



National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Electronic Reporting Rule

What is changing with NPDES reporting?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 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).

What does this mean for CDPS permits reporting?

The EPA has delegated the State of Colorado to oversee NPDES compliance. In order to ensure compliance with the Electronic Reporting Rule, the Colorado Water Quality Control Division (WQCD) holds the expectation that all CDPS permits electronically submit all reports and data required by the permit, in accordance with the Electronic Reporting Rule. This means **starting on or before December 21, 2016 all CDPS permits will be required to submit Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) electronically**, regardless of what your permit says, unless you receive a waiver.

Why is EPA requiring electronic reporting?

Electronic reporting saves time and money by eliminating paper reports which incur paper, ink and postage costs. 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 **DMRs**, you must submit them electronically **starting on or before December 21, 2016**, regardless of what your permit says, unless you receive a waiver.

If you are currently required to submit **EPA Biosolids/Sewage Sludge Annual Program Reports**, you must also submit them electronically **starting on or before December 21, 2016**, regardless of what your permit says, unless you receive a waiver. This requirement does not apply to State Biosolids Land Application Reports submitted to WQCD. The Colorado reports are in addition to reporting to the EPA and must still be submitted as hard copies at this time.

The second phase of the rule requires electronic reporting of certain other CDPS documents and reports including but not limited to applications, annual reports, compliance schedule submittals, non-compliance notifications, etc. The deadline to begin submitting these additional reports electronically is **December 21, 2020**. For a complete list of additional reports, please review the rule at <https://www.epa.gov/compliance/final-national-pollutant-discharge-elimination-system-npdes-electronic-reporting-rule>

- For more details on what information must be submitted electronically and when, visit <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/e-reporting-rule-discharge-monitoring-report-information> or contact the NetDMR Help Line at cdphe.wqnetdmrhelp@state.co.us or 303-691-4046.

How do I submit CDPS 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 electronic submittals with the same level of legal dependability as paper submittals.
- For additional information on NeT, visit <https://netdmr.zendesk.com/home> or contact NetDMR Customer Support at 202-564-7756 or netdmr@epa.gov
- For additional information on NetDMR, visit <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/e-reporting-rule-discharge-monitoring-report-information> or call the NetDMR Help Line at 303-691-4046 or email cdphe.wqnetdmrhelp@state.co.us

Are waivers from electronic reporting available?

Yes. The rule provides flexibility to grant temporary or emergency waivers from electronic reporting. To obtain an electronic reporting waiver, you must first submit an electronic reporting waiver request to WQCD and receive approval. Specific requirements must be met in order to be eligible for a waiver, which include but are not limited to religious reasons and lack of access to high speed internet in your location. For more information on waivers, visit <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/e-reporting-rule-discharge-monitoring-report-information> or contact the NetDMR Help Line at cdphe.wqnetdmrhelp@state.co.us or 303-691-4046.

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

Continue reporting DMR data electronically in the same way as you are now. The key change is that, starting **December 21, 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 will change very little.

Where can I find more information?

- For general information on CDPS electronic reporting to WQCD, visit <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/e-reporting-rule-discharge-monitoring-report-information>
- For additional information on electronic reporting tools, waivers, more details on what information must be submitted electronically and when, visit <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/e-reporting-rule-discharge-monitoring-report-information> or contact the NetDMR Help Line at cdphe.wqnetdmrhelp@state.co.us or 303-691-4046.
- 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>