharges to MS4, sector, subsector, co-located facilities, acreage exposed to industrial stormwater, primary industrial activity acreage exposed to stormwater, co-located industrial activities acreage exposed to stormwater, SWPPP contact, outfall name, outfall location, number of outfalls, outfalls that are inactivated, protected surface water, protected surface water type, sampling type, and claiming inactive and unstaffed site status (or reverting back to active and staffed). The modification to the NOI shall take place within 30 days of the change. There is no fee for modifying or revising a NOI, unless an outfall to a special water is added, which would trigger the SWPPP review fee.

If ADEQ does not receive an accurate NOI certifying that the eligibility requirements of Part 1 of the permit have been met, ADEQ will notify the applicant/operator that the application is deficient or incomplete. In some cases, the applicant/operator may be required to implement additional controls before ADEQ will authorize stormwater discharge.

If the applicant seeks authorization for a new discharge and a new source to an impaired water that is a WOTUS, or to an upstream tributary of an OAW, a copy of the SWPPP, along with the NOI, must be submitted to ADEQ. ADEQ will review the SWPPP to determine whether the selected BMPs and control measures are sufficiently protective of water quality. In some cases, the applicant/operator may be required to implement additional controls before ADEQ will authorize stormwater discharge.

An applicant/operator will be authorized to commence discharging upon receipt of ADEQ's authorization document called a NOI Certificate that contains a unique "AZI" authorization number.

The public can contact ADEQ's Record Management Center (RMC) to determine if a site has stormwater permit coverage or to request permit documentation. A map of AZPDES general permits can be found on ADEQ website at azdeq.gov/emaps.

Continuation of this permit (Part 1.3.2). If this permit is not reissued or replaced (or revoked or terminated) prior to its expiration date, ADEQ has the authority to administratively extend coverage for existing dischargers, in accordance with A.A.C. R18-9-C903(A). If coverage is provided to a permittee prior to the expiration date of the 2024 MSGP, the permittee is authorized to discharge under the permit until the earliest of: (1) the authorization for coverage under a reissuance or replacement of the permit, following timely and appropriate submittal of a complete NOI; (2) submittal of a Notice of Termination; (3) denial of coverage under the 2024 MSGP, or issuance or denial of an individual AZPDES permit for the permittee's discharges; or (4) a formal permit decision by ADEQ not to reissue the permit, at which time ADEQ will identify a reasonable time period for covered dischargers to seek coverage under an alternative general permit or an individual permit. Coverage under the 2024 MSGP will cease at the end of this time period.

ADEQ reserves the right to modify or revoke and reissue the 2024 MSGP under 40 CFR 122.62 and 63, in which case permittees will be notified of any relevant changes or procedures to which they may be subject. Where ADEQ does not issue another general permit prior to the expiration of a previous one, ADEQ does not have the authority to provide coverage to industrial operators not already covered under that prior general permit.

IV.D. Coverage under Alternative Permits (Part 1.4)

This section describes the procedures for obtaining an alternative permit. The following are scenarios in which an alternative permit may be required: 1) a new or previously permitted site is denied coverage under the MSGP; 2) an existing site covered under the 2024 MSGP loses their authorization under the MSGP; or 3) a permittee requests to be covered under an alternative permit.

For discharges to a WOTUS: ADEQ may require an operator to obtain authorization to discharge under either an individual AZPDES permit or an alternative AZPDES general permit in accordance with A.A.C. R18-9-C902(A). For discharges to a non-WOTUS: Discharges to non-WOTUS protected surface waters, ADEQ may require an operator to obtain authorization under an Individual AZPDES Permit if the requirements in A.R.S. § 49-255.04(C) are made.

An applicant may elect to forego coverage under this general permit by applying for an individual permit. In such a case, the applicant must submit an individual permit application in accordance with the

requirements of A.A.C. R18-9-B901(B)(2) to the Department and include reasons supporting the request. If the application is for discharges to non-WOTUS protected surface waters, the applicant does not need to submit the information required by 40 C.F.R. §§ 122.26(c)(1)(i)(E)(1) & 122.26(c)(1)(i)(G).

After the submittal of a complete and accurate NOI, operators may be notified in writing by ADEQ that they are not covered under the 2024 MSGP, and that they must apply for and/or obtain coverage under either an individual AZPDES permit or an alternate general AZPDES permit. This notification will include a brief statement of the reasons for this decision and will provide application information or NOI requirements.

If an operator is currently covered under a previously issued MSGP or the 2024 MSGP, ADEQ will set a deadline to file the permit application or NOI for an individual permit or alternative general permit, and will include a statement that on the effective date of the individual AZPDES permit or the date of coverage under an alternative general AZDES permit, coverage under this general permit will terminate. ADEQ may grant additional time to submit the application or NOI if the permittee requests it. If a permittee fails to submit an individual AZPDES permit application or NOI as required by ADEQ, the applicability of the MSGP is terminated at the end of the day specified by ADEQ as the deadline for application or NOI submittal. If a timely permit application or NOI is submitted, coverage under the MSGP is terminated on the effective date of the coverage under the alternative permit.

IV.E. Terminating Coverage (Part 1.5)

The purpose of submitting a Notice of Termination (NOT) is to document that a permittee's obligation to manage industrial stormwater is no longer necessary.

When to Submit a Notice of Termination

The permittee must submit an NOT within 30 calendar days after:

- A new owner or operator has assumed ownership or responsibility for the site.
- The site changes locations (i.e. change in geographic coordinates).
- Change of Name / Legal Ownership (e.g., *from ABC Inc to ABC LLC*).

The permittee may submit an NOT after one or more the following conditions have occurred:

- The permittee has ceased operations at the site, there are not or will be no further industrial stormwater discharges and the site has implemented the necessary sediment and erosion controls measures; or
- The site meets the requirements for a No Exposure Certification and has obtained NEC coverage; or
- The permittee obtained coverage under an individual or alternative general permit for all discharges required to be covered by an AZPDES permit; or
- The permittee has met the requirements of Part 8.G.9.1 or Part 8.J.10.1 and reclamation is complete for all applicable portions of the site; or
- There are no longer discharges of stormwater to protected surface water, either directly or by way of a conveyance) storm sewer, street, ditch, etc.).

The NOT must be submitted electronically through ADEQ's online permitting process (myDEQ).

Coverage under the MSGP terminates automatically only when the permittee obtains coverage under an individual or alternative general permit for all discharges requiring AZPDES permit coverage. This could happen either because ADEQ required it (see Part 1.4 of the permit) or the permittee petitioned ADEQ requesting coverage under an alternative permit. See A.A.C. R18-9-A902(A) and R18-9-A902(B).

IV.F. Inactive and Unstaffed Sites – Conditional Exemption from No Exposure Requirements (Part 1.6)

It is impracticable for mining facilities that are inactive and unstaffed to make staff and resources available for stormwater monitoring, considering that the outfall locations are often remote and the stormwater events occur at times that are unpredictable.

The permit gives operators the flexibility for mining facilities to become inactive and unstaffed, but keep permit coverage active, if they plan to recommence any industrial activity in the future. To qualify for this exception, permittees must maintain a signed certification with their additional documentation (Part 5.6 of the permit) that indicates that the site is inactive and unstaffed. Permittees are not required to obtain advance approval for this exception. Operators of Sectors G and J sites have no requirement, subject to certain conditions in Part 1.6, to certify that “there are no industrial materials or activities exposed to stormwater.” These sectors may qualify for this exception even where some industrial activities or materials are exposed to stormwater.

Inactive and unstaffed mine sites must be inspected at least once per year (one routine inspection), and more frequently, as necessary, to ensure control measure’s integrity and effectiveness. Where inspections are not practical at inactive and unstaffed mine sites, the permittee shall submit an Inactive and Unstaffed Site Certification Form within one year of obtaining permit coverage. The form shall include an explanation why inspections are impracticable at the mine site. Inactive and unstaffed mine facilities where it has been determined that annual inspections are impracticable, shall be inspected once every three years (tri-annual). Tri-annual inspections must be conducted in accordance with Section 4.0, and signed by a Registered Professional Engineer in the state of Arizona (40 CFR 122.44.B.4.iv), certifying that the site is in compliance with the permit, or alternative requirements using the Inactive and Unstaffed Site Certification Form. The permittee shall also inspect the site whenever there is a reasonable expectation that severe weather or other events may have damaged control measures or increased discharges.

Also, if a site is inactive and unstaffed, the permit authorizes the operator to forego visual monitoring requirements without having to certify that “there are no industrial materials or activities exposed to stormwater”, as is required of other non-mining facilities, provided that certain conditions are met in Part 1.6. A general analytical monitoring exclusion/ exception is provided for mining sites because of the impracticability/infeasibility of reaching these sites during qualifying storm events.

Permittees should make reasonable effort to secure the site in order to minimize the potential for discharge of pollutants in stormwater. Such efforts should include removing, covering or otherwise containing industrial materials used in the operations, if applicable. Such actions may include ensuring that valves are closed and secured, where appropriate, and following the good housekeeping measures that are outlined in the site’s SWPPP, such as properly labeled materials, and clean up trash, debris and other materials.

The permit clarifies that if circumstances change and the site becomes active and/or staffed, this exception no longer applies and the permittee must immediately begin complying with the applicable inspections (Parts 4.1), visual assessment monitoring (Part 4.2) and general analytical monitoring requirements (Part 6.2.1) as if the site was in the first year of permit coverage. Also, the permittee must notify ADEQ of the change within 30 day of changing to inactive and unstaffed (or reverting back to active and staffed status), by modifying the NOI. Likewise, if the permittee does not qualify for this exception at the time the site is authorized under the permit, but during the permit term it becomes inactive and unstaffed, the permittee must prepare and sign the statement in the SWPPP concerning the site’s qualification for this special exception.

ADEQ retains the authority to revoke this exemption and/or the monitoring exemption where it is determined that the discharge may cause or contribute to an exceedance of an applicable surface water quality standard, exceeds an effluent limitation guideline in a WOTUS, exceeds a Wasteload Allocation (WLA) or degrades existing water quality in an OAW that is a WOTUS.

