

**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
GENERAL WASTEWATER DISPOSAL PERMIT FOR
CLASS III TOTAL RETENTION SYSTEMS**

GENERAL PERMIT NO. OKGC3T

GENERAL PROVISIONS

In compliance with the Oklahoma Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (OPDES) Act, 27A O.S. §2-6-201 *et seq.*, Oklahoma Uniform Environmental Permitting Act, 27A O.S. §2-14-101 *et seq.*, and the rules of the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality promulgated thereunder, operators of total retention surface impoundments [as specified in OAC 252:616-7-1(10)] containing industrial Class III wastewater [as specified in OAC 252:616-1-2] will be authorized to construct, operate, maintain, and close such surface impoundments within the boundaries of the State of Oklahoma in accordance with requirements and conditions set forth in Parts I, II, and III, hereof. This general wastewater disposal permit does not specify the disposal/treatment methods that the permittee must use. This general permit shall cover total retention Class III wastewater surface impoundment systems and tank systems that discharge wastewater to total retention Class III wastewater surface impoundment systems covered by this general wastewater disposal permit.

Each facility will require an Authorization to Dispose of Wastewater (Authorization) obtained from the Executive Director of the DEQ or his/her designee. Owners or operators of facilities located within the boundaries of the State of Oklahoma must make a written request to the DEQ that they be authorized to dispose of wastewater under this General Wastewater Disposal Permit (General Permit) and receive an Authorization, prior to commencing construction and/or operation of the total retention surface impoundment system. Special conditions applicable to specific locations will be included in the Authorization as necessary to protect the waters of the state.

Facilities that are currently permitted by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) through individual wastewater disposal permits may apply for coverage under this Permit no later than 180 days prior to the expiration of their current individual permits, or they may elect to continue coverage under their individual permits. New facilities utilizing Class III impoundments shall apply for and obtain an authorization or an individual permit prior to commencing any of the activities regulated by this General Permit.

The written request for an Authorization shall include the name and legal address of the owner or operator, name of the facility, legal description of the facility location, general location, listing of proposed surface impoundments including designation numbers for each, legal description down to ten (10) acres of each proposed surface impoundment and/or tank, statement of expected pollutants and/or characterization of the wastewater prior to total retention, proposed liner type, proposed liquid holding capacity of surface impoundments, along with any other information specified in the application form.

At no time shall the wastewater contained in the surface impoundment and/or tank system(s) covered in the Authorization be discharged to the waters of the state. The Permittee shall comply with all provisions of this General Permit and any Authorization issued pursuant to it.

Issuance of this General Permit in no way or in any respect affects the Permittee's civil or criminal responsibility regarding disposal of wastewater, except with respect to the Permittee's legal responsibility under 27A O.S. §2-6-201 *et seq.*, and DEQ Rules to obtain an Authorization under this General Permit.

General Permit No. OKGC3T

This permit supersedes General Permit OKGC3T that became effective on January 2, 2008, and will expire at midnight on January 1, 2013.

This Permit shall become effective on February 7, 2013.

This Permit and any Authorizations issued under it shall expire at midnight on February 6, 2018.

This is to certify that the proposed wastewater treatment and disposal systems described in this General Permit meet the requirements of the Oklahoma Water Quality Standards and the DEQ Rules.

Issued this 6th day of February, 2013.

For Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality

Carol Paden, P.E. Manager
Industrial Permits Section
Water Quality Division

Shelly Chard-McClary, Director
Water Quality Division

PART I**SECTION A. WASTEWATER DESCRIPTION**

The wastewater contained in any surface impoundment and/or tank system covered by the General Permit will be industrial process wastewater and/or stormwater classified as Class III wastewater in accordance with OAC 252:616-1-2.

Commercial vehicle car washes are not eligible under this permit.

SECTION B. TYPES OF TREATMENT/DISPOSAL UNITS

The treatment/disposal units covered by the Permit are:

1. Total retention surface impoundments shall not have outfall structures which may allow or cause the release of wastewater to the environment (such as pipes, man-made trenches, erosion-induced trenches, or impoundment overflow) per OAC 252:616-7-1(10).
2. Flow-through surface impoundment systems shall have a device that can immediately shut-off influent or effluent flows in the event of a spill, bypass, unit process failure, or other emergency.
3. A tank system as specified in OAC 252:616-1-2 is “any subsurface disposal system which involves the storage and treatment of wastewater.”
4. Septic tanks shall conform to the requirements in OAC 252:616-9.

