

PERMIT FACT SHEET

General Information

Permit Number:	WI-0066435-02-0
Permit Name:	Storage of Domestic Septage
Permittee:	Septage Storage Facilities located within the State of Wisconsin with a capacity of >550,000 total gallons or for less capacity if the department on a case-by-case basis requires a septage storage facility to obtain a WPDES permit pursuant to s. NR 113.12(5)(b), Wis. Adm. Code.
Discharge Location:	Land application sites throughout the State of Wisconsin and/or other permitted facilities which accept domestic septage for treatment or land application
Receiving Water:	Groundwater in the state of Wisconsin

WPDES Permit Program Background

Wisconsin Statutes and regulations require a Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit for the discharge of any pollutant through a point source into any waters of the state, which includes surface waters and groundwater. WPDES permits are issued by the Department of Natural Resources (department) consistent with applicable federal requirements. These permits contain requirements that include pollutant discharge limitations, record keeping and reporting requirements, best management practices and other provisions to reduce, eliminate, or minimize the risk of pollutants impacting human health and water quality.

A WPDES permit is an allowance for a facility to discharge a specified amount of a pollutant into the waters of the state under specific conditions. There are two types of WPDES permits:

- **Individual permit.** An individual permit is a permit specifically tailored to an individual facility. Once a facility submits a complete application(s), the department develops a draft permit for that particular facility based on the information contained in the permit application (e.g., type of activity, nature of discharge, receiving water quality). After a public participation process, the department may issue the permit to the facility for a specific time period (not to exceed five years) with a requirement that the facility reapply 180 days prior to the expiration date of the permit. Public notices are posted for each individual permit application and proposed individual permit permittee.
- **General Permit.** A general permit covers a group or category of dischargers with similar qualities within a designated area of the state under one WPDES permit. A general permit provides coverage to several dischargers. To obtain coverage under a general permit for a discharge of pollutants, an owner or operator must submit a notice of intent (NOI) requesting general permit coverage. General permits have an effective term of 5 years from the date of issuance. If a permittee submitted a complete and timely NOI to be covered by the general permit and the department approves coverage, the discharge of pollutants is then subject to all conditions of the general permit and these terms or conditions shall continue to apply until the effective date of the reissued general permit. Public notices are issued for the general permit and not for the permittee(s) covered under the general permit. A person may apply for general permit coverage at the time a general permit is issued or a person may apply during the term of the permit.

General Permit Objective

This general permit was created to regulate septage storage facilities (typically > 550,000 gallons total capacity) and the land application of domestic septage removed from the storage facilities to protect public health and water quality of ground water and surface water (s. NR 113.12, Wis. Adm. Code). This general permit allows for the beneficial reuse and nutrient recycling of domestic septage to department approved land application sites throughout the state in accordance with ch. NR 113, Wis. Adm. Code.

This general permit also regulates septage storage facilities that store, remove, and then haul the domestic septage to other WPDES permitted facilities approved for domestic septage storage and/or treatment.

General Permit Description

Septage storage facilities and land application of domestic septage are regulated under ch. NR 113, Wis. Adm. Code, entitled “Servicing Septic or Holding Tanks, Pumping Chambers, Grease Interceptors, Seepage Beds, Seepage Pits, Seepage Trenches, Privies, or Portable Restrooms.” Some of the purposes of this chapter is to establish standards for the proper storage and disposal of domestic septage while protecting public health from unsanitary and unhealthful practices and conditions; and to protect surface waters and groundwaters of the state from contamination by domestic septage. The regulation of domestic septage is necessary because experience has shown that improper management of domestic septage may lead to public health concerns and surface water or groundwater degradation.

An individual or general WPDES permit is required for septage storage facilities greater than 550,000 gallons. In situations where the combined total storage capacity is equal to or less than 550,000 gallons, the department may exempt the WPDES permit requirement pursuant to s. NR 113.12, Wis. Adm. Code. The department on a case-by-case basis may require an exempted septage storage facility to obtain a WPDES permit for violations of ch. NR 113, Wis. Adm. Code, or to protect public health, groundwater, and surface waters (s. NR 113.12(5)(b), Wis. Adm. Code).

All septage storage facilities must notify the department of its use through the department form 3400-137 (“Septage Storage Facility Permit Application”).

A septage storage facility must meet the plans and specification requirements specified in chs. NR 108 and NR 110, Wis. Adm. Code, unless exempted by the department pursuant to s. NR 113.12 (3)(d), Wis. Adm. Code.

Section NR 205.08, Wis. Adm. Code, authorizes the department to issue a general permit applicable to a designated area of the state authorizing discharges from specified categories or classes of point sources located within that area if they (1) Perform the same or substantially similar operations; (2) Produce the same types of wastewater streams; (3) Employ the same or substantially similar wastewater treatment operations to control specific pollutants; (4) Are subject to the same effluent limitations and monitoring requirements; and (5) In the opinion of the department, are more appropriately controlled under a general permit than under individual permits.