V. Effluent Limitations and Control Measures (Part 2)

V.A. Water Quality Based Effluent Limitations and Control Measures (Part 2)

Part 2 describes the requirements for implementation of stormwater control measures to minimize the discharge of pollutants and meet numeric technology-based effluent limitations and water quality-based requirements. Part 2.2 requires operators to implement, as appropriate, control measures listed in the permit. In previous permits, these were referred to as best management practices (BMPs) and are now referred to as control measures. Additional control measures may be required for discharges to

Arizona listed water quality impaired waters (Part 2.1.1 of the permit). Technology-based effluent limitations do not apply to non-WOTUS protected surface waters. See Part V.B. for additional details.

V.A.1. Introduction to CWA Requirements to Control Pollutants in Discharges

Water quality-based requirements are required by CWA Section 301(b)(1)(C). Water quality-based requirements are discussed in greater depth in Section V.C. The CWA requires that discharges meet technology-based effluent limitations reflecting, among other things, the technological capability of permittees to control pollutants in their discharges. Both technology-based effluent limitations and water quality-based requirements are implemented through NPDES permits. See CWA sections 301(a) and (b). Technology-based effluent limitations do not apply to non-WOTUS protected surface waters. See Part V.B. for additional details.

V.A.2. Numeric and Water-Quality Based Effluent Limitation

The 2024 MSGP includes water quality-based effluent limits (WQBELs) and effluent limitation guidelines. The provisions of Part 2.1 constitute the numeric technology based effluent limitations and WQBELs of the permit. The WQBELs are the Water Quality Standards applicable to the protected surface water in A.A.C. R18-11, Article 1. In the permit WQBELs are either referred to as the Water Quality Standards or water quality-based requirements to distinguish them for technology based effluent limitations. Technology-based effluent limitations do not apply to non-WOTUS protected surface waters. See Part V.B. for additional details.

V.A.3 Water Quality-Based Standards (Part 2.1)

The provisions of Part 2.1 constitute the WQBELs of the 2024 MSGP, and supplement the permit's technology-based effluent limits in Part 2.2. The following is a list of the permit's WQBELs:

- Control discharges as necessary to not cause or contribute to an exceedance of an applicable surface water quality standard (See Part 2.1.1); and
- Implement any additional measures that are necessary to be consistent with the assumptions and requirements of the applicable Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and its wasteload allocation (See Part 2.1.1.1.a). For discharges to impaired waters without a TMDL, conduct impaired waters monitoring (See Part 2.1.1.1.b.). Additionally, new discharges to impaired waters must implement any measures required per the Part 1.1.4.6 eligibility requirements.

The WQBELs included in the permit continue to be non-numeric. ADEQ relies on a narrative limit to ensure discharges are controlled as necessary to not cause or contribute to an exceedance of an applicable surface water quality standard, and to ensure that additional measures are employed where necessary to meet the narrative WQBELs, or to be consistent with the assumptions and requirements of an applicable TMDL and its WLA.

V.A.3.1 Water Quality Standards (Part 2.1.1)

Permittees are required to control discharges as necessary to not cause or contribute to an exceedance of an applicable surface water quality standard. ADEQ expects that compliance with the other conditions in the permit (e.g., the control measures, corrective actions, etc.) will result in discharges that are controlled as necessary to not cause or contribute to an exceedance of an applicable surface water quality standard in the protected surface water body. If the permittee becomes aware, or ADEQ determines, that the discharge causes or contributes to a surface water quality standard exceedance, corrective actions and ADEQ notification are required. In addition, at any time ADEQ may impose additional, more stringent water quality-based requirements on a site-specific basis, or require an individual permit, if information suggests that the discharge is not controlled as necessary to not cause or contribute to an exceedance of an applicable surface water quality standard.

V.A.3.2 Existing Discharge to an Impaired Water with an Approved TMDL (Part 2.1.1.1.a)

This Section specifies ADEQ may inform permittees that additional requirements are necessary for the discharge to be consistent with the assumptions and requirements of an applicable TMDL and its wasteload allocation (WLA). Where an operator indicates on its NOI that a discharge is to one of the

types of waters this section covers, ADEQ will review the applicable TMDL to determine whether it includes provisions that apply to the individual discharger or its industrial sector. ADEQ will determine whether any more stringent requirements are necessary to comply with the WLA, whether compliance with the existing permit limits is sufficient, or, alternatively, whether an individual permit application is necessary.

V.A.3.3 Existing Discharge to an Impaired Water without an Approved TMDL (Part 2.1.1.b)

This section reiterates the requirement for permittees that discharge to an impaired water without an approved or established TMDL, must still control the discharge as necessary to not cause or contribute to an exceedance of an applicable surface water quality standard (Part 2.1.2). ADEQ expects permittees will achieve this if they comply with other requirements in the permit including monitoring requirements for impaired water discharges in Part 6.2.3. However, if information in the NOI, required reports, or from other sources indicates that discharges are not controlled as necessary to not cause or contribute to an exceedance of an applicable surface water quality standard, ADEQ may inform operators of the need to implement additional measures on a site-specific basis to ensure the WQBEL is met, or, alternatively, of the need to apply for an individual permit.

V.A.3.4 New Discharge to an Impaired Water (Part 2.1.1.1.c.) (Applicable only to discharges to WOTUS)

This provision requires permittees that are “new sources” or meet the definition of “new discharger” (see Appendix A) that discharge to impaired waters that are WOTUS, to maintain control measures that have been implemented to meet the eligibility requirements of Part 1.1.4.6. Note: a SWPPP does not have to be submitted if the new discharge or new source is to a non-WOTUS impaired or not-attaining water. This section does not apply to discharges to non-WOTUS protected surface waters. See A.R.S 49-255.04(B)(1).

V.B. Explanation of the Use of Control Measures to Meet the Permit Limits

Technology-based effluent limitations do not apply to non-WOTUS protected surface waters. Therefore, under the September 2021 permit modification, the permit clarified the control measures and effluent limitation requirements for WOTUS and non-WOTUS protected surface waters. The requirement to implement control measures in accordance with Permit Part 2.2.1 applies to all sites that discharge to a WOTUS. Permit Part 8 contains additional control measures imposed on a sector-specific basis for discharges to a WOTUS. Consistent with Part 2.2.1 for discharges to non-WOTUS protected surface waters, a permittee may elect to either; 1. implement control measures in Permit Part 2.2.1.2.12.2.1.2.10, Part 8.G and or Part 8.J as applicable; or (2) as an alternative, conduct analytical monitoring in accordance with Permit Part 6 and Part 8.G.8 and or 8.J.8., unless ADEQ finds that control measures are not sufficient to protect surface water quality standards.

Control measures can be actions (including processes, procedures, schedules of activities, prohibitions on practices and other management practices), or structural or installed devices to prevent or minimize water pollution. There are many options that accomplish the objective of preventing pollutants from entering protected surface waters and meeting applicable limits.

The 2024 MSGP requires industrial site operators to select, design, install, and implement site-specific control measures to meet these limits. Most industrial facilities already have such control measures in place for product loss prevention, accident and fire prevention, worker health and safety or to comply with other environmental regulations. Sometimes, treatment devices or constructed/installed controls may be necessary, particularly where a site might otherwise cause or contribute to an exceedance of an applicable surface water quality standard.

There are many control measures that could be used to meet the limits in the permit. The following are helpful resources for developing and implementing control measures for a site that can be obtained through the web:

- Sector-specific Industrial Stormwater Fact Sheet Series (<https://www.epa.gov/npdes/industrial-stormwater-fact-sheet-series>);
- National Menu of Stormwater BMPs (<https://www.epa.gov/npdes/national-menu-best-management-practices-bmps-stormwater>); and

- National Management Measures to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution from Urban Areas (<https://www.epa.gov/nps/urban-runoff-national-management-measures>).

Part 2.2 requires the operator to select, design, install, and implement control measures to meet the numeric effluent limitations in Part 2.2.2 and surface water quality standards listed in Part 2.1. The selection, design and implementation of these control measures must be in accordance with good engineering practices and manufacturer's specifications. If operators find their control measures are not minimizing pollutant discharges adequately, the control measures must be modified as expeditiously as practicable.

V.B.1. Control Measure Selection and Design Considerations (Part 2.1.1.1)

The permit requires permittees to implement appropriate control measures (found in Parts 2.2 and 8 of the permit). ADEQ expects that the implementation of control measures will result in the reduction or elimination of pollutants from the operator's stormwater discharge to meet the effluent limitations in Part 2.2.2 and water quality standards in the Part 2.1. The permittee is not limited to control measures specified in the permit. ADEQ encourages permittees to consider new control measures or new applications of existing practices at times during permit coverage when adjustments to their selection, design and implementation are being considered (e.g., when corrective action is triggered). This will help ensure that control measures continue to reflect best industry practice.

In Part 2.2 operators are required to consider certain factors when selecting control measures, including:

- Preventing stormwater from coming into contact with polluting materials is generally more effective and less costly than trying to remove pollutants from stormwater;
- Using combinations of control measures is more effective than using control measures in isolation for minimizing pollutants;
- Assessing the type and quantity of pollutants, including their potential to impact protected surface water quality, is critical to determining which control measures will achieve the limits in the permit;
- Attenuating high discharge flows, such as using open vegetated swales and natural depressions to reduce in-stream impacts of erosive flows;
- Conserving and restoring riparian buffers will help protect streams from stormwater runoff and improve water quality; and
- Using containment to intercept stormwater flows before they leave the site. At mining sites, especially large active sites, preventing stormwater from contacting polluting materials is generally not feasible. Directing flows to non-discharging areas (pits), or installing runoff containment, may be the most appropriate control measure for minimizing the discharge of pollutants.
- New for the 2024 MSGP, implementation of structural improvements, enhanced/resilient pollution prevention measures, and other mitigation measures can help to minimize impacts from stormwater discharges from major storm events such as extreme/heavy precipitation and flood events.

Technology-Based Effluent Limits, Best Management Practices, and State-Specific Requirements (Part 2.2.1.2)

The MSGP requires permittees that discharge to a WOTUS, to comply with non-numeric technology-based effluent limits, pursuant to 40 CFR 122.44(k), by implementing stormwater control measures. The achievement of these non-numeric limits will result in the reduction or elimination of pollutants in stormwater discharges. A permittee discharging to a WOTUS shall comply with the following non-numeric effluent limits (except where otherwise specified in Part 8) as well as any sector-specific non-numeric effluent limits in Part 8.

