

# National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Electronic Reporting

## What is changing with NPDES reporting?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently published the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Electronic Reporting Rule. The rule **requires** NPDES regulated facilities to report information **electronically, instead of filing written paper reports**. The rule does not change what information is required from facilities. It only changes the method by which information is provided (i.e., electronic rather than paper-based).

## Why is EPA requiring electronic reporting?

Electronic reporting will save you time and money by eliminating paper reports. EPA also expects electronic reporting to save time and resources for the government, increase data accuracy, improve compliance, and support the goal of providing better protection of the nation's waters.

## What information must I submit electronically and by when?

If you are currently required to submit **Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs)**, you must submit them electronically **starting on 21 December 2016**, unless your permit directs otherwise or you receive a waiver.

If you are currently required to submit **Biosolids/Sewage Sludge Annual Program Reports**, you must also submit them electronically **starting on 21 December 2016**, unless your permit directs otherwise or you receive a waiver.

The rule also requires electronic reporting of certain other NPDES reports, including:

- Notices of Intent to discharge (NOIs) under a general permit
- Notices of Termination (NOTs) of coverage under a general permit
- No Exposure Certifications (NOEs) under a stormwater general permit
- Low Erosivity Waivers and Other Waivers from Stormwater Controls (LEWs)
- Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Annual Program Reports
- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program Reports
- Pretreatment Program Annual Reports
- Sewer Overflow/Bypass Event Reports
- Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 316(b) Annual Reports
- Significant Industrial User (SIU) Bi-annual Compliance Reports.

If you are required to submit these reports, the deadline to begin submitting them electronically is 21 December 2020, unless your permit directs otherwise or you receive a waiver.

## How do I submit NPDES information electronically?

Electronic submissions will use web-based tools. You will only need a computer, an Internet browser (e.g., Microsoft Internet Explorer), and high-speed access to the Internet (i.e., DSL, fiber optic). The tool to submit DMRs is called NetDMR and the tool for other NPDES reports is called NeT. These tools communicate securely, requiring passwords and known responses to security questions. They are designed to provide your electronic submittals with the same level of legal dependability as paper submittals. For additional information on NetDMR, visit <https://netdmr.zendesk.com/home> or contact NetDMR Customer Support at 202-564-7756 or [netdmr@epa.gov](mailto:netdmr@epa.gov).

## Are waivers from electronic reporting available?

Yes. The rule provides flexibility to grant temporary or emergency waivers from electronic reporting. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation is currently developing criteria for an electronic reporting waiver.

## I am already submitting DMRs electronically. What do I need to do?

Continue reporting your DMR data electronically in the same way as you are now. The key change is that, starting **21 December 2016**, electronic reporting of DMRs will be required, instead of voluntary. Although there could be minor changes in the details (e.g., specific forms used), the overall electronic reporting process is likely to change very little.

## Where can I find more information?

- For general information on electronic reporting to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, visit <http://dec.alaska.gov/water/Compliance/EReportingRule.htm>
- For general information on EPA's NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule, visit <http://www2.epa.gov/compliance/final-national-pollutant-discharge-elimination-system-npdes-electronic-reporting-rule>.