Section NR 113.12(1)(d), Wis. Adm. Code, authorizes the department to make a determination on a case-by-case basis to require the owner or operator to a septage storage facility to obtain WPDES general permit coverage, obtain a specific WPDES permit or modify an existing WPDES permit when the department determines it to be necessary to protect public health or the environment.

The department recognized that many septage storage facilities perform similar operations, produce the same waste streams, and that the specific WPDES permits for these facilities contain very similar limitations and monitoring requirements. As a result, the department developed this general permit.

IMPORTANT: This general permit only covers those facilities that store septage from domestic sources (i.e., septic tanks, holding tanks, dosing chambers, grease interceptors, seepage beds, seepage pits, seepage trenches, distribution cells, privies, or portable restrooms); and either land apply to department

approved land application sites or disposed of at another permitted facility approved for domestic septage storage and/or treatment. Under this general permit, domestic septage may not be mixed with any other waste sources. Examples of other waste sources include, but are not limited to, sewage sludge (regulated per ch. NR 204, Wis. Adm. Code), industrial wastes (regulated per ch. NR 214, Wis. Adm. Code), and animal wastes (regulated per chs. NR 151 and NR 243, Wis. Adm. Code).

General Permit Content Summary

This general permit establishes applicability criteria, requirements for obtaining coverage, land application site requirements, monitoring requirements, reporting requirements, management plan requirements, operational requirements, and standard requirements for septage storage facilities and land application activities. The permit requirements are provided to protect human health by reducing the spread of disease and to protect the waters of the state.

Changes from Previous Permit

- This general permit was updated to comply with chs. NR 113 and NR 114, Wis. Adm. Code (dated September 2021 and effective October 1, 2021).
- Sampling Point (Outfall) 902 – Direct Land Application Septic Tank Waste; and 903 – Direct Land Application Holding Tank Waste were added to this general permit to provide improved flexibility and to maximize land application site utilization (gallons/acre). Both septic tank waste and holding tank waste directly land applied shall contain less than 25% grease interceptor waste.

Outfalls 902 and 903 are inactive. Department approval to activate these outfalls must be received prior to land applying waste from these outfalls.

1 Applicability Criteria

According to s. NR 205.08(2), Wis. Adm. Code, the department may include applicability criteria in general permits.

1.1 Facilities Covered

This general permit is applicable to septage storage facilities (typically facilities >550,000 total capacity). Exemptions from the requirements of this general permit are allowed if a facility is being issued a specific WPDES permit or under the following circumstances as listed under s. NR 113.12(5)(b), Wis. Adm. Code, which states:

(b) WPDES permit exemptions.

1. On a case-by-case basis, the department may require an exempted septage storage facility to obtain a WPDES permit for violations of this chapter or to protect public health, groundwater, and surface waters.
2. A WPDES permit is not required for septage-only storage facilities when all of the following occur:
 - a. The storage unit is owned and operated by a licensed septage business.
 - b. When singly or when added together, the septage storage capacity is less than or equal to 550,000 gallons.
 - c. The septage storage facility submits plans and specifications to the department in conformance with sub. (3) and receives department conditional approval or conditional acceptance.
 - d. The septage storage facility complies with all other applicable requirements of sub. (3).
3. A WPDES permit is not required for septage-manure storage facilities when all of the following occur:
 - a. Septage makes up less than 10 percent of the septage-manure mixture in the storage facility and there are 50,000 gallons or less of septage in the septage-manure storage facility.
 - b. The septage is treated with lime or alkali prior to mixing with manure to meet pathogen control and vector attraction reduction requirements under s. NR 113.07(3)(d) and (e).
 - c. The department provides in writing that a WPDES permit is not required to the applicant.

The owner or operator may remove the domestic septage from the septage storage facility and then land apply on department approved sites or haul the domestic septage to other permitted facilities approved for domestic septage storage and/or treatment. Septage is defined by s. NR 113.03(55), Wis. Adm. Code. All domestic septage placed in the septage storage facility must be delivered from a licensed septage business pursuant to s. NR 113.05, Wis. Adm. Code.

An owner or operator of a septage storage facility (550,000 gallons or more) that has been granted coverage under this general permit to remove, transport, dispose of septage (example: discharge of septage to a wastewater treatment facility), and/or landspread domestic septage does not also have to obtain a business license under s. NR 113.05, Wis. Adm. Code, or be a certified operator under ch. NR 114 subchapter II, Wis. Adm. Code. The department considers that obtaining permit coverage fulfills the license and certification requirements. However, all businesses (including individuals, partnerships, corporations and bodies politic) and all persons servicing septage from private onsite wastewater treatment systems (POWTS) and other septage generating systems and all persons discharging domestic septage into the septage storage facility or land applying the domestic septage to fields directly without placing it in the septage storage facility covered under this general permit must have a business license and operator certificate under chs. NR 113 and NR 114, Wis. Adm. Code. Operators-in-training and

portable restroom servicing assistants may perform certain duties under the supervision of the master operator designated by the owner as the operator-in-charge.