A permittee discharging to non-WOTUS protected surface waters shall either; (1) choose to implement either non-numeric best management practices (BMP) in Section 2.2.1.2.1-2.2.1.2.10 to presumptively meet SWQS or (2) conduct general analytical monitoring per Section 6.0, 8.G.8 and or

8.J.8 to demonstrate that discharges do not cause or contribute to an exceedance of SWQS. Numeric effluent limitation guidelines do not apply to discharges to non-WOTUS protected surface waters. Permittees discharging to non-WOTUS protected surface waters are subject to state requirements only per A.R.S. 49-255.04(C), enforceable solely by ADEQ

The following is a summary of the types of control measures permittees should evaluate and implement as appropriate in order to minimize pollutants in stormwater discharges:

- *Minimize Exposure to Stormwater* (Permit Part 2.2.1.2.1).
- *Good Housekeeping* (Permit Part 2.2.1.2.2).
- *Maintenance* (Permit Part 2.2.1.2.3).
- *Spill Prevention and Response Procedures* (Permit Part 2.2.1.2.4).
- *Erosion and Sediment Controls* (Permit Part 2.2.1.2.5)
- *Management of Stormwater Runoff* (Permit Part 2.2.1.2.6).
- *Salt Storage Piles or Pile Containing Salt* (Permit Part 2.2.1.2.7).
- *Employee Training* (Permit Part 2.2.1.2.8).
- *Non-Stormwater Discharges* (Permit Part 2.2.1.2.9).
- *Dust Generation and Vehicle Tracking of Industrial Material* (Permit Part 2.2.1.2.10)

V.B.2 Numeric Effluent Limitations Based on Effluent Limitations Guidelines (Part 2.2.2)
(Applicable only to discharges to WOTUS)

This section requires permittees to comply with any applicable federal effluent limitation guidelines (ELG) for discharges to WOTUS. The following describes where these limits can be found in the permit. The following table corresponds to Table 2-2 in the permit. ELGs do not apply for discharges to non-WOTUS protected surface waters.

Applicable Effluent Limitations Guidelines		
Regulated Activity	40 CFR Part/Subpart	Effluent Limit
Mine dewatering discharges at crushed stone, construction sand and gravel, or industrial sand mining facilities	Part 436, Subparts B, C, or D	See Part 8.J.9

VI. Corrective Actions (Part 3)

A permittee must take corrective actions to eliminate or correct a problem if any of the conditions in this part are met. The provisions in Part 3 specify the types of conditions at the site that trigger corrective action requirements, what must be done to eliminate such conditions or conduct further inquiries into their cause, and the deadlines for completing corrective action.

A summary of corrective actions initiated and/or completed is required to be summarized in a Corrective Action Report (CAR) and shall be kept with the SWPPP.

Conditions Requiring Corrective Action (Part 3.1.1)

For the 2024 MSGP, ADEQ has differentiated conditions that trigger a corrective action based on whether the condition needs to be eliminated. The following conditions require corrective action:

- An unauthorized discharge (e.g., non-stormwater discharge not authorized by this or another AZPDES permit to a protected surface water or to a regulated MS4.) that is discovered during testing or evaluation of outfalls for Certification of Discharge Testing (Part 8.G.5.3) (applicable to Sector G only);
- The permittee becomes aware, or ADEQ determines, that a discharge authorized by this permit from the site causes or contributes to an exceedance of applicable surface water quality standard(s) in the protected surface water (Part 2.1.1);

- The permittee becomes aware, or ADEQ determines, that a discharge authorized by this permit from the site to water listed as not-attaining exceeds an adopted wasteload allocation (WLA) for the pollutant(s) causing the impairment (Part 2.1.1.1);
- The permittee becomes aware, or ADEQ determines, that a discharge authorized by this permit from the site to an Outstanding Arizona Water is degrading the existing water quality in the OAW (Part 2.1.1.2); or
- A discharge authorized by this permit from the site violates a numeric effluent limitation guideline in Table 2.2 and in Part 8 sector-specific requirements. NOTE: this condition does not apply for discharges to non-WOTUS protected surface waters.

Substantially Identical Outfalls (Part 3.1.2)

If the event triggering corrective action is linked to an outfall that represents other substantially identical outfalls, the permittee's review must assess the need for corrective action for each outfall (as practicable) represented by the outfall that triggered the review. Any necessary changes to control measures that affect these other outfalls must also be made before the next storm event if possible, or as soon as practicable following that storm event.

Corrective Action Documentation, Deadlines and Reporting (Part 3.2)

The permit includes specific deadlines for permittees to take corrective actions. The permit requires that within 72 hours following identification or discovery of any of the conditions listed in Parts 3.1.1, the permittee must document such discovery. Subsequently, within 14 calendar days of the discovery, the permittee must document corrective actions taken or to be taken to eliminate the condition and any additional review necessary to further investigate the condition. If the permittee determines that changes are necessary following the review, any modifications to the control measures must be made before the next storm event if possible, or as soon as practicable following that storm event.

Corrective Action Reporting

The 2024 MSGP requires the permittee to submit a Corrective Action Report (CAR) to ADEQ on a form prescribed by ADEQ. If electronic reporting becomes available, the CAR must be submitted electronically by the permittee.

Permittees must submit a CAR within 30 days of discovery of a condition in Part 3.1.1. In addition to submitting the CAR to ADEQ, a copy must also be kept with the SWPPP and be made available to ADEQ upon request.

VII. Inspections (Part 4)

In the 2024 MSGP, ADEQ has consolidated the inspection and documentation requirements into four (4) routine site inspections. The Comprehensive Site Inspection (CSI) requirement was removed in the 2024 MSGP, but key elements of the CSI were incorporated into the routine inspections.

Part 4 describes the inspection and evaluation of the performance of existing stormwater control measures. Generally, the permit requires all site operators to conduct two types of inspections every year: four routine quarterly inspections and four visual assessments (two in the summer and two in the winter wet seasons – see Section IX.A.4 of this Fact Sheet). The inspections shall take place during normal site operating hours. Inactive and unstaffed sites qualify for certain exceptions.

VII.A. Routine Site Inspections (Part 4.1)

Permittees are required to conduct four routine inspections (RFIs), at least quarterly, of all areas of the site where industrial materials or activities are exposed to stormwater, and of all stormwater control measures used to comply with the requirements in Part 2.0 of the MSGP. A routine site inspection provides permittees with a mechanism to ensure that developing problems are detected and addressed early and helps ensure that stormwater control measures are adequate and are operated and maintained properly.

Qualified personnel must conduct the routine site inspections with at least one member of the Pollution Prevention Team participating. If only one person regularly conducts the inspection, that individual must be a Pollution Prevention Team member. Because some equipment, processes, and procedures may require more frequent inspections, the relevant inspection schedules must be documented in the SWPPP. For example, inspection of outdoor areas associated with regular industrial activity may require more frequent inspections to ensure that the site is swept, garbage picked up, drips and spills cleaned, etc. on a regular basis.

During each calendar year, at least one of the routine inspections must be conducted during a period when a stormwater discharge is occurring if practicable. This inspection will enable permittees to identify sources of pollutants discharged in stormwater runoff from the site, and to actively observe the effectiveness of control measures implemented to comply with effluent limits. Discharge points, as defined in Appendix A, must also be observed during this inspection. If such discharge locations are inaccessible, nearby downstream locations must be inspected. If there is no measurable storm event(s) during the calendar year, the permittee shall document the inability to perform a routine inspection when a discharge is occurring. In any case, the permittee shall complete routine quarterly inspections.

VII.A.1. Routine Site Inspection Documentation (Part 4.1.1)

Part 4.1.1 elaborates on the specific information to be documented for each routine inspection. Part 4.1.1 specifies that any corrective action required as a result of a routine site inspection must be performed consistent with Part 3 of the permit. See Section VI of this Fact Sheet for additional discussion of corrective action in response to inspection findings.

VII.A.2. Exceptions to Routine Site Inspections for Inactive and Unstaffed Sites (Part 4.1.2)

Each calendar year, a permit holder of an inactive and unstaffed mining site shall conduct one routine site inspection in accordance with the requirements of Part 4.1. The permittee shall also inspect the site whenever there is a reasonable expectation that severe weather or other events may have damaged control measures or increased discharges. The permittee is waived from general analytical monitoring, quarterly routine site inspections and visual assessments inspection requirements in accordance with Part 1.6.

Where inspections are not practical at inactive and unstaffed mine sites, the permittee shall submit an Inactive and Unstaffed Site Certification Form within one year of obtaining permit coverage. The form shall include an explanation why inspections are impracticable at the mine site. Inactive and unstaffed mine facilities where it has been determined that annual inspections are impracticable, shall be inspected once every three years (tri-annual). Tri-annual inspections must be conducted in accordance with Section 4.1, and signed and certified by a Registered Professional Engineer in the state of Arizona (40 CFR 122.44. B.4.iv), certifying that the site is in compliance with the permit, or alternative requirements using the Inactive and Unstaffed Site Certification Form. The permittee shall also inspect the site whenever there is a reasonable expectation that severe weather or other events may have damaged control measures or increased discharges.

Permit holders of inactive and unstaffed mine sites are not exempt from having to minimize the discharge of pollutants during these inactive and unstaffed periods.

VII.B. Visual Assessment of Stormwater Discharges (Part 4.2)

Visual assessments provide a useful and cost-effective way for permittees to evaluate the effectiveness of their control measures. Four visual assessments must be conducted annually, twice per wet season. While four visual inspections must be conducted annually, they are to be concentrated during rainfall events in the winter and summer wet seasons. The visual examinations must still be conducted when the site is discharging. A visual assessment can be conducted concurrently with a routine site inspection required by Part 4.1.

Periodic visual inspections of a site are necessary to ensure that the SWPPP addresses any significant changes to the site's operations or control measure implementation procedures. All industrial sectors covered by the permit are required to conduct these examinations.

