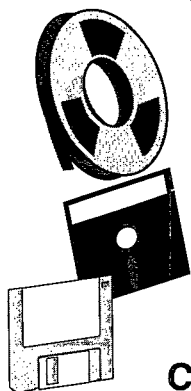


 **EPA Permit Compliance
System**

Public Access to PCS Data Products



**Facility Mailing Address
Information and Labels**

**General Facility and
Permit Information**

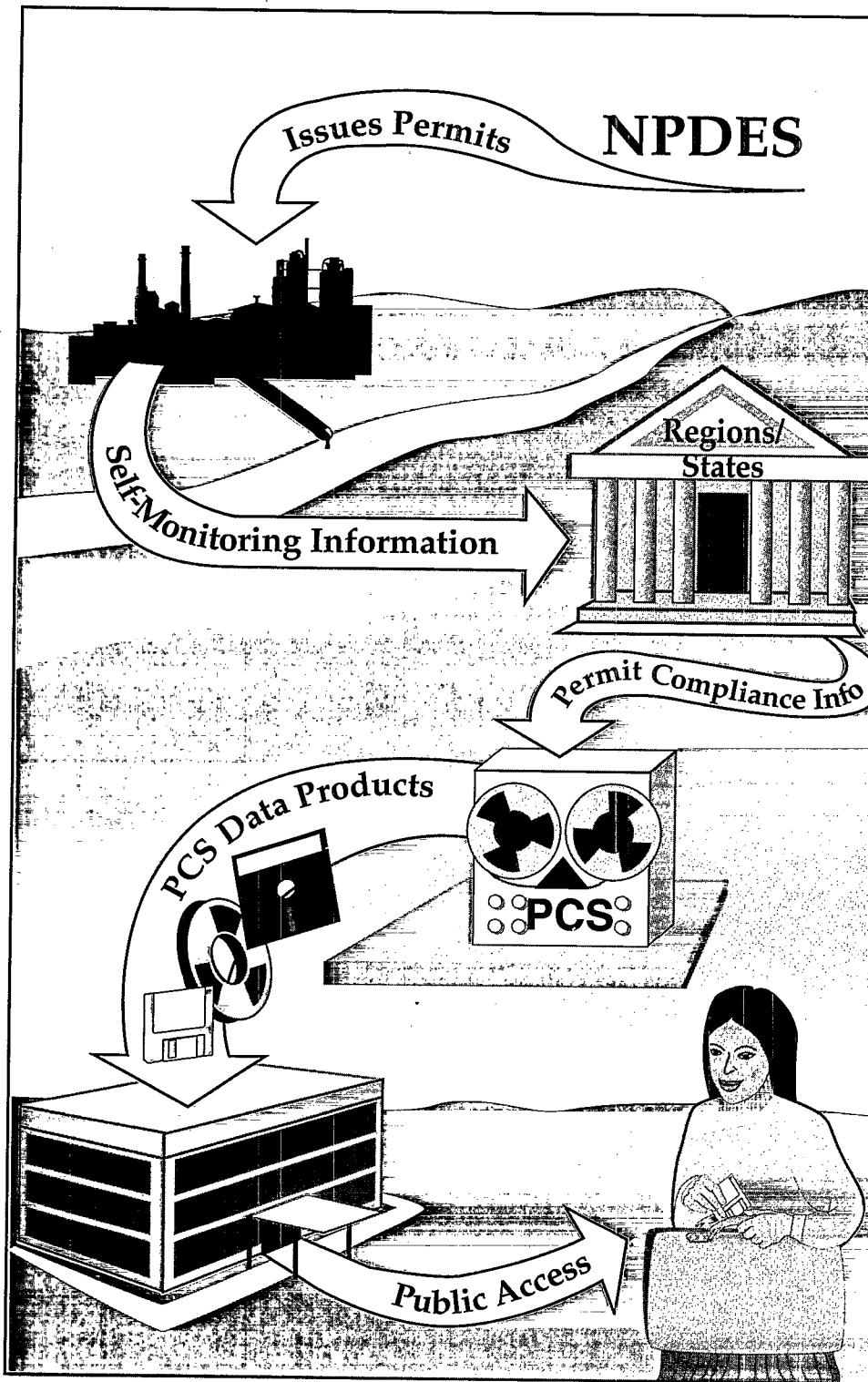
Current Effluent Limits

Significant Noncompliance List

Enforcement Action Information

Compliance Schedule Information

Facility Inspection Information



Introduction

In today's climate of increasing awareness of environmental issues, more and more organizations are seeking access to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) data. EPA is committed to providing clear, accurate, timely information to the public in usable forms. The Office of Wastewater Enforcement and Compliance (OWEC) has put together this booklet to offer Permit Compliance System (PCS) electronic data products to the public through the National Technical Information Service (NTIS). These data products are sets of information from the PCS data base offered on diskette, magnetic tape, and gummed labels.

This booklet answers the questions:

- *What Is PCS? (page 2)*
- *What Is NPDES? (page 2)*
- *What Are the PCS Data Types? (pages 4-5)*
- *What PCS Data Products Are Available? (pages 6-7)*
- *What Is NTIS? (page 9)*
- *How Can I Order PCS Data Products? (pages 10-12).*

This booklet presents the data products with a brief description of each. Also included are descriptions of the data types that make up each data product. You may order PCS data products by using the order form provided in this booklet on pages 11-12 or by calling NTIS at 1-800-553-NTIS.

Also provided are—

- *A list of data product order numbers and prices (insert)*
 - *Definitions of terms used in this booklet (page 3)*
 - *An order form for PCS data products (pages 11-12).*
-

What Is PCS?

PCS is a national computerized management information system that automates entry, updating, and retrieval of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) data and tracks permit issuance, permit limits and monitoring data, and other data pertaining to facilities regulated under NPDES. PCS was developed in 1974 and resides on a mainframe computer at EPA's National Computer Center (NCC) at Research Triangle Park (RTP) in North Carolina. PCS records water-discharge permit data on more than 64,000 facilities nationwide.

What Is NPDES?