The department may on a case-by-case basis determine that the owner or operator of a septage storage facility (less than or equal to 550,000 total capacity) shall obtain a WPDES individual or general permit coverage when the department determines it to be necessary to protect public health or the environment (s. NR 113.12(1)(d), Wis. Adm. Code)

Pursuant to s. NR 113.12(2), Wis. Adm. Code, the septage storage facility must be designed in accordance with chs. NR 108 and NR 110, Wis. Adm. Code, and approved by the department unless an exemption is approved pursuant to par. NR 113.2(3)(d), Wis. Adm. Code. In accordance with s. NR 113.12(1), Wis. Adm. Code, if the storage facility was constructed prior to September 1987, the storage facility must meet the provisions of ch. NR 110, Wis. Adm. Code, and be accepted in writing by the department, or installed under chs. SPS 383 and SPS 384, Wis. Adm. Code.

1.2 Activities Not Covered

According to 40 CFR 122.28(a)(4)(ii), general permits may exclude specified sources from coverage. This general permit is not applicable to storage facilities and land application activities that meet any of the following conditions:

1. Domestic Septage not Stored after Servicing

This permit does not cover any domestic septage removed during servicing and applied directly to fields or hauled directly to another permitted facility (e.g., a publicly owned treatment works), a landfill, an incinerator, manure storage unit, or a contract hauler) without first adding it to the septage storage facility covered under this permit. These activities are still regulated under a septage business license and shall be reported separately under that license rather than as part of this general permit.

Note: The department may assign an approved land application site to both a septage business license and this general permit of the same entity if the management plan adequately details procedures for tracking the total hydraulic application rate of domestic septage to that site from both the business license and this general permit.

2. Non-Domestic Septage Storage Facilities

This permit does not cover storage facilities that contain non-domestic septage from commercial, industrial, or agricultural facilities. This permit does not contain the necessary monitoring for these facilities.

Other Storage Facilities

Storage facilities that contain other wastes streams such as industrial liquid wastes (wastewater), industrial sludge (including process grease from a grease interceptor), or industrial by-products, manure, municipal wastewater or sewage sludge are not covered under this general permit. This permit does not contain the necessary monitoring for these facilities. This permit may cover former or repurposed manure storage structures or sludge storage lagoons as long as no other wastes is mixed with the domestic septage, and the storage facility meets chs. NR 108 and NR 110, Wis. Adm. Code, or an existing storage unit that was installed under chs. SPS 383 and SPS 384, Wis. Adm. Code; and a submittal has been provided to the department and accepted for use in writing.

4. Endangered and Threatened Resources

Land application discharges that affect endangered and threatened resources are not eligible for this permit, unless the department determines that the discharges comply with the endangered and

threatened resource protection requirements of s. 29.604, Wis. Stats., and ch. NR 27, Wis. Adm. Code. Facilities with discharges that require more oversight to ensure that they do not violate these protection requirements may need to be covered by an individual permit.

5. Storage Facilities on Tribal Lands

Storage facilities located on tribal owned lands and any land application activities on sites on tribal owned lands are not covered under this general permit. The department does not issue WPDES permits on tribal lands due to the state delegation agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In such instances, the Tribe or EPA regulates the storage facility and land application activities and issues associated permits and/or approvals.

2 Obtaining Permit Coverage

2.1 Submittal of a Notice of Intent

In accordance with s. NR 205.08(3), Wis. Adm. Code, on a case-by-case basis the department may by letter require a discharger to submit a notice of intent (NOI) to be covered by a general permit.

Additionally, general permits shall specify the deadlines for submitting an NOI to be covered under the permit as specified by 40 CFR 122.28(b)(2)(iii). Therefore, the applicant must submit a complete NOI under this general permit to the department at least 30 business days before the expected start date of operation of the septage storage facility.

Note: As of December 21, 2020, all NOIs submitted in compliance with this section must be submitted electronically by the discharger in compliance with 40 CFR 122.28(b)(2)(i) and 40 CFR part 127. The department is in the process of developing and requiring electronic submissions of NOIs to be covered under this general permit. Once the NOIs are online, paper copies will be no longer accepted. The department will post this update on our general permit webpage.

2.2 Incomplete NOI

In accordance with s. 283.37(6), Wis. Stats., the department may require the owner or operator to submit information regarding any discharge. Therefore, the department may require an applicant to submit data necessary to complete any deficient NOI, any additional data other than that requested in the NOI or a new complete NOI where the deficiencies are extensive, or the appropriate form has not been used.

