

The background image shows two large, dark, corrugated metal culverts. The one on the left is partially filled with water, while the one on the right is empty, showing a bright opening at the end. The surrounding area is dry and rocky, with some sparse, brown vegetation. A green banner is overlaid on the middle of the image, containing the title and date.

COR900000 Exemptions for Oil and Gas Sector

February 8, 2022

Image from the City of Colorado Springs



Regulation

Clean Water Act (CWA) section 402(l)(2) provides that EPA shall not require, nor force a state to require a CWA section 402 permit for discharges of stormwater runoff from **oil and gas exploration, production, processing or treatment operations, or transmissions facilities**, composed entirely of flows that are from conveyances or systems of conveyances used for collecting and conveying precipitation runoff, and that are not “contaminated* by contact with any overburden, raw material, intermediate products, finished product, byproduct or waste products located on the site of such operations.”

*In COR900000 permit “contaminated” triggered by a reportable quantity



What constitutes “exploration, production, processing or treatment operations, or transmissions facilities”?

SIC Codes 1311, 1321, 1381-1389 fall under COR900000 permit, but may be eligible for exemption

- See: [Amendments to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System \(NPDES\) Regulations for Storm Water Discharges Associated With Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Processing, or Treatment Operations or Transmission Facilities](#) (bottom of page 33635)
- What falls under this?
- Some examples: Well pad operations, midstream processing plants, pump stations, central liquid waste treatment systems located on drill pad, and **MORE**

What operations are NOT eligible for exemption?

- Typically downstream from an oil and gas exploration, production, processing or treatment operation, or transmission facility
- Involve or support the physical and/or chemical transformation of raw materials into final manufactured products for sale
- Some examples: Centralized equipment maintenance and storage facilities, support industries that supply materials and products, refineries, ethanol plants, and **MORE**

What do you need to do?

1. Visit list of examples on EPA Website:
<https://www.epa.gov/npdes/oil-and-gas-stormwater-permitting>
2. If you are exempt, do nothing.
3. If you are not exempt, apply for COR900000 permit or No Exposure Certification. Visit:
<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/renewal-industrial-stormwater-general-permit>
4. If you are not sure, contact



Mary Welch
mary.welch@state.co.us
720-924-1398