

Discharge Permit Requirements for:

Individual Treatment Systems Owned & Operated for **Non-Residential Use**

LDH permits the **installation** of individual, onsite wastewater treatment systems. LDEQ regulates **discharges** from commercial facilities that **enter waterways** through Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permits.

LPDES permits are intended to control the discharge of pollutants from any **point source** into **waters of the state** of Louisiana.

Effluent is defined as: Wastewater discharged to Waters of the State.

Point Source is defined as: Any discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance—such as a pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, or vessel—from which pollutants are or may be discharged. These are identifiable, fixed locations.

Waters of the State is defined as: All surface waters within Louisiana.

(example: streams, rivers, ponds, and drainage systems such as ditches and storm drains)

There are two factors that determine the need to get an LPDES Permit:

1. **Is the system owned and operated by a business or governmental entity, rather than for use at an individual home?**

While LDH defines “residential” and “commercial” systems in relation to their size/design capacity, LDEQ defines “residential” and “commercial systems” in relation to the system’s user. An **LPDES permit** is required for treatment systems that are operated for **commercial** and **governmental** facilities if the system discharges into Waters of the State.

2. **Will the system discharge into Waters of the State?**

Non-Mechanical Systems (septic tanks) only offer primary treatment of waste, and require secondary treatment. The type of secondary treatment chosen will determine if commercial (non-residential) system owners/operators will need to get an LPDES permit.

Secondary Treatment Type	Typical Discharge Location	LPDES Permit required for non-residential use
Field Lines	Perforated pipe discharges underground	NO*
Sand Filter Bed	Perforated pipe discharges into constructed sand filter	NO*
Oxidation Pond	Into a parish owned/maintained ditch or waterway	YES

Mechanical Systems (aerated systems) require an effluent reducer as part of the treatment system. The type of effluent reduction will determine if commercial (non-residential) system owners/operators will need to get an LPDES permit.

Effluent Reduction Type	Typical Discharge Location	LPDES Permit required for non-residential use
Mound System or Sub-Surface Drip	Perforated pipe discharges underground in sand mound	NO*
Overland Flow	Treated wastewater flows through perforated pipe and vegetation (evaporates & infiltrates into soil)	NO*
Spray Irrigation (sprinkler)	Treated wastewater is dispersed by sprinklers (evaporates & infiltrates into soil)	NO*
Effluent Reduction Field	Pipe terminates in ditch or channel	YES
Rock-Plant Filter	Pipe terminates in ditch or channel	YES

*No Discharge to Waters of the State under standard design. Modified designs that allow discharge into a ditch or waterway will require an LPDES permit.

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If an LPDES permit is required:

- An NOI (permit application) must be submitted to LDEQ.
- Proof of your submittal must be provided to the LDH Sanitarian (this can be a letter from LDEQ acknowledging your NOI, or proof of payment and a copy of the NOI).

Download the NOI (permit application) here:

<https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/625>

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Office of Environmental Services, Water Permits Division
Post Office Box 4313
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313
PHONE#: (225) 219-3590

LPDES NOTICE OF INTENT TO DISCHARGE SANITARY WASTEWATER (Attach additional pages if needed.)

SECTION I - FACILITY INFORMATION

A. Permit is to be issued to the following: (must have operational control over the facility operations - see LAC 33:IX.2501.B and LAC 33:IX.2503.A and B).

1. Legal Name of Applicant (Company, Partnership, Corporation, etc.)

Facility Name

Mailing Address

Zip Code:

Note: The application requires you to describe where the wastewater discharge goes.



5. Indicate how the wastewater reaches state waters (named water bodies). This will usually be either *directly*, by *open ditch* (if it is a highway ditch, indicate the highway), or by *pipe*. **Please specifically name all of the minor water bodies that your wastewater will travel through on the way to a major water body.** This information can be obtained from U.S.G.S. Quadrangle Maps. Include river mile of discharge point if available.

By	Effluent pipe	(effluent pipe, ditch, etc.);
thence into	Roadside ditch	(parish drainage ditch, canal, etc.);
thence into	Coulee Mine	(named bayou, creek, stream, etc.);
thence into	Vermilion River	(river, lake, etc.).

If this section is left blank, or specifically name waterbody and/or discharge point coordinates are not included, this application will not be accepted as complete.

Who can help me with my LPDES Permit?

LDEQ offers permit assistance to small businesses across the state. To find contact information for the **Small Business Assistance** office near you, call 1-866-896-LDEQ or visit: <https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/small-business-parish-assignments-regional-contacts>