2.3 Granting of Coverage

In accordance with s. NR 205.08(3), Wis. Adm. Code, following receipt of a complete NOI, the department shall issue a determination on whether a discharger is covered by a general permit. Additionally, general permits shall specify whether a discharger that has submitted a complete and timely notice of intent to be covered in accordance with the general permit and that is eligible for coverage under the permit, is authorized to discharge in accordance with the permit upon receipt of notification of inclusion by the department pursuant to 40 CFR 122.28(b)(2)(iv). Therefore, the permit requires that the applicant receive a coverage letter from the department prior to the use of the septage storage facility. Upon receipt of the coverage letter, the applicant is hereby granted coverage and authorized to use the septage storage facility under the general permit. If the applicant has not received a coverage letter from the department, they are not permitted to use the septage storage facility.

Note: In accordance with s. NR 205.08(5), Wis. Adm. Code, if the department notifies an applicant that a storage facility is ineligible for coverage under this general permit but that still requires WPDES permit coverage, the applicant shall apply for and obtain under an individual WPDES permit (or alternative general permit, if available) prior to use of septage storage facility. The necessary steps to apply for coverage under an individual permit can be found on the department website:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/PermitApplications.html>.

3 Land Application Site Requirements

3.1 Land Application Site Evaluation

Land application site evaluation requirements are included by reference in permit from ss. NR 113.07 and NR 113.11, Wis. Adm. Code. The permittee must comply with all these requirements.

3.2 Land Application Site Information

Land application site information requirements are included by reference in this permit from ss. NR 113.07(3)(b)4. and NR 113.11(1), Wis. Adm. Code. The permittee must comply with all these requirements.

3.3 Land Application Site Location Criteria

Land application site location criteria are included by reference in this permit from s. NR 113.07, Wis. Adm. Code. The permittee must comply with all these requirements.

3.4 Land Application Site Approval

In accordance with ch. NR 113, Wis. Adm. Code, land application sites must be approved by the department in writing prior to land applying any domestic septage from storage. Land application sites must meet all requirements in s. NR 113.07, Wis. Adm. Code. A site approval may be rescinded if information is provided or available to the department showing the information used by the department to approve a site is not consistent with the new information and the site is deemed by the department to be inadequate to protect public health and waters of the state pursuant to s. NR 113.07(3)(c)3.b., Wis. Adm. Code. All sites that are approved by the department and meet all the separation requirements at the time of approval may not have the site approval rescinded for separation distance encroachment by residences, businesses or recreational areas for a period of 5 years. This 5-year period shall run from the occupancy date of the encroachment in accordance with s. NR 113.07(3)(c)3.d., Wis. Adm. Code.

4 Septage Storage Facility Influent Requirements

4.1 Sampling Point(s)

Section NR 218.07, Wis. Adm. Code, allows the department to specify sampling points in the permit.

Sampling Point Designation	
Sampling Point Number	Sampling Point Location, Waste Type/Sample Contents and Treatment Description (as applicable)
990	Influent tracking of domestic septic tank waste stored in the septage storage facility.
995	Influent tracking of domestic holding tank waste stored in the septage storage facility.
997	Influent tracking of domestic grease interceptor waste stored in the septage storage facility.
998	Influent tracking of portable restroom waste stored in the septage storage facility.

4.2 Sampling Points 990 – Septic Tank Waste, 995 – Holding Tank Waste, 997 Grease Interceptor Waste, and 998 – Portable Restroom Waste

The permittee shall keep and maintain records of the influent to the septage storage facility on a daily log for Sampling Points 990, 995, 997, and 998 as specified in Sections 4.2.1 and 4.2.2 below.

4.2.1 Daily Influent Log Book or Invoice Record System

Paragraph NR 113.11(3)(c), Wis. Adm. Code, requires that the permittee shall maintain a daily influent log that includes operational records of each load of waste hauled to the septage storage facility. The daily influent log is outlined in the permit.

4.2.2 Operational Records for Each Load of Inflow Waste

The permittee is required to record the information provided in par. NR 113.11(3)(c), Wis. Adm. Code, in the daily influent log for each load of domestic septage hauled to the septage storage facility.

5 Septage Storage Facility Land Application Requirements

5.1 Sampling Point(s)

Section NR 218.07, Wis. Adm. Code, allows the department to specify sampling points in the permit.

Sampling Point Designation	
Sampling Point Number	Sampling Point Location, Waste Type/Sample Contents and Treatment Description (as applicable)
901	The removal of domestic septage from a septage storage facility for the purpose of land application to department approved land application sites and/or disposal of septage at a facility approved for domestic septage storage and/or treatment.
902	Direct land application of septic tank waste containing less than 25% grease interceptor waste to department approved land application sites. DEPARTMENT APPROVAL TO ACTIVATE OUTFALL 902 MUST BE RECEIVED PRIOR TO LAND APPLICATION. Details for tracking wastes shall be submitted to department as part of the management plan prior to activating outfall
903	Direct land application of holding tank waste containing less than 25% grease interceptor waste to department approved land application sites. DEPARTMENT APPROVAL TO ACTIVATE OUTFALL 903 MUST BE RECEIVED PRIOR TO LAND APPLICATION. Details for tracking wastes shall be submitted to department as part of the management plan prior to activating outfall.