The permit requires that grab samples of stormwater discharges be taken and examined visually for the presence of color, odor, clarity, floating solids, settled solids, suspended solids, foam, oil sheen, and other obvious indicators of stormwater pollution. No analytical tests are required to be performed on these samples. The grab samples must be taken within the first 30 minutes or as soon as practicable after the occurrence of an actual discharge from the site (including documentation of why sampling was not practicable within the first 30 minutes). ADEQ has also included, as an option, for permittees to collect flow-weighted samples instead of grab samples to assess the entire stormwater discharge event.

Areas Subject to Snow: In areas subject to snow, the permittee may complete one wet season visual assessment by collecting snowmelt discharge. Significant snowfall only occurs regularly in the high country in Arizona, which is the only place ADEQ would expect such sampling to be applicable. These snowfall events tend to be isolated in geography and occurrence (i.e., relatively infrequent), so for practical purposes, the permit does not require that these snowmelt samples be collected within the first 30 minutes of discharge as is the case for samples collected during rain events.

Permittees must document the results of their visual assessments in a report that includes the sample location, date and time, personnel collecting the sample and performing visual assessments, results of the observations, and probable sources of any observed stormwater contamination. The visual examination reports must be maintained onsite with the SWPPP.

When conducting a stormwater visual examination, the pollution prevention team, or individual team member, should attempt to relate the results of the examination to potential sources of stormwater contamination on the site. For example, if an oil sheen is observed, site personnel should conduct an inspection of the area of the site draining to the examined discharge to look for obvious sources of spilled oil, leaks, etc. If a source can be located, then this information would allow the site operator to immediately conduct a clean-up of the pollutant source, and/or to revise control measures to minimize the contaminant source.

Exceptions to Visual Assessments (Part 4.2.3)

Part 4.2.3, of the permit includes exceptions for visual assessment monitoring. The exceptions are conditions in which the visual assessment monitoring is not feasible. Where these types of conditions prevent a site from performing these assessments quarterly, permittees may modify their assessment schedule such that the four assessments are conducted over the course of the year during periods when site discharges actually occur and can be safely observed.

VIII. Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) (Part 5)

Part 5 of the permit describes the preparation and documentation requirements of the SWPPP. The SWPPP, together with the additional documentation requirements (see Part 5.6 of the permit), is intended to document the selection, design, installation, and implementation (including inspection, maintenance, monitoring, and corrective action) of control measures being used to comply with the requirements set forth in Part 2.1. The SWPPP documents information on how the permittee intends to comply with the requirements (including inspection, maintenance, evaluation and monitoring, requirements) contained elsewhere in the permit.

To be covered under the 2024 MSGP, operators must complete a SWPPP prior to submitting an NOI for permit coverage (previous permittees must update their existing SWPPP to reflect the 2024 MSGP). In doing so helps to ensure that permittees acknowledge a new permit has been issued and that the site has (1) taken steps to identify all sources of pollutant discharges in stormwater; and (2) implemented appropriate measures to control these discharges in advance of authorization to discharge under the new permit. Part 5.1 of the permit contains most of the required elements to be documented in the SWPPP; however, sector-specific requirements are also included in Part 8 of the permit.

VIII.A. Contents of the Site's SWPPP (Part 5.1)

Numerous SWPPP resources, guidelines and templates currently exist and are readily available on ADEQ's or other stormwater websites to assist permittees with developing a SWPPP that complies with this permit. ADEQ has an optional SWPPP template available on [azdeq.gov](https://static.azdeq.gov/forms/msgp_swppp_template.doc) at https://static.azdeq.gov/forms/msgp_swppp_template.doc.

Permittees may choose to reference other documents in the SWPPP rather than recreating the same text in the SWPPP; however, when referencing other documents, the permittees are responsible for ensuring their SWPPP and the other documents together contain all the necessary elements for a complete SWPPP. In addition, permittees must ensure that a copy of the referenced document is located with the SWPPP. For example, program documents such as Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plans that fully meet the documentation requirements for a SWPPP (e.g., site inspections that incorporate and document stormwater inspection requirements) will fulfill the relevant provision of the permit.

VIII.A.1. Stormwater Pollution Prevention Team

Developing a SWPPP requires that a qualified individual or team of individuals be identified as responsible for developing and revising the site's SWPPP. Additionally, this team is responsible for implementing and maintaining the control measures to meet the permit requirements, and taking corrective action where necessary. Inclusion of the team in the plan provides notice to site staff and management (i.e., those responsible for signing and certifying the plan) of the responsibilities of certain key staff for following through on compliance with the permit's conditions and limits.

Team members should be chosen for their expertise in the relevant departments at the site to ensure that all aspects of site operations are considered in developing the plan. The SWPPP must clearly describe the responsibilities of each team member to ensure that each aspect of the plan is addressed. Most permittees will have more than one individual on the team, except for small facilities. The permit requires that team members have ready access to any applicable portions of the SWPPP and the permit.

VIII.A.2. Site Description

The SWPPP must describe activities, materials, and physical features of the site that may contribute significant amounts of pollutants to stormwater runoff or, during periods of dry weather, result in pollutant discharges through the municipal separate storm sewers or stormwater drainage systems that drain the site. The SWPPP must also contain both a general location map of the site that shows the location of the site in relationship to the protected surface waters and other geographical features, and a more detailed site map that contains information on site characteristics that affect stormwater runoff quality and quantity. For areas of the site that generate stormwater discharges with a reasonable potential to contain significant amounts of pollutants, the map must indicate the probable direction of stormwater flow and the pollutants likely to be in the discharge. Flows with a significant potential to cause soil erosion must also be identified.

VIII.A.3. Summary of Potential Pollutant Sources

The permit requires permittees to identify potential sources of pollutants from industrial activities that could result in contaminated stormwater discharges, unauthorized stormwater discharges, and potential sources of allowable non-stormwater discharges. Identification of sources of pollutants in stormwater is critical for selecting source control practices at the site necessary for meeting permit limits.

Describing the potential pollutant sources is only applicable to those parts of the site for which the permittee is covered under the permit. For example, a site that discharges stormwater to an area of the site covered by a different AZPDES permit, is not required to identify the specific activities occurring in that area. ADEQ does expect permittees to clearly identify those areas of the site and describe why they need not be covered under the permit.

Note that potential pollution sources include a site's roof(s) and other surfaces that could accumulate pollutants originating from an industrial process and deposited through the air. Roofs, walls, etc., exposed to emissions from industrial areas can build up such pollutants over dry periods, which can be mobilized during a rain event or in snowmelt, so these areas need to be identified and included in SWPPP development. Likewise, industrial structures containing materials that could become pollutants discharged in stormwater (e.g., copper cladding on buildings or zinc from galvanized fences) should also be identified as potential pollutant sources.

Spills and Leaks

The SWPPP must document where potential spills and leaks could occur that could contribute pollutants to stormwater discharges, and the corresponding outfall(s) that could be affected by such spills and leaks. The pollutant list must include all significant materials that have been handled, treated, stored, or disposed, and exposed to stormwater in the three years prior to SWPPP preparation or amendment. Significant spills include, but are not limited to, releases of oil or hazardous substances in excess of quantities that are reportable under section 311 of the CWA (see 40 CFR 110.10 and 40 CFR 117.21) or section 102 of CERCLA (see 40 CFR 302.4).

Significant spills may also include releases of materials that are not classified as oil or hazardous substances. The list of significant spills and leaks should include a description of the causes of each spill or leak, the actions taken to respond to each release, and the actions taken to prevent similar spills or leaks in the future. This effort will aid operators in developing spill prevention and response procedures and any additional procedures necessary to fulfill the requirements set forth in Part 2.2.1.2.4 of the permit.

As required in Part 5.6 of the permit, any spills or leaks that occur while covered under the permit must be documented. Documenting spills does not relieve permittees of any reporting requirements established in 40 CFR 110, 40 CFR 117, and 40 CFR 302, or any other statutory requirements relating to spills or other releases of oils or hazardous substances.

Unauthorized Non-Stormwater Discharges The SWPPP must document the occurrence of unauthorized non-stormwater discharges. The documentation must include the date of any evaluation, and describe any test or evaluation conducted to detect such discharges, the list of the outfalls or drainage points that were directly observed during evaluation, and the actions taken such as control measures used to eliminate unauthorized non-stormwater discharges. The permittee must eliminate unauthorized non-stormwater discharges or document that a separate AZPDES permit was obtained.

Salt Storage The SWPPP must identify any storage piles containing salt, including piles that only contain salt as a portion of the mixture in the pile, used for deicing or other commercial or industrial purposes.

Sampling Data A summary of all existing data on the quality or quantity of stormwater discharges collected from the site during the previous permit term must be described in the SWPPP. The summary shall include a textual evaluation of sampling results and include data where necessary to summarize stormwater sampling data. New dischargers must provide a summary of any available stormwater discharge sampling data they may have, including the methods used to collect the data and the sample collection location.

VIII.A.4. Description of Control Measures

A permittee must describe in its SWPPP the control measures it has implemented at its site to achieve each of the requirements in Part 2.1, and to address any stormwater run-on that commingles with discharges covered under the permit. The description of the control measures implemented to meet the requirements in Part 2.1 must include a brief explanation of the measures implemented at the site, including how the Part 2.2.1 selection and design considerations were followed.

VIII.A.5. Schedules and Procedures – Control Measures

The permit identifies specific information that must be documented in the SWPPP. ADEQ emphasizes that control measures implemented to meet the Part 2 limits must be documented in the SWPPP.

In addition to the description of the on-the-ground control measures implemented to meet the requirements in Part 2.1, the permit requires certain schedules and procedures to be documented in the SWPPP.

VIII.A.6. Schedules and Procedures – Inspections and Visual Monitoring

The permit requires permittees to plan and document (in the SWPPP) inspection and monitoring activities in advance of when they are required to be conducted. These documentation provisions will help ensure that appropriate monitoring and inspection procedures consistent with permit requirements are implemented and improve site compliance with the requirements.

For inspection activities, permittees must document procedures for performing the three types of inspections specified in the permit, namely, routine site inspections (Part 4.1) and visual assessments (Part 4.2). For each of these types of inspections, the SWPPP must include information such as person(s) or position(s) performing inspections, the inspection schedule, and specific items to be covered by the inspection. Permittees invoking the exception for inactive and unstaffed sites for quarterly inspections or visual assessments must provide information in the SWPPP to document the exception.

