

Chapter Contents

I. Overview

II. The Clean Water Act

A. In General

B. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

1. Definitions

2. Permit Conditions

3. Stormwater Discharges

C. Minimum National Effluent Standards

1. In General

2. Technology-based Requirements for Effluent Limitations

3. Water Quality Standards

a. Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

D. Requirement for Reporting Discharges of Oil and Hazardous Waste

E. Dredge or Fill Material Discharged into Navigable Waters

F. Penalties and Abatement Actions

G. Citizen Suits

III. The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA)

A. Water Resources Protection (Part 31)

1. In General

2. Unlawful Discharges

3. Waste Discharge Permits

a. In General

b. Obtaining a Permit

4. Obtaining a Stormwater Discharge Permit

a. Industrial Activity

b. Construction Activity

5. Issuance or Denial of a Permit

a. When a Permit is Approved

b. Challenging the Denial or the Conditions of a Permit

6. Violations

a. Permit Conditions

b. Civil and Criminal Sanctions

7. Water Quality Standards

a. In General

b. Surface Waters

i. Water Quality Standard Variances

8. Pretreatment Program

9. Spillage of Oil and Polluting Materials

B. Sewage Disposal and Waterworks Systems

- [1. Sewerage Systems \(Part 41\)](#)
- [2. Waterworks Systems, Sewers, and Disposal Plants \(Part 43\)](#)
- [3. Sewage Disposal and Water Supply Districts \(Part 47\)](#)
- [4. Construction of Collecting Sewers \(Part 49\)](#)
- [5. Clean Water Assistance \(Part 53\)](#)
- [C. Watercraft Pollution Control \(Part 95\)](#)
- [IV. Other Federal and Michigan Water Pollution Statutes](#)
 - [A. The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement of 1978](#)
 - [B. The Safe Water Drinking Act](#)
 - [C. Water Pollution Prevention and Monitoring \(Part 88 of NREPA\)](#)
 - [1. Clean Michigan Initiative Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grants](#)
 - [2. Clean Water Fund](#)

[Endnotes](#)

The Michigan Environmental Law Deskbook Website is a free service of the State Bar of Michigan and its Environmental Law Section. The information obtained from this site is not intended to replace official versions of that information and is subject to revision. The Environmental Law Section presents this information, without warranties, express or implied, regarding the accuracy of the information, timeliness, or completeness. If you believe the information is inaccurate, out-of-date, or incomplete or if you have problems accessing or reading the information, please send your concerns to the Section.