A wastewater facility utilizing a tank system having lateral lines is ineligible for coverage under the Total Retention Surface Impoundment System Containing Class III Industrial Wastewater General Wastewater Disposal Permit.

The wastewater discharged from flow-through surface impoundments, tank systems, or septic tanks shall flow to a total retention surface impoundment for final disposal.

The sludge that results from the treatment process must be disposed of according to state law and cannot be discharged with the wastewater nor placed where it can contaminate stormwater runoff.

SECTION C. SURFACE IMPOUNDMENTS

1. Impoundments shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with OAC 252:616-7.
2. To ensure that a Class III wastewater classification is justified for slaughterhouses and meat packing plants and to be eligible for the general permit, the facility must implement the specific requirements found in Part II Section A item 8 for the meat processing wastestream.
3. Impoundments receiving Class III wastewater only may use any liner meeting the requirements found in OAC 252:616-7-2, OAC 252:616-7-3, OAC 252:616-7-4, OAC 252:616-7-5, OAC 252:616-7-6, or OAC 252:616-7-7.

Impoundments receiving Class III wastewater commingled with sanitary sewage or facilities receiving wastewater from meat processing may use liners meeting the requirements found in OAC 252:616-7-4, OAC 252:616-7-5, or OAC 252:616-7-7. If the facility can show that the liner's permeability is 5.4×10^{-7} cm/s or tighter, then they may also use liners meeting the requirements found in OAC 252:616-7-3 or OAC 252:616-7-6.

As specified in OAC 252:616-7-1(4) "The bottom of any surface impoundment shall be a minimum of 15 feet above the historic maximum height of the groundwater table", in OAC 252:616-7-1(4)(A) "Perched water is considered groundwater", and in OAC 252:616-7-1(4)(B) "If a distance of (15) feet is not physically possible, a lesser distance may be approved by the DEQ depending on the wastewater and impoundment classification, use of liners or other means which will protect waters of the state."

In no case will this permit authorize the disposal of wastewater in an impoundment where the highest seasonal groundwater elevation is higher than the bottom of the impoundment.

4. Each authorization will include the specific requirements for surface impoundments based on DEQ rules, information submitted by the applicant, and information obtained during permit site visits/inspections.
5. At such time as surface impoundments or tanks are to be permanently taken out of service or at such time as the contents of surface impoundments pose a risk to the environment or waters of the State, the owner or operator of the facility shall follow all closure requirements contained in OAC 252:616-13.
6. In all other respects, surface impoundments and tank systems covered by the General Permit shall be subject to standard conditions for surface impoundments contained in OAC 252:616, Subchapters 3, 5, 7, 9, and 13, including but not limited to requirements for construction, operation, maintenance, monitoring and closure.
7. A minimum freeboard (see OAC 252:616-7-1(7)) shall be maintained at all times, as specified below:
 - three (3) feet for any total retention surface impoundment,
 - one (1) foot for a flow-through surface impoundment, as part of the treatment train, with a concrete liner, and
 - two (2) feet for a flow-through surface impoundment, as part of the treatment train, with any other type of liner.
8. As specified in OAC 252:616-7-1(6), the total retention surface impoundment shall be sized to contain the design flow of wastewater (including sludge) plus expected rainfall plus 3 feet of freeboard. The required impoundment surface area shall be based on the design flow plus the 90th percentile rainfall less the pan evaporation rates for the area where the impoundment will be (or is) located.
9. As specified in OAC 252:616-5-1(a), systems shall not be constructed or operated in a floodway. Systems located in a flood plain must be protected by dikes is at least one (1) foot above the 100-year flood plain elevation.

