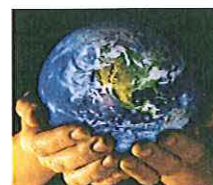


## Environmentally Sound — Meeting Federal Regulations

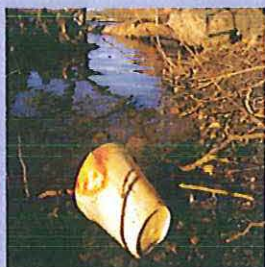
Okaloosa County has a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. This permit, as explained below, is a critical part of our effort to be good stewards of our environment.

“Water pollution degrades surface waters making them unsafe for drinking, fishing, swimming, and other activities. As authorized by the Clean Water Act, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program controls water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into waters of the United States. Point sources are discrete conveyances such as pipes or man-made ditches. Individual homes that are connected to a municipal system, use a septic system, or do not have a surface discharge do not need an NPDES permit; however, industrial, municipal, and other facilities must obtain permits if their discharges go directly to surface waters. In most cases, the NPDES permit program is administered by authorized states. Since its introduction in 1972, the NPDES permit program is responsible for significant improvements to our Nation's water quality.” <http://cfpub.epa.gov/NPDES/>

The Environmental Protection Agency—Governs the NPDES permit. Okaloosa County is striving to meet all EPA NPDES requirements.



“Water pollution degrades surface waters making them unsafe for drinking, fishing, swimming, and other activities.” EPA



### How does the NPDES permit protect water?

“An NPDES permit will generally specify an acceptable level of a pollutant or pollutant parameter in a discharge (for example, a certain level of bacteria). The permittee may choose which technologies to use to achieve that level. Some permits, however, do contain certain generic 'best management practices' (such as installing a screen over the pipe to keep debris out of the waterway). NPDES permits make sure that a state's mandatory standards for clean water and the federal minimums are being met.” <http://cfpub.epa.gov/NPDES/>

### What is waters of the United States?

The term “Water of the United States” is also defined very broadly in the Clean Water Act and after 25 years of litigation. It means navigable waters, tributaries to navigable waters, interstate waters, the oceans out to 200 miles, and intrastate waters which are used: by interstate travelers for recreation or other purposes, as a source of fish or shellfish sold in interstate commerce, or for industrial purposes by industries engaged in interstate commerce.

**For more information please go to:**

Okaloosa County Public Works Website  
[http://www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/dept\\_pw\\_home.html](http://www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/dept_pw_home.html)