5.2 Sampling Point (Outfall) 901 – Septage Storage Removal; 902 – Direct Land Application Septic Tank Waste; 903 – Direct Land Application Holding Tank Waste

Permittees shall follow the land application and reporting requirements provided in Sections 5.2.1 and 5.2.2. Permittees that do not land apply and only haul the domestic septage from the septage storage facility to a properly permitted facility, shall only follow the reporting requirements in Sections 5.2.2.3 and 5.2.2.4.

5.2.1 Land Application Requirements and Limitations

5.2.1.1 Maximum Weekly Hydraulic Loading Rates

The maximum weekly hydraulic loading rate is included by reference in the permit from sub. NR 113.09(5), Wis. Adm. Code. The permittee must comply with this requirement. Pursuant to s. NR 113.15, Wis. Adm. Code, permittees may request a variance to this section in the NOI at the time coverage is requested. The requirements for this variance are listed in Section 5.2.1.2. Permittees are required to document the variance and alternative maximum weekly hydraulic loading rates in the approved management plan along with methods to ensure that domestic septage is not overapplied.

5.2.1.2 Alternative Maximum Weekly Hydraulic Loading Rates

The permittee may exceed the weekly hydraulic application rate of 13,000 gallons/acre/week provided land application occurs via incorporation or injections and the permittee meets the requirements of subd. par NR 113.05(5)(a)1. through 4., Wis. Adm. Code including any conditions such as submittal and department approval of a management plan. Soils of land application sites must demonstrate the ability to hold and treat land applied domestic septage. In accordance with subd par. NR 113.07(3)(b)1., Wis. Adm.

Code, septage may not be landspread on soils which have a permeability rate greater than 6 inches per hour within the top 36 inches, unless it is demonstrated that the soil has a water holding capacity of greater than 5 inches above the groundwater and bedrock. In no case may greater than the top 60 inches in a soil profile be used to determine the 5 inches of water holding capacity. Permeability shall be calculated using the table in s. NR 113.07(3)(b)1., Wis. Adm. Code, or other method acceptable to the department. Water capacity shall be calculated in accordance with sub. NR 113.03(6), Wis. Adm. Code.

Note: The permittee may request a streamlined sandy site variance (form 3400-245) to landspread septage on soils with permeability rate greater than 6 inches/hour (within the top 36” of the soil profile), and less than 5 inches water holding capacity (within the top 60” of the soil profile). The permittee may submit an alternative variance request pursuant to s. NR 113.15, Wis. Adm. Code.

5.2.1.3 Yearly Hydraulic Loading Rates (Low Use Fields)

Land application to a site may not exceed the annual maximum hydraulic limits specified under s. NR 113.09, Wis. Adm. Code Table 4 or nitrogen needs of the crop on a crop year basis.

5.2.1.4 Yearly Hydraulic Loading Rate (High Use Fields)

The volume of septage applied annually on a high use field may not exceed the amount calculated by the “Annual Agronomic Rate” (Section 5.2.1.7) that is necessary to supply the nitrogen needs of the crop to be grown, as determined by the analysis of soil samples on a crop year basis.

5.2.1.5 Poneded Waste

Domestic septage may not be land applied on saturated soils during rainfall events, or in areas of ponded water per subd. NR 113.07(3)(b)5., Wis. Adm. Code. In addition, land application vehicles shall be moving forward at all times while domestic septage is being applied. Ponding of domestic septage is prohibited per subd. NR 113.07(3)(b)6., Wis. Adm. Code.

5.2.1.6 Litter Free

All fields shall be left in a litter free condition after land application per subd. NR 113.07(3)(b)(5), Wis. Adm. Code.

5.2.1.7 Annual Agronomic Rate

The annual agronomic rate is included by reference in the permit from sub. NR 113.09(4), Wis. Adm. Code. The permittee must comply with this requirement.

5.2.1.8 Cropping

Domestic septage that is land applied based on the agronomic crop requirements may not be applied more than 10 months prior to the planting of the crop pursuant to subd. NR 113.07(3)(b)8., Wis. Adm. Code.

5.2.1.9 Specific Crops on High Use Fields

The specific crops grown on high use fields requirement is included by reference in the permit from sub. NR 113.09(3), Wis. Adm. Code. The permittee must comply with this requirement.