When choosing to use the substantially identical outfall exception for visual assessments or general analytical monitoring (Part 6.2.1) monitoring, the operator is required to describe in the SWPPP the locations of each of these outfalls, the general industrial activities conducted in the drainage area of each outfall, the control measures being implemented for each outfall, the exposed materials that are likely to be a significant contributor of pollutants to the stormwater discharge, an estimate of the runoff coefficient of the drainage area, and why the outfalls are expected to discharge substantially identical effluents.

VIII.A.7. Monitoring and Sampling Procedures

For monitoring activities, the permittee must document procedures and requirements in the SWPPP for information such as locations where samples are to be collected, person(s) or position(s) responsible for collecting those samples, the frequency of sampling and the parameters to be sampled, sampling protocol, permit limits for sampling, and procedures that will be followed to gather storm event data. Any permittee subject to sampling should prepare and keep a copy of a Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) with their SWPPP. The SAP can be within the SWPPP content or can be a separate Appendices.

The SWPPP shall contain the justifications for any other exemptions or exceptions to analytical monitoring.

VIII.B. Signature Requirements (Part 5.2)

The permit requires the permittee sign and date the SWPPP consistent with procedures detailed in Appendix B, Subsection 11 (standard permit condition for signatory requirements). The requirement is consistent with standard AZPDES permit conditions described in 40 CFR 122.22 and is intended to ensure that the permittee understands its responsibility to create and maintain a complete and accurate SWPPP. The permittee may appoint an authorized representative consistent with the regulations. Therefore, if a site feels it is more appropriate for a member of the stormwater pollution prevention plan team to sign the documentation, that option is available under the permit.

VIII.C. Required SWPPP Modifications (Part 5.3)

The permit requires that the SWPPP be updated whenever any of the triggering conditions for corrective action in Part 3.1 occur such that changes to the permittee's control measures are necessary to meet the requirements in the permit. This ensures that the SWPPP document is kept up-to-date.

In addition, the permittee shall modify the SWPPP to reflect new or modified control measures (see Parts 2.2 and 4.0), including measures implemented at active mining operations as mining activities expand into previously undisturbed areas (see Part 8.G.5.2).

VIII.D. SWPPP Availability (Part 5.4)

The permit requires that a copy of the SWPPP be kept at the site and be immediately available to representatives of ADEQ, EPA (only if the SWPPP covers a discharge to a WOTUS), a State, or a local stormwater agency (e.g., MS4 operator) at the time of an on-site inspection or upon request.

The SWPPP at inactive and unstaffed sites does not need to be kept on-site. However, the SWPPP must still be kept up to date and on-site when appropriate routine and comprehensive site inspections are conducted. Furthermore, the SWPPP must be made available within 48 hours, if requested, when a regulatory inspection is performed by ADEQ, EPA (only if the SWPPP covers a discharge to a WOTUS), or other Federal or local authority.

VIII.E. SWPPP Submittal (Part 5.5)

Upon written notification from ADEQ, or as part of the electronic permitting process, the permittee shall submit a complete and up-to-date copy of the SWPPP to ADEQ in response to the following criteria:

- The site is located within 2.5 miles of a special water; Note: a SWPPP does not have to be submitted for a new discharger or new source if the discharge is to a non-WOTUS protected surface water that is an impaired or not-attaining water or a new or expanded discharges to tributaries upstream of a water or portion thereof classified as an OAW;
- ADEQ has determined stormwater discharges are (or have the potential to) causing or contributing to the exceedance of a surface water quality standard in a protected surface water;
- As the result of an inspection conducted by ADEQ or U.S. EPA;
- To demonstrate compliance with permit conditions;
- A complaint about the site or discharge activity was submitted to ADEQ and ADEQ determines the SWPPP is necessary to assess compliance and respond to the complaint; The SWPPP has been requested as part of a public records request.

Additionally, the permittee may voluntarily submit a copy of the SWPPP at any time for ADEQ's review.

All SWPPPs submitted to ADEQ shall be done so electronically using the online myDEQ portal. The corresponding review fee (A.A.C. Title 18, Chapter 14, Article 1) must also be submitted electronically using myDEQ at the time the SWPPP is submitted.

VIII.F. Additional SWPPP Documentation Requirements (Part 5.6)

Part 5.6 includes a list of documents, findings, activities, and information that must be kept with the permittee's SWPPP. Part 5.6 in the permit consolidates all additional documentation requirements into one section and is intended to clarify those requirements for permittees. See permit language for details.

The SWPPP itself should describe the site, the control measures, and the site activities to be performed, but activities undertaken to comply with the provisions of the permit are more appropriately compiled separately. Hence, the language, "kept with the SWPPP" used in various places throughout the permit is intentional. "Kept with the SWPPP" is intended to clarify that these records are separate from the SWPPP documentation requirements. Instead, these records, which should be kept with the actual SWPPP document, provide documentation of the permittee's compliance with the permit. In general, this documentation requires the signature of the person performing the activity (e.g., inspection, sampling), not an authorized site representative as specified in Appendix B, Subsection 11.

Facilities, including those with co-permittees, may retain copies of records and documentation required by this permit electronically or at locations other than with the SWPPP, however, the records must be accessible and the SWPPP shall clearly identify where the information is kept.

IX. Analytical Monitoring Program (Part 6)

In addition to visual assessments required in Part 4.2, the permittee shall analyze stormwater samples, in accordance with Part 6 and any sector-specific requirements in Part 8 for discharges to a WOTUS.

Consistent with Part 2.2.1.2 for dischargers to non-WOTUS protected surface waters, a permittee may elect to implement the control measures define in Part 2.2.1.2.1-2.2.1.2.10, and sector specific control measures in Part 8.G. and or 8.J, or conduct the analytical monitoring required by Part 6 and Part 8.G.8 and or 8.J.8.

Due to Arizona's unique climate, ADEQ has reduced the monitoring frequency to one time each wet season, for a total of two samples a year for the following analytical monitoring requirements:

- General Analytical monitoring for select industrial dischargers, and

- Special waters monitoring (impaired waters, not-attaining waters, and Outstanding Arizona Waters)

ADEQ's 2024 MSGP aims to promote timely response to evaluate control measures and to the discharge of pollutants that may impact human health or the environment. ADEQ is instituting action levels derived from Arizona Surface Water Quality Standard in the 2024 MSGP.

Similar to other environmental programs (solid waste, air quality, safe drinking water, etc.) ADEQ implemented additional monitoring and reporting when a numeric effluent limitation guideline (ELG) is exceeded when a discharge is to a WOTUS. ADEQ's 2024 MSGP requires "accelerated monitoring" if a numeric limit is exceeded (ELG). The accelerated monitoring requires the site to conduct analytical monitoring each time there is a stormwater discharge from the site. The accelerated monitoring provision is limited to the pollutant(s) and outfall(s) for which the exceedance was reported. Accelerated monitoring continues until there are two consecutive sampling events that demonstrate pollutant concentration(s) are below the corresponding numeric limit(s).

IX.A. Analytical Monitoring Types (6.1.1)

The 2024 MSGP more clearly describes the types of monitoring that may be required by this permit. Depending on the industrial activity, discharge activity, site location, type of protected surface water, or potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance of a surface water quality standard, any or all of the monitoring requirements may be applicable:

- General analytical monitoring;
- Effluent Limitation Guideline (ELG) (does not apply to discharges to a non-WOTUS protected surface water);
- Accelerated monitoring for ELG exceedance (does not apply to discharges to a non-WOTUS protected surface water);
- Impaired, includes Not-attaining waters;
- Outstanding Arizona Water (does not apply to discharges to a non-WOTUS protected surface water); and/ or
- Other monitoring prescribed by ADEQ.

If analytical monitoring of discharges from the site is required, a summary of the monitoring requirements consistent with this permit (frequency, analytical parameters, etc.) will be included with the authorization certificate issued through myDEQ or communicated by ADEQ.

IX.A.1. When to Collect a Sample (Part 6.1.2).

Many facilities in Arizona are subject to limited rainfall conditions throughout the year (i.e., the winter wet season or the summer wet season). The climate throughout the state of Arizona is characterized as arid or semi-arid with irregular stormwater runoff. In addition, certain areas of the state experience freezing conditions that may prevent runoff from occurring for extended periods. Therefore, monitoring periods have been adapted accordingly and the section on climates with irregular stormwater runoff has been combined into the section on monitoring periods.

The monitoring requirement begins 90 calendar days of receiving authorization to discharge. ADEQ recognizes the variability of rainfall in the state and, to ensure that all storm events fall into one of the two rainy seasons for the purposes of MSGP monitoring, ADEQ has defined monitoring seasons in the permit as follows:

Summer wet season:	June 1 – October 31
Winter wet season:	November 1 – May 31

This definition applies statewide. The frequency for MSGP stormwater sampling in the permit is at least once each wet season (summer and winter) from each monitoring location, for the duration of permit coverage. The sampling required once per wet season considers that precipitation in Arizona tends to be concentrated in 2 district seasons, during the winter months and during monsoon season.

The term 'wet season' includes areas of the state where freezing conditions exist that prevent runoff from occurring for extended periods. In areas where freezing conditions exist, the required

monitoring and sample collection may be distributed during seasons when precipitation runoff, either as melting snow or rain mixed with melting snow, occurs.

Precipitation or runoff patterns in Arizona's arid climates is unpredictable and sporadic, and often times it can be months, may even a year between a measurable storm events that causes a discharge enough to sample. The 2024 MSGP requires sampling to be conducted for the duration of the permit. This change to the monitoring duration was to gather data throughout the permit term and to evaluate a site's pollutant levels over time. This will yield a more accurate characterization of pollutant concentrations in the site's discharge for the variable stormwater flow/ volumes in Arizona's climate and monitor pollutant levels after long dry periods (i.e. months between rain events). This provision also takes into account that operations at any given site are often dynamic and routinely change through the year, as well as from year to year.