The NPDES permit program regulates direct discharges from municipal and industrial wastewater treatment facilities that discharge into the navigable waters of the United States. Wastewater treatment facilities (also called "point sources") are issued NPDES permits regulating their discharge. There are approximately 49,000 industrial facilities (including commercial and manufacturing facilities) and approximately 15,000 municipal facilities, also known as Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) regulated by NPDES.

NPDES plays a key role in the Clean Water Act's (CWA) water pollution programs. EPA's 10 Regional Offices and 39 States are authorized to implement NPDES. These delegated authorities issue the NPDES permits, which specify effluent limits and monitoring requirements for the point sources, track compliance, and carry out enforcement actions.

PCS distinguishes between major and minor facilities, based on the potential threat to human health or the environment. Factors determining a facility's classification include the discharge amount per day, the wastewater sources, and the population affected by the discharge. Although all facilities must obtain permits and provide self-monitoring information, only major facilities must provide complete sets of information to PCS. Minor facilities are required to provide only facility and enforcement action information, but they may provide more. The detailed data tracked in PCS include facility characteristics, discharge characteristics, compliance schedules, permit conditions, inspections, and enforcement actions.

The Clean Water Act in Brief

The CWA focuses on controlling and eliminating water pollution by regulating pollutants harmful to receiving waters and the sources of the pollutants. Some of these regulated pollutants are:

- Suspended solids
- Nonconventional pollutants such as ammonia
- Toxic pollutants such as metals and toxic organic compounds.

To monitor compliance, States and Regional Offices conduct inspections and examine the Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) submitted by facilities as required by the NPDES permit. The gathered data is entered into PCS by the EPA Regional Office, or by the State Offices.

Terms to Be Familiar With

Majors—Major facilities have a design or actual flow of one million gallons per day (MGD) or greater, a service population of 10,000 or greater, or a significant impact on water quality (i.e., with a potential for toxic discharge, located close to a drinking water intake, discharging into stressed receiving waters, or requiring advanced treatment). Approximately 10 percent of all NPDES permits are issued to major facilities.

Minors—Minors are municipal and non-municipal facilities not meeting the above requirements.