5.2.1.10 Grease Interceptor Waste 25% or Less

The land application requirements for grease interceptor waste making up to or less than 25% of the total volume are included by reference in the permit from par. NR 113.09(6)(a), Wis. Adm. Code. The permittee must comply with these requirements.

5.2.1.11 Grease Interceptor Waste Greater than 25%

The land application requirements for grease interceptor waste greater than 25% of the total volume are included by reference in the permit from par. NR 113.09(6)(b), Wis. Adm. Code. The permittee must comply with these requirements.

5.2.1.12 Vector Attraction Reduction Requirements

The vector attraction reduction requirements are included by reference in the permit from par. NR 113.07(3)(e), Wis. Adm. Code. The permittee shall comply with all these requirements.

5.2.1.13 Pathogen Control Requirements

The pathogen control requirements are included by reference in the permit from s. NR 113.07(3)(d), Wis. Adm. Code. The permittee must comply with all these requirements.

5.2.2 Reporting Requirements and Limitations

5.2.2.1 Daily Discharge Logs

The permittee shall maintain a daily discharge log of wastes removed from the domestic septage storage facility in accordance with s. NR 113.11(3)(c), Wis. Adm. Code.

5.2.2.2 Operational Records for Each Load of Waste Land Applied

The permittee is required to record the operations records information in s. NR 113.11(3)(c), Wis. Adm. Code, in the daily discharge log for each load of waste that is removed from the septage storage facility and land applied.

5.2.2.3 Annual Land Application Report (Form 3400-55)

Permittees are required to submit electronically an Annual Land Application Report Form 3400-55 by January 31, each year whether or not domestic septage is land applied in accordance with s. NR 113.11(3)(a), Wis. Adm. Code.

5.2.2.4 Other Methods of Disposal or Distribution Report (Form 3400-52)

Permittees are required to submit electronically the Other Methods of Disposal or Distribution Report Form 3400-52 by January 31, each year whether or not domestic septage is hauled to another facility, landfilled, incinerated, or stored in a manure storage unit in accordance with par. NR 113.11(3)(b), Wis. Adm. Code.

5.2.2.5 Soil Test Report for High Use Fields

In accordance with s. NR 113.11(3)(a)4., Wis. Adm. Code, permittees shall submit a soil test report that includes the agricultural soil analysis for each high use field once every 4 years of use when required by s. NR 113.07(3)(b)11., Wis. Adm. Code. This soil test report shall be submitted to the department regional septage coordinator.

6 Septage Management Plan

6.1 Operate Consistent with an Approved Management Plan

The owner or operator of a septage storage facility shall prepare and submit for approval to the department a management plan for each septage facility. The management plan shall provide for optimizing system performance and demonstrating compliance with the requirements of this ch. NR 113, Wis. Adm. Code. Following approval by the department, the septage storage facility shall be operated in conformance with the management plan.

If the owner or operator of the septage storage facility wishes to operate differently than specified in the approved management plan, the owner or operator shall submit a written request to the department for approval of the amendment of the management plan. The amendment approval request shall include a copy of the complete amended plan.

6.2 Submittal of the Management Plan

In accordance with s. NR 113.12(7)(d), Wis. Adm. Code, and s. 283.37, Wis. Stats., the department may require the owner or operator to submit information regarding any discharge. Therefore, the department requires the permittee to submit a management plan to the department for approval at the time the NOI is submitted, or within 60 days from the date of reissuance of this permit. If an applicant applies for coverage during the term of this general permit (prior to the expiration date), the permittee shall submit the management plan with the NOI. When coverage is granted under this permit, if the department determines that a previously approved management plan must be amended to comply with the conditions of this permit and ch. NR 113, Wis. Adm. Code, the department will provide written notification to the permittee. Within 60 days of written notification, management plans shall be submitted to department staff identified in the document granting coverage under this permit.

6.2.1 Management Plan Content

The management plan shall, at a minimum, describe the information provided in the permit under this section. The information provided in the management plan will help the department determine and track compliance with the requirements in the permit and ch. NR 113, Wis. Adm. Code. Additionally, the information will help the permittee properly operate and manage the septage storage facility and land application activities.

7 Operational Requirements

7.1 Mixing Prior to Land Application

Contents of the septage storage facility shall be mixed prior to land application in accordance with s. NR 110.26(10), Wis. Adm. Code.

7.2 Storage Length

The permittee may not store a batch of domestic septage for longer than 2 years in accordance with s. NR 113.12(1)(c), Wis. Adm. Code.

7.3 Freeboard

Free board for lagoons shall be 3 feet from the top of the lagoon to prevent overflowing. For all other storage structures except those approved under s. NR 113.12(3)(d)2., Wis. Adm. Code, the septage storage facility shall maintain no less than 18 inches of free board from the top of walls to prevent overflowing the septage storage facility.

