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**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**[EPA-R06-OW-2025-0307; FRL-12770-02-R6]**

# Proposed Modification of NPDES General Permit for New and Existing Sources and New Dischargers in the Offshore Subcategory of the Oil and Gas Extraction Category for the Western Portion of the Outer Continental Shelf of the Gulf of America (GMG290000)

**AGENCY**: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice of final NPDES General Permit Modification.

**SUMMARY:** The Regional Administrator of Region 6 today provides notice that the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit No. GMG290000 for existing and new sources and new dischargers in the Offshore Subcategory of the Oil and Gas Extraction Point Source Category, located in and discharging to the Outer Continental Shelf offshore of Louisiana and Texas, was modified on November 2, 2026 with an effective date of November 2, 2026. The discharge of produced water to that portion of the Outer Continental Shelf from Offshore Subcategory facilities located in the territorial seas of Louisiana and Texas is also authorized by this permit.

**DATES:** This permit was issued November 2, 2026, is effective on November 2, 2026, and expires May 10, 2028. This effective date is necessary to provide dischargers with the immediate opportunity to comply with Clean Water Act (CWA) requirements in light of the expiration of the compliance period for acute Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing for Well Treatment, Completion and Workover Fluids. In accordance with 40 CFR 23, this permit shall be considered issued for the purpose of judicial review on **[INSERT DATE 14 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**. Under section 509(b) of the CWA, judicial review of this general permit can be held by

filing a petition for review in the United States Court of Appeals within 120 days after the permit is considered issued for judicial review. Under section 509(b)(2) of the CWA, the requirements in this permit may not be challenged later in civil or criminal proceedings to enforce these requirements. In addition, this permit may not be challenged in other agency proceedings.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Nichole Young, Region 6, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1201 Elm Street, Dallas, Texas, 75270; telephone number: (214) 665-6447; email address: *young.nichole@epa.gov*.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice of the proposal of the draft modified permit, Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was published in the *Federal Register* on January 27, 2026 (91 FR 3492). EPA Region 6 has considered all comments received and made changes as listed below. A copy of the Region's responses to comments and the final permit may be found online from the Federal eRulemaking Portal: *http://www.regulations.gov* with Docket ID No EPA-R06-OW-2025-0307. Changes include:

1. Removed Footnote 56 from the permit.
2. Environmental Assessment has been corrected to clarify acute WET testing performed on well treatment, completion, and workover (TCW) discharges from February 2023 to April 2025 showed an ~13% failure rate.

**Other legal requirements**

Other statutory and regulatory requirements are discussed in the fact sheet that include: Executive Order 14192 (90 FR 9065, January 31, 2025); Ocean Discharge Criteria Evaluation; Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act; National Environmental Policy Act; Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act; Endangered Species Act; State Water Quality Standards and State Certification; Coastal Zone Management Act; Paperwork Reduction Act; Regulatory Flexibility Act;

National Historic Preservation Act; Offshore Subcategory of the Oil and Gas Extraction Point Source Category; 40 CFR 122.62**;** 40 CFR 124.13; and 40 CFR 124.5(c)(2). Under Executive Order 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993), this notice is a ‘‘significant regulatory action.’’ Accordingly, EPA submitted this notice to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review under Executive Orders 12866 and 13563 (76 FR 3821, January 21, 2011) and any changes made in response to OMB recommendations have been documented in the docket for this notice.

**Walter Mason,**
*Region 6 Administrator*,
*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*.
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