STATE OF ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WATER QUALITY DIVISION
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007

ARIZONA POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM
GENERAL PERMIT FOR STORMWATER DISCHARGES
ASSOCIATED WITH INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY – MINERAL INDUSTRY
TO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

This permit provides authorization to discharge under the Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) program, in compliance with the provisions of the Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 49, Chapter 2, Article 3.1, the Arizona Administrative Code (A.C.C.), Title 18, Chapter 9, Articles 9 and Chapter 11, Article 1, and the Clean Water Act as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

This general permit specifically authorizes stormwater discharges associated with category iii, Mineral Industry sites, pursuant to 40CFR 122.26(b)(14) in Arizona. All discharges authorized by this general permit shall be consistent with the terms and conditions of this general permit.

This general permit becomes effective on February 1, 2011.

This general permit and the authorization to discharge expire at midnight, January 31, 2016.

Signed this 20th day of December, 2010.

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Michael A Fulton, Director
Water Quality Division

Stormwater Discharges Associated with the Mineral Industry – Sectors G, H, I & J
12. Hydrostatic testing of new pipes, tanks or vessels using potable water, surface water, or uncontaminated groundwater;

13. Discharges of water associated with drilling, rehabilitation and maintenance of potable or non-potable water wells and piezometers, or water supply or water quality evaluations including:
   a. Discharges from any borehole not fully developed;
   b. Well purging;
   c. Well/aquifer pump tests not associated with groundwater remediation activities;
   d. Backflushing of injection wells provided the discharge meets applicable water quality standards; and

14. Non-stormwater discharges subject to an effluent limitation guideline listed in Table 1-2.

1.1.4 Limitations on Coverage.

1.1.4.1 Discharges Mixed with Non-Stormwater. Stormwater discharges that are mixed with non-stormwater, other than allowable non-stormwater discharges listed in Part 1.1.3 are not eligible for coverage under this permit.

1.1.4.2 Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activity. Stormwater discharges associated with construction activity are eligible for coverage under this permit, as specified in Sectors G and J of Part 8 of this permit.

1.1.4.3 Discharges Currently or Previously Covered by another Permit. Unless the permittee receives written notification from ADEQ specifically allowing these discharges to be covered under this permit, the following are not eligible for coverage under this general permit:

   1. Stormwater or non-stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity that is currently covered under an individual AZPDES permit or an alternative AZPDES general permit and has established numeric water quality-based limitations developed for the stormwater component of the discharge; or
   2. Discharges for which any AZPDES permit has been or is in the process of being denied, terminated, or revoked by ADEQ (this does not apply to the routine reissuance of permits every five years).

1.1.4.4 Stormwater Discharges Subject to Effluent Limitations Guidelines. For stormwater discharges subject to effluent limitation guidelines under 40 CFR, Subchapter N, only those discharges identified in Table 1-2 are eligible for coverage under this permit.

1.1.4.5 New Dischargers to Water Quality Impaired Waters. A new discharger to an impaired water, as defined in Appendix A, is not automatically eligible for coverage under this permit.

   1. To receive authorization under this permit, the applicant shall make one of the following demonstrations and retain such data and other technical information onsite with the stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP):

      a. That the facility will employ measures to prevent all exposure to stormwater of the pollutant(s) for which the waterbody is impaired; or
      b. That the discharge from the site has no potential to contain the pollutants causing impairment; or
      c. That the discharge is not expected to cause or contribute to an exceedance of an applicable water quality standard. The applicant shall demonstrate either:

         i. The discharges are subject to stormwater control measures such that the discharges meet the applicable water quality standard, for the parameter causing the impairment, at the point of discharge into the waterbody; or
Part 8 – Sector-Specific Requirements for Industrial Activity

Subpart G – Sector G – Metal Mining.
The permittee shall comply with Part 8 sector-specific requirements associated with the facility’s primary industrial activity and any co-located industrial activities authorized under this permit, as defined in Appendix A. The sector-specific requirements apply to those areas of the facility where those sector-specific activities occur. These sector-specific requirements are in addition to any requirements specified elsewhere in this permit. In some cases, these sector-specific requirements modify more general requirements set forth in Parts 1-7 of this permit (e.g., Part 8.G.9. below).