Additionally, certain parameters in various sectors were removed or other parameters were added to the sector-specific sampling. Parameters removed included those that did not have an Arizona surface water quality standard, such as magnesium. In the cases where a parameter was removed from the sampling list, a parameter that is a common pollutant associated with the industrial activity was added to sampling parameter list. This will provide more meaningful data relative to pollutants associated with industrial activities and their impacts to surface water.

Measurable Storm Event The permit defines a measurable storm event as an event that results in a discharge from the permitted site. Samples must be collected from a storm event that results from the permitted site, from a storm event that occurs at least 72 hours (3 days) after a previous measurable storm event. The 72-hour (3-day) requirement may be waived by the permittee where the permittee documents that less than a 72-hour (3-day) interval is representative for local storm events during the season when sampling is being conducted.

Many facilities are located in colder regions of the state and may have extended periods of freezing temperatures and snow events that do not meet the definition of a measurable storm event. The 72-hour (3-day) requirement does not apply to snowmelt as the actual discharge is not clearly tied to a specific snow event (i.e., may be the accumulation from multiple events). The permittee must record the date the snowmelt sample was collected.

IX.A.2. How to Collect a Sample (Part 6.1.3).

The permit specifies that a minimum of one discrete grab sample or flow-weighted composite sample must be taken from the measurable storm event being monitored. This allows facilities to make accurate comparisons of monitoring results to the corresponding general analytical monitoring action level, effluent limitation or water quality standard to determine whether additional action may be needed to reduce concentrations of pollutants detected in stormwater discharges. The sample may be collected manually by a qualified person by using an automatic or passive sampler.

Whenever possible, a grab sample is required during the first 30 minutes, because the highest pollutant concentrations generally occur during these first flush events. If more than one grab sample is collected, only those samples collected during the first 30 minutes of discharge are to be used for performing any necessary analyses. If the collection of a grab sample during the first 30 minutes is impractical, a grab sample can be taken as soon as practicable after the first 30 minutes, but the permittee must document and keep with the SWPPP an explanation of why a grab sample during the first 30 minutes was impractical.

Flow-weighted composite samples for a stormwater discharge may be taken with a continuous sampler or as a combination of a minimum of three sample aliquots (sample portions) taken in each hour of discharge for the entire discharge or for the first three hours of the discharge, with each aliquot being separated by a minimum period of fifteen minutes. For flow-weighted samples, only one analysis of the composite of aliquots is required. Flow-weighted sampling protocol is adapted from 40 CFR 122.21 (individual permit application requirements for industrial stormwater permits).

Note – analysis of the following parameters must be from discrete (not composite) samples: pH, temperature, cyanide, total phenols, residual chlorine, oil and grease, and fecal coliform.

Grab samples of snowmelt discharge that have been exposed to industrial activities, materials storage, or materials handling areas are to be collected from each outfall for characterization, but they do not have to be collected within 30 minutes of discharge.

IX.A.3. Where to Sample (Part 6.1.4)

The permit requires samples shall be collected from each representative location where stormwater discharges from the permitted site. This may be a discrete pipe, ditch, channel, overland (sheet) flow, or other location(s) so long as the stormwater is representative of the discharge of industrial activities conducted at the site.

In the event there are two or more discharge locations that are composed of the same, or substantially similar stormwater discharge characteristics (substantially identical outfalls), the number of sample locations can be reduced. The substantially identical outfall provision allows permittees to reduce the number of outfalls that must be sampled and analyzed while still providing monitoring data that are indicative of discharges from each outfall.

Operators do not need advance ADEQ approval for this determination, however, ADEQ may subsequently determine that outfalls are not substantially identical and require sampling of additional outfalls. The permit clarifies that the allowance for monitoring only one of the substantially identical outfalls is applicable to routine analytical and impaired waters monitoring. The substantially identical outfall provision cannot be used for outfalls that discharge to a WOTUS with the numeric effluent limitation guideline or that discharge to an Outstanding Arizona Water.

If discharges authorized by this permit commingle with discharges not authorized under this permit, any required sampling of the authorized discharges must be performed at a point before they mix with other streams, to the extent practicable. The intent of this provision is to ensure that monitoring results are representative of discharges covered under the permit and not indicative of other discharges from the site. In certain instances, sampling only authorized streams may be inappropriate or infeasible, such as when authorized discharges are commingled with other streams prior to on-site treatment.

The permittee shall monitor allowable non-stormwater discharges only when they are commingled with stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity (unless modified by ADEQ).

IX.A.4. Sampling and Analysis Plan (Part 6.1.5)

For the required monitoring, the SWPPP must contain a Sampling and Analysis (SAP) either as a separate section or as an appendix to the SWPPP. The contents of the SAP must include:

- Sample collection, preservation, tracking, and handling information;
- Calibration and maintenance of monitoring equipment;
- A description of analytical methods and laboratories; and
- Proper recordkeeping.

IX.B. Required Monitoring (Part 6.2)

Five types of analytical monitoring are required, one or more of which may apply to the site's discharge:

- General analytical monitoring (see Part 6.2.1);
- Effluent limitations monitoring (see Part 6.2.2) (does not apply to discharges to a non-WOTUS protected surface water);
- Impaired and Not-Attaining waters monitoring (see Part 6.2.3);
- Outstanding Arizona Water Monitoring (see Part 6.2.4) (does not apply to discharges to a non-WOTUS protected surface water); and
- Additional monitoring as required by ADEQ (see Part 6.2.4).

The permit does provide that if any of these monitoring requirements overlap, permittees are authorized to use a single sample to comply with those overlapping requirements.

IX.B.1. General Analytical Monitoring (Part 6.2.1)

Mining permittees are required to sample during seasons when precipitation typically occurs in Arizona or when snowmelt results in a measurable discharge from the site (see Section IX.A.4 of the Fact Sheet for a discussion of the wet seasons). Hence, sampling is required once per wet season throughout the life of the permit (except for ELG monitoring that is once per year for the permit duration).

General analytical monitoring is required and action levels are set in the AZPDES 2024 MSGP for mining sectors G & J.

The action limits for most parameters for general analytical monitoring are derived from Arizona surface water quality standards. This is to be protective of the specific protected surface water that receives the stormwater discharge and to assess a correlation between pollutant concentrations and whether or not the site may be causing or contributing to an exceedance of a water quality standard. The actual action levels will be specified by myDEQ when the applicant applies for the NOI and selects the applicable protected surface water(s). The concentration applied as action levels for general analytical monitoring will assign the lowest of the acute designated uses for the protected surface water (selected on the NOI). If no acute standard exists, the lowest of the chronic standard will apply. If the selected protected surface water is listed as a tributary, then the tributary designated uses rule (A.A.C. R18-11-105), will apply. This process of first applying the acute standard and if no acute, apply the chronic standard is consistent with the Non-Mining MSGP and U.S. EPA's application of Water Quality Criteria as benchmarks in the federal 2021 MSGP. For discharges to non-WOTUS ephemeral waters that may reach a downstream protected surface water, the aquatic and wildlife ephemeral (A&We) standards will be used to set action levels.

General analytical action levels are not effluent limitations, and sample values above the action level are not permit violations. Rather, a sample value above an action level concentration is an indicator to the operator that there may be a problem with the control measures, or the discharge may be adversely affecting water quality.

If a sample value is above an action level concentration, the enforceable requirement is for the discharger to examine its control measures and implement, supplement, or enhance existing controls, as necessary. The 2024 MSGP includes a requirement to submit a Control Measure Assessment Report (CMAR) after one sample event above an action level. The report must be submitted to ADEQ on an electronic form provided by ADEQ. The report must be submitted within 30 calendar days of receiving the laboratory analytical results. The CMAR is an opportunity to provide an explanation for the sample result, describe the modifications to control measures, or provide a reason why additional time may be needed to modify control measures. The purpose of the report is to provide a timely notification to ADEQ of a potential issue and to verify that permittee has assessed site conditions in a reasonable time frame.

Because of the variability inherent in stormwater and in stormwater control measure efficacy, ADEQ expects that stormwater controls will often need adjustment in response to indications of potential deficiencies to ensure the permit's technology-based and water quality-based limits are being met. General analytical monitoring is an important feedback tool, along with routine inspections and visual assessments, for assessing the effectiveness of control measures.

Part 6.2.1 of the permit includes Exceptions for Action Level Exceedances for a General Analytical Monitoring Sampling Event:

- **Solely Attributable to Natural Background Pollutant Levels** – To qualify for this exception, the permittee must demonstrate that the action level exceedance is solely attributable to the presence of that pollutant in natural background sources, and the permittee must include in the supporting rationale any data previously collected by the permittee or others that describe the natural background levels of the pollutants in the stormwater discharge. This means the permittee must not contribute any additional pollutants above the background concentration or permittees must implement controls measures to clean up the stormwater discharge to be less than or equal to the natural background concentration to qualify for this exception.
- **Due to Run-On** – To qualify for this exception, the permittee must demonstrate that the action level exceedance was caused by run-on from a neighboring source (e.g., a source external to the facility).

- No Further Pollutant Reduction is Technologically and Economically Practicable and Achievable in Light of Industry Practice – To qualify for this exception, the permittee must examine their control measures, considering good engineering practices, and document that no further pollutant reductions are technologically available and economically practicable to reduce the discharge of a pollutant.
- The Discharge is not Causing or Contributing to a Surface Water Quality Standard Exceedance in the Protected Surface Water – To qualify for this exception, the permittee must demonstrate that the discharge does not result in any exceedance of surface water quality standards in the protected surface water. The demonstration must include, at minimum the surface water quality standards applicable to the protected surface water, the ambient concentration of the parameter(s) of concern in the protected surface water immediately upstream and downstream of the discharge point, the concentration of the parameter(s) of concern in the stormwater discharge, and the hardness of the protected surface water.

If an exception is submitted to and approved by ADEQ, the permittee is not required to follow the process for Action Level Exceedances for a General Analytical Monitoring Sampling Event listed in Part 6.2.1 of the permit.

IX.B.1.a. General Analytical Monitoring Schedule

Mining facilities are required to conduct general analytical monitoring twice per year (once per wet season) for the duration of the permit. The permittee may use this data along with ADEQ's monitoring guidance document to evaluate effectiveness of controls.