SECTION D. MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION PLAN (MOP) (OPTIONAL)

OAC 252:616-5-2 may be applied to tanks and surface impoundments that contain Class III wastewater covered under the OKGC3T for the purpose of ensuring proper maintenance of tank and impoundment facilities. If a MOP is required, one must be written, followed, updated annually if necessary, kept on-site and be available to the DEQ. The MOP must contain the following items:

1. The MOP must discuss maintenance procedures including methods to protect impoundments and liner integrity, procedures for solids removal as well as other procedures (such as tank repair or control of soil erosion, removal of deep-root vegetation, and prevention of liner desiccation).
2. The MOP must discuss operation procedures used to protect tank or surface impoundment and liner integrity, as well as other procedures (e.g., influent and effluent flow, sludge removal, sludge storage, changes in waste composition, and freeboard control). Describe procedures to notify the DEQ at the time of a spill or bypass.
3. The MOP must discuss the scope and frequency of monitoring activities (such as parameters sampled, sampling frequency, sampling methods, and reporting schedule).
4. Include the name and phone number of all personnel responsible for maintenance, operation and monitoring activities.

PART II**SECTION A. OTHER PERMIT CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**

1. This General Permit does not convey any exclusive privileges or authorize any injury to property or invasion of rights or any infringement of federal, state, or local laws or regulations nor does it obviate the requirement to obtain permission from any landowner(s) whose property will be affected by this General Permit.
2. Any permittee authorized by this General Permit may request to be excluded from the coverage of this General Permit by applying for an individual permit. The permittee shall submit the appropriate OPDES application forms. When an individual OPDES permit is issued to a permittee otherwise subject to this General Permit, the applicability of this General Permit to that owner or permittee is automatically terminated on the effective date of the individual permit. A permittee that already has an individual permit may request that its individual permit be revoked, and that it be covered by this General Permit. Upon revocation of the individual permit, this General Permit shall apply to the facility. The DEQ reserves the right to require any facility authorized under or applying to be authorized under this General Permit to instead obtain an individual permit.
3. The Authorization may be reopened to implement and/or require impoundment modifications, additions, extensions, and/or operational changes; monitoring and reporting; reclassification of wastes; sludge management plans; best management practices; closure plans; and/or other appropriate actions.
4. Solids, sludges, filter backwash, or other pollutants removed in the course of treatment or control of wastewater shall be disposed of in a state-approved industrial waste disposal site or to a company for recycling.

When any such industrial wastes are removed from surface impoundment or tank system(s), the Permittee shall keep accurate records that include the following information:

- a. Name and address of company hauling waste.
 - b. The type and amount of waste hauled.
 - c. The final disposal site of waste hauled.
 - d. Copy of sludge management plan (if applicable)
5. Each Authorization may include specific requirements for surface impoundment systems based on information submitted by the applicant, permit inspection, and DEQ rules.
 6. The DEQ Rules, as amended, are applicable to and are incorporated by reference into this General Permit and any Authorizations under it. The permittee is hereby given notice that this General Permit is, in all respects, subject to compliance with and actions under any and all applicable and relevant terms, conditions, provisions and requirements and all amendments of the laws of the State of Oklahoma, the Department of Environmental Quality Rules, and Oklahoma's Water Quality Standards. The absence of any express reference within this General Permit to any particular statutory requirement, rule(s), regulation(s), or standard(s) shall in no respect be deemed or construed to exempt or preclude the application of such requirement, rule(s), regulation(s), or standard(s) to this permit of the permittee. By DEQ approval, grant and issuance of this permit, permittee acknowledges responsibility to obtain correct and current copies of applicable DEQ Rules (as amended), provided, however, that permittee further acknowledges that any and all amendments thereto shall become a part of this General Permit.
 7. Closure of the Class III surface impoundments shall be in accordance with OAC 252:616-13.
 8. The following specific requirements are established for slaughterhouses and meat packing plants.
 - a. Segregate kill room and salt bath wastes to prevent or minimize the introduction of blood, intestinal materials, salt water (brine), and non-consumable animal parts into the surface impoundment(s);
 - b. Sweep up meat and fat scraps from the packing area prior to washdown;

- c. Use screens on floor drains to prevent animal parts or other large solids from entering the surface impoundment(s); and
- d. Use disinfectants with care to prevent or minimize surge to the surface impoundment(s) that might interfere with biological treatment of wastewater.