8.G.1 Covered Stormwater Discharges.
The requirements in Subpart G apply to stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity from Metal Mining facilities, including mines abandoned on Federal lands, as identified by the SIC Codes specified under Sector G in Table 1-1 of this permit. Coverage is required only for mining operations that discharge stormwater contaminated by contact with, or that has come into contact with, any overburden, raw material, intermediate product, finished product, byproduct, or waste product located on the site of the operation.

8.G.1.1 Covered Discharges from Active Facilities. Only the stormwater discharges from the areas described in Table 8.G.1.1 and the allowable non-stormwater discharges identified in Part 1.1.3 are covered:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discharge/source of discharge</th>
<th>AZPDES General Permit Applicability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waste rock/overburden</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topsoil piles</td>
<td>Discharge under GP must be composed entirely of stormwater and not combined with mine drainage. See Note below.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roads constructed of waste rock or spent ore</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onsite haul roads and haul/access roads used or traveled by carriers of raw materials, manufactured products, waste material, or by-products used or created by the facility.</td>
<td>Discharge under the GP must be composed entirely of stormwater and not combined with mine drainage. See Note below.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roads not constructed of waste rock or spent ore</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onsite haul roads and haul/access roads used or traveled by carriers of raw materials, manufactured products, waste material, or by-products used or created by the facility.</td>
<td>Discharge acceptable under GP except if “mine drainage” is used for dust control.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milling/concentrating</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runoff from tailings dams/dikes when constructed of waste rock/tailings.</td>
<td>Discharges must be composed entirely of stormwater and not combined with mine drainage; not applicable if process fluids are present. See Note below.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runoff from tailings dams/dikes when not constructed of waste rock/tailings.</td>
<td>Discharge acceptable under GP except if process fluids are present.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentration building</td>
<td>Discharge acceptable under GP if discharge is stormwater only and there is no contact with concentrate piles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mill site</td>
<td>Discharge acceptable under GP if discharge is stormwater only and there is no contact with concentrate piles.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Discharge/source of discharge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ancillary areas</th>
<th>AZPDES General Permit Applicability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office/administrative building and housing</td>
<td>Discharge acceptable under GP if mixed with stormwater from the industrial area. (Note: coverage is unnecessary if drainage from these areas is not mixed with stormwater from industrial areas.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical storage area &amp; Docking facility</td>
<td>Discharge under GP must be composed entirely of stormwater and not combined with mine drainage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explosive storage</td>
<td>Discharge acceptable under GP (Note: coverage is unnecessary for drainage exclusively from employee and visitor-type parking areas.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel storage (oil tanks/coal piles)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle/equipment maintenance area/building</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking areas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power plant</td>
<td>Discharge under GP must be composed entirely of stormwater and not combined with mine drainage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truck wash area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Reclamation-related areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Any disturbed area (unreclaimed)</th>
<th>Discharge acceptable under GP only if not in active mining area.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reclaimed areas released from reclamation bonds prior to Dec. 17 1990</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partially/inadequately reclaimed areas or areas not released from reclamation bond.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note:* Stormwater runoff from these sources is subject to the AZPDES program for stormwater unless mixed with discharges subject to 40 CFR Part 440 that are regulated by another permit prior to mixing. Non-stormwater discharges from these sources are subject to AZPDES permitting and may be subject to the effluent limitation guidelines under 40 CFR Part 440.

Discharges from overburden/waste rock and overburden/waste rock-related areas are not subject to 40 CFR Part 440 unless they: (1) drain naturally (or are intentionally diverted) to a point source; and (2) combine with "mine drainage" that is otherwise regulated under the Part 440 regulations. For such sources, coverage under this permit is available if the discharge composed entirely of stormwater does not combine with other sources of mine drainage that are subject to 40 CFR Part 440, and that meets other eligibility criteria contained in Part 1.1 of this permit. Permit applicants bear the initial responsibility for determining the applicable technology-based standard for such discharges.