IX.B.1.b. Exception for Inactive and Unstaffed Sites (Part 6.2.1.4)

Mining facilities that are both inactive and unstaffed have an exception from general analytical monitoring. To qualify for this exception, permittees must maintain a signed certification with their additional documentation (Part 5.6 of the permit) that indicates that the site is inactive and unstaffed. However, these sites must still be identified in the operator's SWPPP, and must still adopt control measures to minimize pollutant discharges. See Section IV.E for additional discussion. Part 6.4.4 requires permittees to notify ADEQ when they become qualified for the exception and when the site no longer qualifies.

It is impracticable for mining facilities that are inactive and unstaffed to make staff and resources available for stormwater monitoring, considering that the outfall locations are often remote and the stormwater events occur at times that are unpredictable.

IX.B.1.c. General Analytical Monitoring Exceptions for Discharges to Ephemeral Waters has been retained in 2024 MSGP

The AZPDES 2024 MSGP has retained the monitoring exemption for total suspended solids (TSS) or turbidity to ephemeral waters.

IX.B.1.d Requiring Hardness Data for Certain Metals

For any sectors required to conduct general analytical monitoring for a hardness dependent metal (see Section 8.0), an appropriate hardness value must be provided. The permittee may select one of three methods to determine an appropriate hardness value: individual hardness sample collected by permittee, hardness sampling by a group of permittees that are discharging to the same protected surface water, or using reliable and scientifically defensible third-party data (data collected under similar discharging conditions). Regardless of the method used, the permittee is responsible for documenting the procedures used to determine hardness values. The formulas used for hardness dependent metals are located in individual tables at the end of A.A.C. R18-11, Appendix A, Table 2 through Table 9.

IX.B.2. Effluent Limitations Monitoring (Part 6.2.2.)

Numeric effluent limitations have been included in previous versions of the MSGP, based on national effluent limitation guidelines for certain industry-specific discharges (see Part 6.2.2). Monitoring for these parameters must be conducted at least once per year for the duration of permit coverage. Part

6.2.2.2 clarifies that permittees subject to effluent limitation guidelines are required to monitor each outfall discharging runoff, and that the flexibility afforded for general analytical monitoring for substantially identical outfalls does not apply to effluent limitation guidelines monitoring.

IX.B.3. Monitoring Discharges to Impaired Waters (Part 6.2.3)

Part 6.2.3 of the permit provides provisions for discharges to water quality impaired protected surface waters. As noted earlier, ADEQ's permit requires the permittee develop and implement a monitoring program for authorized discharges to impaired waters.

IX.B.3.a. Determine Whether the Protected Surface Water Is Impaired

When a new NOI is submitted, myDEQ will determine whether the site's discharge is within 2.5 miles of an impaired water and or not-attaining water, and, if so, what are the pollutants identified as causing the impairment. Analytical monitoring may be required under this permit to ensure protection of the protected surface water and attainment of designated use(s). If analytical monitoring is required, the permittee shall submit a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to ADEQ for review. As part of the on-line NOI process, myDEQ will require the SWPPP be submitted and the corresponding review fee be included. If monitoring is required, the type, frequency, and analytical parameters will be communicated by ADEQ. That information will then be used to automatically pre-populate the Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) Form.

When developing TMDLs, ADEQ evaluates contributions from upstream segments and contributing waterbodies. As such, in some instances, upstream sources may be identified as a contributor to an impairment. Where ADEQ has reason to believe that a permitted site has the potential to cause or contribute to an impairment in a downstream water, the permittee may be required to perform additional monitoring or adopt additional control measures to address the potential contribution to the impairment.

IX.B.3.b. Determine the Pollutant(s) of Concern

The myDEQ system will identify the pollutant(s) of concern in the final authorization certificate. Permittees are required to monitor for all of these pollutants, with a few noteworthy exceptions as discussed below. For impaired waters without a TMDL, ADEQ will determine if monitoring for the pollutant of concern is required and communicate those requirements to the permittee. If the impairment is for parameter(s) for which a standard analytical test method in 40 CFR Part 136 does not exist, monitoring is not required. If a TMDL has been approved that applies to the discharge, ADEQ will determine whether there are any other monitoring specifications that are contained in the TMDL and that apply to the site, and notify the permittee of any additional requirements. If the pollutant for which the protected surface water is impaired is suspended solids, turbidity, or sediment/sedimentation, Total Suspended Solids (TSS) must be monitored. If the pollutant of concern is an indicator or surrogate pollutant, then the pollutant indicator (e.g., dissolved oxygen) must be monitored. No monitoring is required when a protected surface water's biological communities are impaired but no pollutant is specified as causing the impairment, or when a protected surface water's impairment is related to hydrologic modification, impaired hydrology, or temperature.

IX.B.3.c. Impaired Waters Monitoring Frequency

The impaired water monitoring schedule is one that adapts to Arizona's climate (summer and winter wet seasons – see Section IX.A.4 of this Fact Sheet). The impaired waters monitoring requirement begins immediately after authorization to discharge received by permittee and is required once per wet season for the duration of the permit term. Facilities must monitor for impaired parameters and any other parameters specified for the industrial sector(s), both primary industrial activity and any co-located industrial activities, applicable to their discharge.

The monitoring requirements in Part 6.2.3 is intended to provide ADEQ with further information on the impacts permitted industrial facilities have on impaired waters, and to help ensure that the facilities are not causing or contributing to the impairment. For discharges to impaired waters that do not yet have TMDLs developed, these monitoring data are important when developing the TMDL in the future to identify potential sources of the pollutants causing the impairment(s) as well as to identify sources that do

not contribute the pollutant and thus should not be included in the TMDL. They are also important for assessing whether additional water-quality based requirements, either numeric or qualitative, are necessary on a site-specific basis to ensure that the site does not cause or contribute to an exceedance of an applicable surface water quality standard. For discharges to waters for which an approved or established TMDL is applicable to the permittee, monitoring data provides a means of ensuring that the permittee is consistent with TMDL, as well as a useful tool to assess progress in meeting the goals of the TMDL.

IX.B.4. Outstanding Arizona Water Monitoring (Part 6.2.4) (Applicable only to discharges to WOTUS)

As noted earlier, when a new NOI is submitted, myDEQ will determine whether the site's discharge is within 2.5 miles of an outstanding Arizona water. Based on this determination, the parameters, frequency and type of monitoring will be included on the permit authorization certificate. The parameters to be monitored will be determined by ADEQ and will be dependent on the site's industrial activities and location relative to the OAW.

Permittees that discharge within 2.5 miles upstream tributaries of OAWs are required to submit a copy of the SWPPP at the beginning of the application process. Upon review of the SWPPP, ADEQ may determine that additional discharge monitoring and or control measures are required.

The permit clarifies that permittees subject to OAW monitoring are required to monitor each outfall discharging runoff, and that the flexibility to apply the substantially identical outfalls provision does not apply to OAW monitoring.

IX.B.5. Additional Monitoring Required by ADEQ (Part 6.2.5)

As with the 2019 MSGP, the 2024 MSGP requires facilities to perform additional discharge monitoring in those instances when ADEQ determines it is necessary to ensure the protection of protected surface water quality. Such monitoring serves as a tool for ADEQ and the permittee to evaluate whether additional control measures are needed to protect protected surface water quality.

ADEQ will require additional monitoring when there is evidence that a pollutant is being discharged that is not being monitored for and that the pollutant is causing or contributing to exceedances of a water quality standard. In this case, ADEQ will provide in writing the appropriate site with a brief description of why additional monitoring is needed, locations and parameters to be monitored, frequency and period of monitoring, sample types, and reporting requirements.

IX.C. Accelerated Monitoring (Part 6.3) (Applicable only to discharges to WOTUS)

The 2024 MSGP contains follow-up monitoring provisions for pollutants that exceed an ELG. This is a new requirement, designed to ensure that existing control measures are modified as necessary and, as soon as practicable to bring the site back into compliance with the effluent limitations and water quality requirements contained in the permit. ELG and associated accelerated monitoring do not apply non-WOTUS protected surface waters.

The 2024 MSGP monitoring requirements of once per wet season are deemed appropriate for stormwater discharges in Arizona, provided the site remains in compliance with the permit requirements. However, more frequent monitoring is appropriate in the event an ELG is exceeded.

The site must implement analytical monitoring for each subsequent stormwater discharge until two (2) consecutive sampling events are below the permit requirement for the corresponding pollutants.

IX.D.1 Exemptions or Exceptions to Analytical Monitoring (Part 6.4)

Absence of Discharge When a storm event results in no-discharge from the site or outfall(s) during a wet season, the permittee is excused from analytical monitoring for the site or outfall(s) for that season provided. This provision applies to all monitoring types in the permit. Absence of discharge conditions do not exempt the permittee from the requirement to file a discharge monitoring report (DMR) form in

accordance with the corresponding wet season reporting period. The permittee must document the absence of discharges in the monitoring record and retain that record within the SWPPP.

Adverse Conditions When adverse weather conditions make sampling dangerous, the permittee may postpone storm event monitoring until the next runoff event. This provision applies to serious weather conditions such as: lightning, flash flooding, and high winds or other unsafe conditions that result from violent weather, such as downed power lines in the immediate area where sampling would take place.

This provision should not be used as an excuse for not conducting sampling under conditions associated with more typical storm events. Adverse weather conditions do not exempt the permittee from the requirement to file a discharge monitoring report (DMR) form in accordance with the corresponding wet season reporting period.

In many cases, sampling during a subsequent non-hazardous storm event may still be possible during the reporting period. Where this is not possible, operators are still required to report the inability to monitor indicating the basis for not sampling during the reporting period. This provision applies to all monitoring types in the permit. The permittee shall document the adverse conditions in the monitoring record and retain that record within the SWPPP.

Substantially Identical Outfalls The substantially identical outfall provision provides facilities that have multiple stormwater outfalls with a means to reduce the number of outfalls that must be sampled and analyzed while still providing monitoring data that are indicative of discharges from each outfall.

