

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Program

PUBLIC NOTICE

of Draft NPDES General Permit for Discharges from Data Center Facilities to State Waters

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Permits Section
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Public Notice No.: 215991

Date of Issue of Public Notice: October 31, 2025

On the basis of staff review and application of standards and regulations, the Director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency will issue a draft general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the statewide regulation of data center discharges. The draft permit will be issued as a final action unless the Director revises the draft after consideration of the record of a public hearing or written comments, or upon disapproval by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Any person may submit comments on the draft permit and administrative record.

The NPDES General Permit for Discharges from Data Center Facilities (Permit No. OHD000001) is a first time issuance and would cover data center facility operations that discharge to waters of the state. Both wastewater and stormwater from the data center facility are proposed for coverage under this permit. Wastewater discharges include non-contact cooling waters (once through or re-circulated water that does not come into contact with the process operations of a facility and is used only to convey heat from the facility), low volume wastewaters (such as, cooling tower blowdown, boiler blowdown, and air compressor condensate yet excludes some waste streams like sanitary wastes) and stormwater associated with the industrial activities from the site.

The permit identifies who can be covered, how an entity obtains coverage, and how a permittee terminates coverage. The permit includes reporting requirements for all facilities.

The public notice, associated fact sheet and draft general permit are available at <https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/surface-water/permitting/wastewater-discharges-from-data-centers--general-permit> or by contacting Allison Cycyk at 330-963-1132 or via email at Allison.Cycyk@epa.ohio.gov.

Ohio EPA will be holding an in-person and virtual information session and public hearing on the new draft general permit on Wednesday December 17, 2025 at 2:30 p.m. The in-person public hearing will be located at the Ohio EPA Lazarus Government Center, 6th Floor Conference Room A (Autumn Room), 50 West Town Street, Suite 700, Columbus, Ohio 43215. The public hearing will end when everyone in attendance has had an opportunity to provide comments related to the draft general permit. To facilitate the scheduling of in-person oral testimony, persons intending to give testimony in-person at the hearing should notify the Ohio EPA Public Interest Center at mary.mccarron@epa.ohio.gov or (614) 644-2160. Persons who want to participate virtually for the information session and hearing must register in advance at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/921004166332343646>

In lieu of, or in addition to, attending the public hearing, written comments may be submitted via Ohio EPA's online comment portal <https://ohioepa.commentinput.com/?id=csDN8pRrg> and will be accepted through December 17, 2025.

The processing of this general permit and associated Notices of Intent for coverage is and will be done in accordance with Ohio's NPDES general permit rules, OAC 3745-38.