8.G.1.2 Covered Discharges from Inactive Facilities. All stormwater discharges.

8.G.1.3 Covered Discharges from Exploration and Construction of Metal Mining and/or Ore Dressing Facilities. All stormwater discharges.

8.G.1.4 Covered Discharges from Facilities Undergoing Reclamation. All stormwater discharges.

8.G.2 Limitations on Coverage.

8.G.2.1 Prohibition of Stormwater Discharges. Stormwater discharges not authorized by this permit: discharges from active metal mining facilities that are subject to effluent limitation guidelines for the Ore Mining and Dressing Point Source Category (40 CFR Part 440).

8.G.2.2 Prohibition of Non-Stormwater Discharges. The following discharges are not authorized by this permit: adit drainage, and contaminated springs or seeps discharging from waste rock dumps that do not directly result from precipitation events (see also the standard Limitations on Coverage in Part 1.1.4).
8.G.3 Definitions.

The following definitions are not intended to supersede the definitions of active and inactive mining facilities established by 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14)(iii).

8.G.3.1 Mining operation - Consists of active, inactive, reclamation phases and the exploration and construction phases.

8.G.3.2 Exploration phase - Entails exploration and land disturbance activities to delineate the dimensions and financial viability of a metal mining site.

8.G.3.3 Construction phase - Includes the initial building of site access roads and initial removal of overburden and waste rock to expose mineable minerals at a mining site. In addition, any subsequent construction activity on undisturbed areas of an existing mine property is also considered part of the construction phase if stormwater discharges are not managed by pre-existing or permanent control measures.

8.G.3.4 Active phase - Activities including the extraction, removal or recovery of metal ore. For surface mines, this definition does not include any land where grading has returned the earth to a desired contour and reclamation has begun. This definition is derived from the definition of "active mining area" found at 40 CFR 440.132(a). The active phase is considered part of "mining operations."

Note: The following definitions are not intended to supersede the definitions of active and inactive mining facilities established by 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14)(iii).

8.G.3.5 Active metal mining facility - A place where work or other activity related to the extraction, removal, or recovery of metal ore is being conducted. For surface mines, this definition does not include any land where grading has returned the earth to a desired contour and reclamation has begun. This definition is derived from the definition of "active mining area" found at 40 CFR 440.132(a).

8.G.3.6 Inactive metal mining facility - A site or portion of a site where metal mining and/or milling occurred in the past but is not an active facility as defined above. An inactive metal mining facility has an identifiable owner/operator. Sites where mining claims are being maintained prior to disturbances associated with the extraction, beneficiation, or processing of mined materials and sites where minimal activities are undertaken for the sole purpose of maintaining a mining claim are not considered either active or inactive mining facilities and do not require an AZPDES industrial stormwater permit.

8.G.3.7 Reclamation phase - Activities undertaken following the cessation of the "exploration phase" or the "active phase" at a site or a portion of a site, intended to return the land to an appropriate post-mining land use in order to meet applicable Federal and State reclamation requirements or the requirements of Part 8.G.9.1 at a site or portion of a site not subject to Federal and State reclamation requirements. The reclamation phase is considered part of "mining operations."

8.G.3.8 Stabilization - A site or portion of a site is "stabilized" when it has implemented all applicable Federal and State reclamation requirements.

8.G.4 Stormwater Discharges Associated with the Exploration and Construction Phases of Mining (Clearing, Grading, and Excavation Activities).

Clearing, grading, and excavation activities being conducted as part of the exploration and construction phases at mining sites are covered under this permit (or may be covered under an alternate AZPDES stormwater permit such as the AZPDES General Permit for Discharge from Construction Activities (AZG2008-001)) if they disturb one acre or more. Exploration and construction activities disturbing less than one acre do not require permit coverage unless they are integrally related to other exploration or construction activities that collectively disturb one acre or more.