7.4 Grit, Screenings, and Other Waste

In accordance s. NR 205.07(3)(a), Wis. Adm. Code, any bulky or non-organic waste that is removed from the septage storage facility during clean out or maintenance, or any grit or screenings collected, shall be properly disposed of at a licensed solid waste facility (landfill). The landfill must be licensed under chs. NR 500 to NR 538, Wis. Adm. Code.

7.5 Vehicle Requirements

All domestic septage placed in the septage storage facility must be delivered from a licensed septage business pursuant to s. NR 113.05, Wis. Adm. Code.

The owner or operator may remove the domestic septage from the WPDES permitted septage storage facility and then land apply on department approved sites or haul the domestic septage to other WPDES permitted facilities approved for domestic septage storage and/or treatment.

Vehicles operating under this WPDES permit and used strictly for land application do not need to meet the requirements of ss. NR 113.06(1), NR 113.06(2)(e) and (m), NR 113.06(3)(c)1., and NR 113.(3)(d) and (e), Wis. Adm. Code.

When disposing at a land application site, site related information must be kept in the vehicle cab per s. NR 113.06(3)(g), Wis. Adm. Code.

7.6 Abandonment Conditions

In accordance with s. NR 110.26(10)(a), Wis. Adm. Code, in the event of abandonment of the septage storage facility, the permittee shall submit an abandonment plan and schedule of accomplishment to the department for its review and approval six months prior to abandoning the septage storage facility. The owner within 12 months of the plan approval shall complete the abandonment.

7.7 Seven-Day Notification

The permittee shall notify the department at least seven days prior to each period of the anticipated removal of any of the storage facility contents pursuant to s. NR 113.12(7)(d)4.k. Wis. Adm. Code. The method of notification (phone message, email, letter, etc.) will be a process agreed upon by the permittee and the department. The notification shall include a list of all land application sites anticipated to be used. The management plan shall contain a description of this seven-day notification and the agreed upon

method of notification. The department may waive the 7-day notification requirement when regular or ongoing land application events are proposed and details of the regular or ongoing land application events are included in the management plan.

7.8 Nuisance Abatement

The owner or operator of the septage storage facility shall minimize nuisance conditions pursuant to s. NR 113.12(7)(b), Wis. Adm. Code.

7.9 Septage Facilities Approved Prior to October 1, 2021

Within 24 months after October 1, 2021, the facility shall provide to the department with the information specified under par. NR 113.12(3)(a), Wis. Adm. Code.

7.10 Transfer Ownership of Previously Approved Septage Storage Facility

A septage only storage facility for which the department has issued written approval may continue in operation after the transfer of ownership and upon the new owner of the septage storage facility provided the facility complies with s. NR 113.12(3)(b), Wis. Adm. Code.

7.11 Maintenance inspections and reporting

Pursuant to s. NR 113.12(6)(c), Wis. Adm. Code:

1. The owner or operator of the septage storage facility, or another person qualified to inspect the septage storage facility that is designated by the owner or operator of the septage storage facility shall inspect each septage storage facility as part of ongoing maintenance of the septage storage facility. Each inspection shall include observations and recording of all of the following:
 - a. any evidence of tank leakage
 - b. Any evidence of pipe or valve leakage
 - c. Missing equipment including caps or plugs
 - d. Any evidence of visible cracks or rusting that indicate future potential issues
 - e. Disappearance of volumes of septage within the septage storage facility
2. Maintenance inspections under 1. above shall be conducted and recorded monthly.
3. The owner or operator of the septage storage facility shall notify the department within 30 days of becoming aware of findings that require the owner or operator to minimize or prevent the likelihood of any adverse impacts to public health, the waters of the state, or the environment. The owner or operator shall develop, communicate, and implement a plan to further identify and resolve any potential impacts.

7.12 Reevaluation inspection and report

Pursuant to s. NR 113.12(6)(b), Wis. Adm. Code:

1. The owner or operator of a septage storage facility shall complete a reevaluation inspection once every 10 years.
2. The owner or operator of each septage storage facility shall have the septage storage facility reevaluated by a qualified person. The reevaluation inspection shall include an in-depth inspection of the multiple components of the septage storage facility including piping, valves, tank integrity, foundation, receiving facilities, and mixing facilities. If the facility is a lagoon, the lagoon shall comply with the sealing requirements under s. NR 110.24, Wis. Adm. Code. The

findings of the reevaluation inspection shall be compiled into a report. The report shall be submitted to the department. The report shall contain information establishing the qualifications of the inspector to adequately evaluate the integrity of the storage facility.

3. The owner or operator of the septage storage facility shall report in writing to the department any deficiencies and identify plans and timeframes to correct the deficiencies identified by a reevaluation inspection under this paragraph. A qualified inspector shall verify that deficiencies have been corrected and communicate that information to the department in writing. The owner or operator shall indicate to the department in writing if the septage storage will be removed from service immediately.
4. The owner or operator of the septage storage facility shall provide regular and timely communication to the department until the septage storage facility is remedied or permanently abandoned.

