

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Wastewater Management

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Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET)
NPDES Online Course



NPDES WET Online Course Description

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) live course has been used to train states and EPA regions for several years. Due to an ongoing need for easily accessible, standardized and basic NPDES WET permits program training for all states, EPA regions, and interested parties, EPA developed a web-based NPDES WET permits course with input from EPA program and regional offices. This nine-module course covers key elements of EPA's NPDES WET permits program. It also provides an overview of WET implementation under the NPDES permits program, including: a basic introduction to key WET technical concepts and WET data interpretation; a brief review of the Clean Water Act sections and NPDES regulations relevant to WET; a series of presentations on WET permitting applications, from monitoring to reasonable potential determinations to calculating NPDES WET limits to NPDES WET permit development; toxicity reduction evaluations/toxicity identification evaluations; and NPDES WET permit enforcement.

Why is EPA making this training available to EPA regions and states?

EPA developed this NPDES WET permits online course to provide an easy to use, inexpensive way for EPA regions and states to train staff, including permit writers, on implementing WET under the NPDES permits program based on EPA's NPDES regulations and the Clean Water Act.

Features of the WET Online Course

- ✓ Designed similar to other EPA online courses
- ✓ Certificate is available upon completion
- ✓ Ability to download module slides and transcripts
- ✓ Access to NPDES WET documents
- ✓ Customized to include EPA WET test methods:
 - Freshwater WET test methods
 - Estuarine/marine WET test methods used on the Atlantic Coast and in the Gulf of Mexico
 - Estuarine/marine WET test methods used on the Pacific Coast

How can this NPDES WET Course benefit EPA Regions and States?

- **Provides NPDES WET Permits Program Training.** Permit writers and other staff can complete this basic NPDES WET online course at their own pace and have an easy reference when developing NPDES permits with WET requirements.
- **Responds to NPDES WET Implementation Questions.** This online NPDES WET course has been designed, in part, to respond to some frequently asked NPDES WET programmatic and technical questions.
- **NPDES WET Permit Examples.** The NPDES WET online course provides some NPDES WET permit examples, such as illustrations of possible incorrect permit language or provisions and a few toxicity reduction evaluations/toxicity identification evaluations (TRE/TIE) case studies.

The NPDES WET online training is accessible through the NPDES website at <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/npdes-training>. Click on "Recorded Webinars and Training" tab and then click on the "Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Training" bullet.

For more information, contact:
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