



## Preliminary Effluent Limitations (PEL) For Domestic and Industrial Discharges

The Water Quality Control Division (Division) offers a fee-based service to identify the preliminary (anticipated) effluent limitations for a discharge to state waters and this information is provided in the PEL document. This information may be used by entities to plan and design the wastewater management and treatment processes to meet these objectives.

**Domestic Discharges.** A PEL is mandatory for domestic wastewater discharges as part of the Division's Site Application process. In accordance with Site Location and Design Approval Regulations for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Works (Regulation No. 22) Section 22.4(1)(b)(iii) and Section 22.5(2)(B), PELs developed in coordination with the Division must be addressed and/or included in an application for site location approval for any proposed new or expanded domestic wastewater treatment works.

**Industrial Discharges.** A PEL is optional for industrial wastewater dischargers since the Site Application process does not apply. Permit applications for industrial dischargers can be accepted without the completion of a PEL. It is anticipated that some entities may request a PEL (or several PELs) during the planning process to aid in the selection of treatment and design to include in the application for a discharge permit.

### Process:

The information provided below is for existing and planned dischargers who want to request a PEL.

- **Cost.** The categorical fees (Table 1) are based on size of discharge. Also, there are fees for review of a PEL prepared by a third-party, discharges to more than one water body, and PEL modification. The Division will provide limited assistance to third-party preparers but does not have the resources to train these entities in PEL preparation. Work on a PEL cannot start until the fee is paid.
- **Application.** A request for a PEL is provided to the Division as a completed application. This form is provided at the end of this document and includes information needed to determine pollutants of concern, receiving water(s), and flow rates. A complete application must include a good map of the proposed discharge location.
- **Schedule.** After receipt of a complete and reviewed application, the Division's intent is to prepare the PEL within 45 days, starting at receipt of proper payment.
- **Content.** The content of a PEL is provided below in the General Outline.
- **Contact.** Division contact information is provided below.
- **Payment. Do NOT send the PEL payment with the PEL Application.** To ensure that the correct payment is made, the PEL Application must first be reviewed by Division staff. After that application review a PEL payment request will be sent to the requester on the PEL Application identifying the appropriate amount with payment instructions. The work on any PEL will not begin until appropriate payment is received.



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Table 1  
 Discharge Categories and Fees for PEL Preparation  
 (Reference: Colorado Revised Statutes 25-8-502)

DISCHARGE CATEGORY AND SUBCATEGORY	FLOW IN GALLONS PER DAY	FEE(\$) EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007
<b>Category 40 PELs for Individual Permits</b>		
Subcategory bV-A	Less than 100,000	\$2,100
Subcategory bV-B	From 100,000 up to 999,999	\$4,200
Subcategory bV-C	From 1,000,000 up to 9,999,999	\$6,300
Subcategory bV-D	Equal to or more than 10,000,000	\$8,400
<b>Category 41 PELs for General Permits *</b>		
Subcategory VI	From 0 up to 1, 000,000	\$1,050
<b>Category 42 PELs for Discharges to Groundwater **</b>		
Subcategory bVII-A	Minor facilities (less than 1,000,000)	\$525
Subcategory bVII-B	Major facilities (at least 1,000,000)	\$840
<b>Category 43 Review of PELs for Individual Permits (professionally prepared by others)</b>		
Subcategory bVIII-A	Less than 1,000,000	\$1,575
Subcategory bVIII-B	At least 1,000,000	\$3,150
<b>Other fees</b>		
PEL Request includes discharges to a second or additional receiving water bodies		Additional 75% of the original fee
Requested modification of Division approved PEL		25% of the original fee

\* This category includes minor facilities that discharge to: unclassified waters, class 2 (aquatic life) streams with a zero low flow; or class 2 (aquatic life) streams with a low flow greater than zero.

\*\* Certain types of groundwater discharges are not permitted by the Water Quality Division and are under the jurisdiction of the Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division, the Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety, or the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. After review of the PEL request, the Division will notify the requestor if the Division does not have jurisdiction to authorize the identified discharge. Also, this regulatory approach applies to groundwater discharges that are included in PEL requests for facilities with a surface water discharge.



Contents of PEL

General Outline

Introduction

- Receiving water description
- General characterization of facility and industrial processes
- Description of discharge practice and outfall locations

Development of Water Quality Based Effluent Limitations

- Receiving water classification and standards
- Ambient receiving water quality
- Low flow analysis
- Determination of pollutants of concern
- Determination of WQBELs
- Determination of ADBACs/NILs

Determination of Applicable Federal ELGs

- Review of federal regulations and standards

Application of State Effluent Limitations

Selection of Final Effluent Limits

- Determination of applicable limits

The effluent limits for a discharge are based on the more stringent of limits required by federal Effluent Limitation Guidelines (ELG), state Regulations for Effluent Limitations (Regulation No. 62), water-quality-based-effluent-limits (WQBEL), and antidegradation based effluent-limits (ADBEL). The latter includes concurrent limits that may be required after a antidegradation review is conducted.

For additional information on PEL process:

Website: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wq-sewage-systems-permits>

Mail: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Water Quality  
Control Division, Permits Section, P-B-2  
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South  
Denver, Colorado 80246-1530

FAX: 303-782-0390

Phone: Permits Section 303-692-3517  
During hours 8a.m. to 5 p.m. press 0 (zero) for assistance





Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

**PEL APPLICATION**

1. Requestor Information

- a. Requestor Name \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Company name \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_
- d. City/State/Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

2. Billing Information - the person who will received the invoice prior to PEL being issued

This is the same as number 1

- a. Billing Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Company name \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_
- d. City/State/Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

3. Facility Information

- a. Facility Name \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Facility Address \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Facility City \_\_\_\_\_ CO Zip code \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Facility County \_\_\_\_\_
- e.  Domestic Discharge  Industrial Discharge
- f. SIC Code(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- g. General description of operations



4. Discharge Information

a. Is this a new facility or an upgrade to an existing facility?  NEW  UPGRADE

b. Proposed discharge location

- Latitude (dec.degrees) \_\_\_\_\_
- Longitude (dec.degrees) \_\_\_\_\_
- Receiving stream \_\_\_\_\_
  - Is the discharge to a storm sewer?  YES  NO
- Proposed discharge flow rate \_\_\_\_\_mgd \_\_\_\_\_gpm
- Attach a map showing the facility and discharge point location(s)

c. Additional discharge locations (Additional fees may apply)

- Latitude (dec.degrees) \_\_\_\_\_
- Longitude (dec.degrees) \_\_\_\_\_
- Receiving stream \_\_\_\_\_
- Proposed discharge low rate \_\_\_\_\_mgd
- Attach a map showing the facility and discharge point location(s)

d. Pollutants of concern (Check all that apply)

- BOD
- CBOD
- Temperature
- Cyanide
- Nitrate/Nitrite
- Metals (al inclusive)
- Ammonia (if upgrade to facility, include the most recent CAM/AMMTOX results)
- Radionuclides (ex. Radium. List specific radionuclides below)
- Organics (List specific organics below)

e. List radionuclides (or note All Inclusive)

f. List organics (or note All Inclusive)



g. List any other pollutant of concern or additional information

Attach extra pages as needed