8 Land Application to Frozen or Snow-Covered Ground

Land application of domestic septage from a septage storage facility to frozen or snow-covered ground due to an emergency is prohibited except where there are no other reasonable disposal methods available and approved by the department in writing pursuant to s. NR 113.07(1)(b)1., Wis. Adm. Code.

Reasonable disposal options include but are not limited to, hauling the waste to a nearby POTW which will accept the domestic septage pursuant to s. NR 113.07(1)(b)1., Wis. Adm. Code.

8.1 Reporting Requirements

These reporting requirements are based on ss. NR 113.06(3)(b) and NR 205.07(1)(s), Wis. Adm. Code.

8.1.1 Notification within 24 Hours

The permittee shall notify the department by telephone, fax or email as soon as practicable, but no later than 24 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the emergency and the need to land apply on department approved sites. The permittee shall explain their land application strategies.

8.1.2 Written Report Within Five Days

The permittee shall, no later than five days from the conclusion of the land application, provide to the department the information identified in this section of the permit in a written report.

8.2 Land Application Site Requirements

8.2.1 Site Approval

Permittees shall obtain special written approval in advance from the department for specific sites which may be used for emergency situations in accordance with s. NR 113.07(1)(b)1., Wis. Adm. Code.

8.2.2 Site or Field Slope

Sites or fields used shall have slopes less than or equal to 2% in accordance with s. NR 113.07(1)(b)1.a., Wis. Adm. Code. However, the department may approve sites or fields greater than 2% under extenuating circumstances and as specified in the permittee's management plan.

8.2.3 Surface Water or Wetland Setback

Application is not allowed within 750 feet of any surface water or wetland in accordance with s. NR 113.07(1)(b)1.c., Wis. Adm. Code.

8.2.4 Floodplain Restriction

Application is not allowed in a floodplain in accordance with s. NR 113.07(1)(b)1.d., Wis. Adm. Code.

8.3 Land Application Requirements and Limitations

8.3.1 Prior Land Application Approval

The permittee may not land apply to frozen or snow-covered ground until written approval is received from the department.

8.3.2 Maximum Hydraulic Loading Rate

Waste shall be applied at a rate of less than 10,000 gallons per acre in accordance with s. NR 113.07(1)(b)1.b., Wis. Adm. Code.

8.3.3 Application Method

Surface application with alkali addition is required unless frost depth is less than 4 inches and injection or incorporation can meet the requirements of s. NR 113.07(1)(d), Wis. Adm. Code.

9 Standard Requirements

The permit provides a Standard Requirements (SR) section that contains conditions and requirements that are, for the most part, applicable to all permittees.

9.1 Reporting Requirements

According to s. NR 205.08(2), Wis. Adm. Code, the department may include reporting requirements in general permits. The reporting requirements are included by reference from ch. NR 113 and ss. NR 205.07(1) and (3), Wis. Adm. Code.

9.2 General Conditions for General Permits

According to s. NR 205.08(2), Wis. Adm. Code, the department may include general conditions in general permits. The general conditions for general permits are included by reference from 40 CFR Parts 122.28(b)(2)(i), 122.61(b) and 122.64(c), and s. NR 205.07(1)(i), Wis. Adm. Code.

9.3 General Conditions for WPDES Permits

The general conditions for WPDES permits are included by reference from ss. NR 205.07(1) and (3), Wis. Adm. Code, and 33 USC 1251.

10 Summary of Reports Due

A summary of reports due has been added for informational purposes for the permittee and to be consistent with individual WPDES permits.

Appendix A - Definitions

The standard definition section is provided to permittees to help clearly define terms used throughout the permit. The definitions are provided from chs. NR 113, NR 200, NR 204, NR 211, NR 205, NR 214 and NR 243, Wis. Adm. Code. Several definitions were modified and added to the reissued permit based on the September 2021 updates to ch. NR 113, Wis. Adm. Code. Definitions not specifically outlined in this section can be found in Wisconsin Administrative Code, Wisconsin Statutes, or 40 CFR. If the terms defined in the permit are found to be inconsistent with the definition in code, permittees shall refer to the code definition.

Appendix B – Notice of Intent Form

The contents of the notice of intent (NOI) shall be specified in the general permit and shall require the submission of information necessary for adequate program implementation pursuant to 40 CFR 122.28(b)(2)(ii). The NOI, at a minimum, shall include the legal name and address of the owner or operator, the facility name and address, type of facility or discharges, and other required data elements as identified in 40 CFR Appendix A to Part 127. Authorized state programs may require regulated entities to submit more data than what is listed in Appendix A. All NOI must be signed and certified in accordance with s. NR 205.07(1)(g), Wis. Adm. Code.

Prepared by:

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