This provision applies to general analytical and impaired waters monitoring. It should be noted that ADEQ may determine that outfalls are not substantially identical and may require monitoring at the other outfalls. The substantially identical outfalls exemption to monitoring cannot be applied to outfalls that discharge to a WOTUS with numeric effluent limit guidelines or outfalls that discharge to OAWs. NOTE: because ELG and OAW monitoring are not required for non-WOTUS protected surface waters, the substantially identical outfalls provision can apply for those outfalls discharging to non-WOTUS protected surface waters.

Sites that invoke the substantially identical outfall provision shall comply with the requirement to file a discharge monitoring report (DMR) form in accordance with the corresponding wet season reporting period. The permittee must document the use of substantially identical outfall provision exemption in the monitoring record and retains that record within the SWPPP.

Inactive and Unstaffed Sites The requirement for general analytical monitoring does not apply at a site that is inactive and unstaffed. The requirement for impaired waters monitoring at a site that is inactive and unstaffed is reduced to once per year, if the requirements of Part 1.6 are met. The inactive and unstaffed exemption to the monitoring provision cannot be applied to outfalls that discharge to a WOTUS with numeric effluent limit guidelines or outfalls that discharge to OAWs. NOTE: because ELG and OAW monitoring are not required for non-WOTUS protected surface waters, the inactive and unstaffed site provision can apply for those outfalls discharging to non-WOTUS protected surface waters.

If a permitted site will be inactive and unstaffed, the permittee can suspend analytical monitoring. To be eligible for the suspended monitoring condition, the permittee shall within 30 days of becoming inactive and unstaffed, update their NOI in myDEQ indicating the approximate time period for which the site will be inactive and unstaffed. The site status cannot retroactively be made inactive and unstaffed and, as such, all monitoring conditions apply until such time as ADEQ is notified of the inactive and unstaffed status (by modifying the NOI in myDEQ). *Note: Within 30 days of becoming inactive and unstaffed or reverting back to an active and staffed site, the permittee must modify the NOI to update the status of the site.* When a site becomes active and staffed, the permittee must resume any monitoring requirements specified in this permit.

This provision applies to routine analytical and impaired water monitoring. The unstaffed and unstaffed exemption to monitoring provision cannot be applied to outfalls that discharge to a WOTUS with numeric effluent limit guidelines or outfalls that discharge to OAWs. Sites that discharge to a WOTUS and

that are subject to accelerated (compliance) monitoring (Part 6.3) are not eligible to suspend their monitoring program due to inactive and unstaffed designation.

Inactive and unstaffed sites shall comply with the requirement to file a discharge monitoring report (DMR) form in accordance with the corresponding wet season reporting period. The permittee must document the inactive and unstaffed site status in the monitoring record and retains that record within the SWPPP.

X. Reporting and Recordkeeping (Part 7)

This part describes the requirements for reporting and recordkeeping.

Reports required under this permit include:

- Inspection Report Form (to be kept with the SWPPP);
- Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) – for permittees who have to conduct analytical monitoring;
- Corrective Action Report – submit to ADEQ as required;
- Control Measure Assessment Report – submit to ADEQ as required.

X.A. Reporting Monitoring Data to ADEQ

DMR and other reports and forms must be submitted to ADEQ electronically using myDEQ, if available. It is not required to submit any of the required information to EPA.

The purpose of submitting monitoring data is to document stormwater quality and identify potential water quality concerns to ADEQ. Monitoring data must be submitted electronically using the MSGP discharge monitoring report (DMR) form that is available through myDEQ. Electronic reporting was implemented to comply with the EPA's Electronic Reporting Rule signed on September 24, 2015.

X.A.1 Electronic Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) (Part 7.1)

All permittees must enter the sampling data on the downloadable DMR using myDEQ within 30 days of receiving the laboratory analytical data. The myDEQ system will evaluate the sampling values and send any deficiency notifications based on the sampling results. The permittee shall comply with any subsequent monitoring or reporting, if any, based on the DMR deficiency report(s).

If the permittee has no sampling data during the reporting period because there was no discharge or another sampling exemption applied, such as an inactive and unstaffed site, the e-DMR shall be submitted no later than July 30 (winter wet season) and November 30 (summer wet season) for each year of permit coverage.

If the permittee is subject to a non-WOTUS protected surface water sampling exemption, NODI code 9g-ADEQ waived sampling shall be used.

X.D. Control Measure Assessment Report (Part 7.2)

The 2024 MSGP has added a Control Measure Assessment Report. The report is required when one sample result is above an action level for routine analytical monitoring. The permittee shall evaluate the cause of the sample value above an action level concentration. Within 15 days of discovery of a sample result above an action level, the permittee must:

- Assess the existing control measures to ensure the control measures are properly maintained and appropriate for reducing pollutant discharges;
- Identify circumstances that lead to the exceedance, including, but not limited to the following: changes in site practices, climatic conditions, new or expanded operations, spill, leaks, or other release of pollutants; and
- Review the SWPPP

Within 30 days of discovery of a sample result above an action level, the permittee shall complete and submit Control Measure Assessment Report on a form provided by ADEQ (Part 7.2). The Control

Measure Assessment Report will provide ADEQ with a timely notification of an alert level exceedance and the form will verify that the permittee has assessed their control measures

X.E. Other Reporting Requirements (Part 7.3)

Permittees must comply with a number of different reporting requirements described throughout the permit. Reporting requirements to be submitted to ADEQ are summarized in Part 7.2 and standard reporting requirements described in Appendix B, Subsection 12.

X.F. Recordkeeping (Part 7.4)

Part 7.5 describes recordkeeping requirements associated with activities covered under the permit. Permittees must maintain certain records to help them assess performance of control measures and document compliance with permit conditions. Specific records must be maintained and includes the original SWPPP and any modifications to it. The recordkeeping must include the additional documentation, all reports and certifications required by the permit, monitoring data, and records of all data used to complete the NOI to be covered by the permit. These records provide a traceable historical record of installation, maintenance, and monitoring of control measures and revisions to those control measures documented in the SWPPP.

Permittees must retain copies of these documents for a period of at least 3 years from the date that the permittee's coverage under the 2024 MSGP expires or is terminated. The recordkeeping requirements in Appendix B, Subsection B.12 include a more general statement of the AZPDES standard condition for records retention, but does not impose additional requirements on the permittee above what is required in Part 7.3.

X.G. Submitting Reports to ADEQ (Part 7.5)

All required documentation, including reports, must be submitted to ADEQ electronically using myDEQ, if available. Corrective Action Reports (Part 3.2), Control Measure Assessment Reports (Part 7.2), and documentation of action level exceedance exemptions (Part 6.3) shall be submitted electronically to stormwatercompliance@azdeq.gov. If an electronic reporting component is not available, documents must be mailed to the following address:

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Division - MSGP
1110 West Washington Street, Mail Code 5415A-1
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

XI. Sector-Specific Requirements for Discharges Associated with the Mineral Industry (Part 8): Sector G – Metal Mining (Ore Mining and Dressing) and Sector J – Non-Metallic Mineral Mining and Dressing

The 2024 MSGP contains sections in Part 8.G and Part 8.J for which certain permit conditions apply only to discharge to WOTUS, and which permit conditions do not apply for discharges to non-WOTUS protected subsurface waters. Notably, for Part 8, the discharge prohibitions, based on the technology-based effluent limitation guidelines do not apply to discharges to non-WOTUS protected surface waters, per A.R.S. § 49-255.04(B)(2).

Additionally, the monitoring requirements in Part 8 differ for discharges to a WOTUS and discharges to a non-WOTUS protected surface waters. For Sector G and Sector J sites that discharges to a WOTUS, the permittee shall comply with all applicable monitoring requirements in Part 6 and Part 8.G.8 or 8.J.8. For active mining sites that discharge to a non-WOTUS protected surface water may either (1) elect to conduct analytical monitoring in accordance with Part 6 and Part 8 (instead if implementing control measures in the permit and sector specific measures in Part 8) or (2) implement control measures in the permit and sector specifics measures in Part 8 (instead of conducting analytical monitoring in accordance with Part 6 and Part 8).

Part 8 describes requirements specific to the mineral industry category iii of 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14). The sector descriptions are based on Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Codes consistent with the definition of stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity at 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14)(iii). The 2024 MSGP is available to facilities with stormwater discharges associated with mining activity in Sectors G & J. For reasons already discussed in Section II.B, above, Sectors H and I have been reserved.

The changes to the monitoring requirements are described in detail in Section IX of this Fact Sheet. The general format and requirements in Part 8 of the permit are similar to the MSGP 2019. One notable change is the inclusion of action levels for general analytical monitoring.

XIII. Included Appendices

The three appendices to the permit include:

- Definitions, Abbreviations, and Acronyms;
- Standard Conditions;
- Calculating Hardness in Protected Surface Waters Receiving Stormwater discharges

X.III.A. Appendix A – Definitions, Abbreviations and Acronyms

A definition for Action Levels for General Analytical Monitoring was added to Appendix A.

X.III.B. Appendix B - Standard Permit Conditions

Appendix B – Standard Permit Conditions under the 2024 permit reissuance include clarification for WOTUS and non-WOTUS protected surface waters for the following:

- Duty to Comply (Appendix B, Part 1).
- Reporting Requirements for planned changes (Appendix B, Part 12.a)
- Requiring Coverage under an Individual Permit or an Alternative General Permit (Appendix B, Part 17).
- Request for an Individual Permit (Appendix B, Part 18).

Appendix B – Standard Permit Conditions – the standard conditions in the 2024 MSGP are essentially consistent with the standard conditions in other AZPDES general permits. However, the 2024 MSGP contains the following additional provisions and revisions which are consistent with 40 CFR 122.41:

- Validity of electronic signatures (Appendix B, Part 9.g).
- Electronic Reporting Requirements (Appendix B, Part 12.c).
- Retention of Records (Appendix B, Part 22).

X.III.C. Appendix C - Calculating Hardness for Certain Metals

Appendix C – Calculating Hardness in Protected Surface Waters Receiving Stormwater Discharges for Hardness Dependent Metals – Appendix D describes establishing the hardness level for an operator’s protected surface water. This appendix provides guidance to operators for determining their protected surface water’s hardness level and is calculated up to 400mg/ L to reflect hardness conditions in Arizona’s waters. The 2024 MSGP implements the use of a formula to calculate the surface water quality standard based on the hardness value.