On November 5, 2015 the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) issued the final NPDES General Permit for Hydrostatic Testing of Commercial Pipelines in a new format. This administrative NPDES general permit will supersede and replace the requirements for these discharges which are currently regulated under Article 15, Rule 11 of Title 327 of the Indiana Administrative Code (327 IAC 15-11). These include the following types of discharges to surface waters of the state:

NPDES Permit Number ING670000 for Hydrostatic Testing of Commercial Pipelines. The purpose of this permit is to establish requirements for point source discharges of waters used for the hydrostatic testing of commercial pipelines which are used for the transportation of natural gas, crude oil, and liquid or gaseous petroleum.

IDEM public noticed the draft general permit from December 15, 2014 and the comment period ended on February 6, 2015. Each general permit contains specific eligibility requirements. Ineligible discharges will require an individual NPDES permit or an alternate general permit (if available). Only facilities existing within the boundaries of Indiana may obtain NPDES general permit coverage.

APPEAL PROCEDURES FOR FINAL PERMITS

The final NPDES general permits and related documents are posted on IDEM’s web site at http://www.in.gov/idem/cleanwater/2480.htm. The final NPDES general permits are available for review at the IDEM Central Office, Indiana Government Center North, Room 1255, 100 N. Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., M - F, excluding state holidays (copies 10¢ per page). Copies of the final permit documents are also available at the local health departments and at IDEM’s Regional Offices. The documents are also available via email request. See these sites for information concerning your rights and responsibilities: http://www.IN.gov/idem/5474.htm and http://www.in.gov/idem/5903.htm. Please tell others whom you think would be interested in this matter.

Appeal Procedure: Any person affected by the issuance of the Final Permit may appeal by filing a Petition for Administrative Review with the Office of Environmental Adjudication (OEA) within eighteen (18) days of the date of this Public Notice. Any appeal request must be filed in accordance with IC 4-21.5-3-7 and must include facts demonstrating that the party requesting appeal is the applicant; a person aggrieved or adversely affected or is otherwise entitled to review by law. The Petition for Administrative Review must be received by the OEA within 18 days of the date of this Public Notice; either by U.S. Mail postmark or by private carrier with dated receipt. This Petition for Administrative Review represents a request for an Adjudicatory Hearing, therefore must:
1. state the name and address of the person making the request;
2. identify the interest of the person making the request;
3. identify any persons represented by the person making the request;
4. state specifically the reasons for the request;
5. state specifically the issues proposed for consideration at the hearing; and
6. identify the Final Permit terms and conditions which, in the judgment of the person making the request, would be appropriate to satisfy the requirements of the law governing these NPDES Permit(s).

If the person filing the Petition for Administrative Review desires any part of any final NPDES General Permit to be stayed pending the outcome of the appeal, a Petition for Stay must be included in the appeal request, identifying those parts to be stayed. Both Petitions shall be mailed or delivered to this address:

    Environmental Law Judge
    Office of Environmental Adjudication
    IGC – North Building- Rm 501
    100 N. Senate Avenue
    Indianapolis, IN 46204

Stay Time frame: If the Petition(s) is filed within eighteen (18) days of the mailing of this Public Notice, the effective date of any part of the permit, within the scope of the Petition for Stay is suspended for fifteen (15) days. The Permit will become effective again upon expiration of the fifteen (15) days, unless or until an Environmental Law Judge stays the permit action in whole or in part.

Hearing Notification: Pursuant to Indiana Code, when a written request is submitted, the OEA will provide the petitioner or any person wanting notification, with the Notice of pre-hearing conferences, preliminary hearings, hearing stays or orders disposing of the Petition for Administrative Review. Petition for Administrative Review must be filed in compliance with the procedures and time frames outlined above. Procedural or scheduling questions should be directed to the OEA at 317/232-8591.

Questions about the final general permit may be directed to any of the following IDEM staff: C. Anne Burget at (317) 234-8745, Sheri Jordan at (317) 232-8703, or Catherine Hess at (317) 232-8704. Please send any email inquiries to owqwwper@idem.in.gov.