



Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

General Air Contaminant Discharge Permits and Construction

General Air Contaminant Discharge Permits are often associated with relatively simple operations, but they can sometimes be quite complex. This guide will help you understand more about General ACDPs, Notice of Intent to Construct applications, and permit qualifications. Some General ACDPs can be complex and require determining compliance post-inspection, review of annual reports, processing NC applications, or a complex permit, itself. This complexity is also because General ACDPs do not require the same supporting documentation as Simple, Standard, or Title V permits which provide source-specific information.

With Simple and Standard ACDPs, permit writers must determine if a proposed project or construction can proceed with an NC or if it requires a permit modification. Key considerations include whether new permit conditions must be added, or if the permit already includes conditions to regulate the new project.

For General ACDPs, the process is slightly different. The decision is between an NC, a General ACDP attachment, or if a new Simple or Standard ACDP is required.

Ensuring compliance

A General Permit must include all applicable requirements for the source. If there are requirements not covered by the General ACDP, the source must apply for a General Permit attachment (if available) or a Simple or Standard ACDP.

Industry-specific regulations

Most General Permits regulate specific types of industries or activities, such as coffee roasters, rock crushers, or boilers. When a source has multiple types of operations or proposes a new activity, DEQ staff must ensure the current General Permit covers these activities or determine if additional permitting action is necessary.

Example scenario

Hospitals often have a General Permit for boilers. If the hospital also has a gasoline storage tank and dispensing point, it must comply with rules for Gasoline Dispensing Facilities as well. These rules are not listed in the General Permit for boilers. The hospital can either apply for a General Permit Attachment or a source specific ACDP (a Simple or Standard ACDP).

Choosing attachments vs. source-specific permits

Attachments, when a source qualifies for them, are cheaper than source-specific permits. However, a Simple or Standard ACDP would include only the requirements applicable to the source, making it easier to review and comply with.

One permit per source

When DEQ receives a General Permit application, staff will check if another General Permit type has already been issued to the facility. A single source cannot be issued two permits.

Translation or other formats

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What to know when submitting a Notice of Intent to Construct for a General Permit

DEQ staff must review NC applications to confirm there are no applicable requirements for the project or construction that aren't already in the permit.

Straightforward additions

If the NC is for something the source is already permitted for, the process is straightforward. Below are some examples of straightforward additions that are already covered by the current permit.

- A permitted GDF that wants to add another storage tank and dispenser.
- A crematory wants to add another incinerator.
- A coffee roaster wants to add another roaster to their facility.

In each case, emission limits must be considered. If the source is close to the Plant Site Emission Limit, adding another piece of equipment might push emissions over the threshold. In this case, the DEQ permit writer may contact the facility to discuss if a different permit, like a Simple or Standard permit, is required.

New activity considerations

If the NC is for a new type of equipment or a new activity that the source isn't currently permitted for, an analysis is required by DEQ staff to determine if the current General Permit covers the project or if additional conditions are necessary. For example:

- A plating and polishing General Permit covers plating activities, thermal spraying operations, and dry mechanical polishing. A source with this permit can submit an NC to add any of these activities since the requirements are already in the permit.

General Permit conditions

Each General Permit includes standard applicable requirements, like no fugitive emissions, opacity specifications, or visible emissions requirements. If a source wants to install a piece of equipment that has no applicable requirements other than those, it is likely already covered by the General Permit language.

For example:

- A plating and polishing source wants to install a small natural-gas fired heater. Although the heater is subject to NC requirements, there are no additional applicable requirements beyond those already in the General Permit ACDP. This project could be approved under an NC and the source would still qualify for their current General Permit.

For more information

For more information about General Permits and NC requirements, contact your permit writer. They can provide detailed guidance specific to your situation.

Contact

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