

Hydrostatic Test Discharge Permit Application Frequently Asked Questions and Permit Processing Time Savers

The following questions, answers and tips have been compiled to help ensure the efficient processing of your application:

- **Who needs a hydrostatic test discharge permit?** Anyone who plans to discharge wastewater resulting from the hydrostatic testing of natural gas, crude oil, or other pipelines or tanks or other vessels under jurisdiction of the Commission.
- **Do I need a hydrostatic test discharge permit if I will dispose of the wastewater resulting from the hydrostatic testing of natural gas, crude oil, or other pipelines or tanks or other vessels under jurisdiction of the Commission if the wastewater will be collected in an above ground vessel prior to disposal in an authorized manner other than discharge?** No.
- **Are there any cases when a hydrostatic test discharge permit is not required?** Yes, if the wastewater will result from the hydrostatic testing of a pipeline and all of the following conditions are met:
 - The pipeline is a gathering line.
 - The pipe is new.
 - The source of the test water is a good quality water sources, such as a potable water source or irrigation well.
 - The volume of test water discharges is 10,000 gallons or less.
 - The discharged test water is kept on the pipeline right-of-way and the landowner(s) has been notified of the discharge and has not objected.
- **How do I get a permit?** Complete the Requirements for a Permit Application to Discharge Hydrostatic Test Water <https://www.rrc.texas.gov/oil-and-gas/applications-and-permits/environmental-permit-types/minor-permits-hydrostatic-test-discharges-domestic-wastewater-and-other-permits/application-for-a-permit-to-discharge-of-hydrostatic-test-water/> file with Technical Permitting in the Commission's Austin Office.
- **How much does a permit application cost?** There is a non-refundable \$300 application fee if the wastewater will be discharged to surface waters of the state. There is no fee if the wastewater will not reach surface waters of the state.
- **How do I submit a fee payment?** You may pay by check or money order payable to the Railroad Commission of Texas.
- **Is a dry creek, pond, canal or ditch considered surface waters of the state?** Yes.
- **Can I include more than one discharge point in one application?** No. A separate application must be filed for each discharge point.

- **Can I get more than one permit to discharge at the same location?** Possibly, each application will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Any application to discharge at a location where a permit(s) was previously issued must contain information concerning the previous permit(s), including the permit number.
- **Are there any other forms I need to file with the Commission?** Yes. Complete and file Form P-5 (Organization Report) along with the appropriate financial security. You can download the form from the Commission's website at <http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/oil-gas/forms/>, or by contacting the P-5 department at 512-463-6772. Only the P-5 department can answer questions concerning the Form P-5.
- **Can I email or fax an application?** No. All applications must contain an original signature.
- **How long does it take to get a permit?** The Commission has 15 days from the date the application is received to give written notice to you indicating that either the application is complete and accepted for filing, or the application is incomplete. If the application is complete, the Commission has another 15 days to complete the final review. Applications will be reviewed in the order they are received. Filing a complete application helps us shorten the application processing time.
- **How can I help the permitting process?**
 - File application early in your planning stage.
 - File complete application.
 - Make sure the application certification has an original signature.
 - Be aware that operator must have an active Form P-5 on file with the Commission.
 - Be aware that if proposal includes discharging wastewater to any private property, including the pipeline right-of-way, you must include a statement that the landowner(s) has been notified of the proposed discharge and has not objected.
 - Submit the following signed statement if test waters will not reach surface waters of the state: "No test water will reach surface waters of the state."
- **Will my permit require any analyses of the wastewater resulting from the hydrostatic testing?** Yes, if the wastewater will result from the hydrostatic testing of the following:
 - A used pipeline.
 - A used vessel.
 - A new pipeline and the volume of wastewater is greater than 100,000 gallons.
 - Also, analyses are required for all discharges that use a temporary wastewater storage system, such as frac tanks, regardless of the volume of the discharge.
- **How do I amend my permit to extend the permit expiration date?** Submit a request in writing. Include the permit number, proposed expiration date, and reason for requesting a different permit expiration date.