



Compliance & Enforcement Issued: March 20, 2020 #2020- 04

Be Aware of Requirements to Call the DEP Hotline 1-877- WARN DEP (1-877-927-6337)

Who is subject to DEP notification requirements?

Any regulated facility either with a permit or subject to statutes or rules may be required in certain circumstances to make notification to the DEP using the DEP Hotline at 1-877- WARN DEP (1-877-927-6337). Knowing if or when you might be required to call demands familiarity with the permits your facility holds and the rules that apply to your operations. Review of rules and permits is the best way to ensure you know your obligations.

The following table does NOT constitute a complete list of possible notification requirements, but is intended to provide relevant examples of notification requirements for common facilities.

Facility type	Call the DEP Hotline...
ANY TYPE	immediately (within 15 minutes) upon the discharge of any contaminant to the environment (N.J.S.A. 58:10-23.11 Spill Compensation and Control Act)
Drinking water facilities	within 6 hours of an emergency that affects water quality or pressure (NJAC 7:10-2.4(b))
Wastewater facilities	within 2 hours of exceeding an effluent limit, discharging toxics or hazards not in a permit, experiencing an upset or bypass. (NJAC 7:14A-6.10)

Why is DEP issuing this reminder?

As part of the state’s coordinated response to address the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, Governor Phil Murphy declared a State of Emergency and a Public Health Emergency to ramp up New Jersey’s efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19. During this time the DEP will continue to require notifications in accordance with statutes, rules or your permit. Unpredictable situations may arise, and this can lead to disruptions, upsets, failures, shutdowns, exceeding permit limits and other problems that may require you to notify the DEP.

Required notifications are important to inform the DEP, as well as other local, state and national agencies about the safety of, and potential impacts to citizens. Required notifications are expected at all times when triggered by circumstances, whether or not a general emergency exists. Complete information on all situations that rise to a required notification level improves the understanding of the scale of problems and improves coordinated efforts by government, especially in large scale emergency situations.

COMPLIANCE ADVISORY

What is DEP doing?

The DEP will continue to employ the information from required notifications and coordinate with other agencies as needed. In order to ensure reliability of this information, the DEP may pursue enforcement action and penalties against any entity that fails to make timely, required notifications.

What should I do?

If you own, operate or have responsibility for a regulated facility of any type, make time to review your environmental obligations and especially any requirement to call the DEP Hotline. Ensure that all individuals who may have responsibility at different times are aware of the situations that would trigger any notification requirements. Keep the DEP Hotline number readily accessible.

1. Review your regulatory obligations periodically.
2. Identify the situations that would trigger notification.
3. Share with everyone who has responsibility at the facility.
4. Ensure the DEP Hotline is readily available or posted. 1-877- WARN DEP (1-877-927-6337).

Who should I contact with questions?

If you are unsure of your notification obligations, consider calling one of the DEP Compliance and Enforcement offices listed at the following address:

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/easyaccess/compenf.htm>

Where can I get more information?

- Visit the following Web site for general information: Contact NJDEP: <https://www.nj.gov/cgi-bin/dep/contactdep.pl>
- To comment on this advisory: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/survey.html>

Please note this advisory is intended to be a summary explanation of a department initiative. It does not include all potentially applicable requirements. If you have any questions related to compliance with this initiative, please contact the Enforcement numbers listed above.