Municipals—Municipal facilities are Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) that treat domestic wastewater as well as "indirect" wastes to sewers.

Non-municipals—Non-municipal facilities are wastewater treatment facilities, other than POTWs, that discharge pollutants into U.S. waters. These facilities can be federally or commercially owned.

Point Sources—Point sources are any sources discharging wastewater into waters of the United States through a discrete conveyance, such as a pipe, or a system of conveyances. Other NPDES facilities, although they do not have a discrete discharge, (e.g., animal feed lots, fish farms, and other aquacultural operations) are also point sources. All point sources require NPDES permits.

Significant Non-Compliance (SNC)—SNC are criteria used to identify important violations or patterns of noncompliance. These criteria are used to establish enforcement priorities and comply with special reporting requirements.

What Are the PCS Data Types?

PCS tracks information for over 64,000 NPDES active permits. The information for each of these permits is grouped into 12 categories or **DATA TYPES**. Within each **DATA TYPE** there are individual data elements or data fields. The **DATA TYPES** resemble smaller sub-data bases within PCS. Listed below are the PCS **DATA TYPES**.

PERMIT FACILITY—general descriptive information on each permitted facility (such as its name, mailing address, and standard industrial classification). Permit-facility data elements occur once only in a facility's permit file; data elements of other data types may occur more than once.

PERMIT EVENTS—information tracking the events relating to the issuance of a permit, from initial receipt of the application for a permit through actual permit issuance, including the date of the permit issuance, the date of permit expiration, and the Public Notice Date.

PIPE-SCHEDULE—detailed information describing each outfall within a permitted facility and the discharge monitoring requirements associated with each (such as effluent waste type(s), treatment type(s), and limit start and end dates—which indicate when a facility may discharge). Pipe-schedule-level data elements typically occur as many times in each permit file as there are outfalls within the facility.

PARAMETER LIMITS—detailed information specifying the monitoring requirements associated with each outfall within a permitted facility (such as the monitoring location, the parameter to be monitored, the required frequency of analysis, and the quantity and concentration limits for each pollutant and the acceptable units in which they are reported). Parameter-limits-level data elements typically occur as often for each outfall as there are parameters to be monitored at that outfall.

MEASUREMENT VIOLATION—detailed information on reported measurement values for effluent parameters including those that are in violation of established limits for the permit, the type of violation, the reported number of excursions, the actual measurement values, and the percentage by which a measurement exceeds quantity and/or concentration limits.

COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE—information related to a schedule of milestone events that a permitted facility must accomplish to upgrade the quality of its effluent discharge when such milestones have been established as a condition of the facility's being granted a permit or complying with an enforcement action.

COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE VIOLATION—information related to violations of the compliance schedule as it applies to a facility, whether from failure to meet a milestone date or failure to submit required report data.

INSPECTION—information describing inspections that have been performed at a permitted facility, including the date of the inspection, the type of inspection, and by whom it was performed.

PRETREATMENT AUDIT/PCI—data related to Pretreatment Audits/PCI Inspections containing detailed information about pretreatment gathered as part of the inspection.

ENFORCEMENT ACTION—data related to enforcement actions that have been taken in response to violations of effluent parameter limits, non-receipt of Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs), or compliance schedule milestones. Enforcement action data include the events in violation and the dates of occurrence, the type of enforcement action(s) and the dates they were taken, and the current status of each action.

EVIDENTIARY HEARING—data related to evidentiary hearings held when permittees wish to appeal or negotiate limits or compliance schedule requirements.

PRETREATMENT PERFORMANCE SUMMARY (PPS)—information gathered as a part of the Pretreatment Annual Report.

What PCS Data Products Are Available?

The following sets of information currently are available through NTIS. These are the most commonly requested types of data contained in PCS. In general, regional data is available on diskette and national data is available on magnetic tape. Only the SNC List varies from this format. The SNC List for the entire Nation is provided on diskette. All information on both diskette and magnetic tape is provided in ASCII format. NTIS order numbers and PCS data product prices are provided as an insert to this booklet. Please call 1-800-553-NTIS to order, or fill out the order form on pages 11-12 and send it to the NTIS address listed on page 10.



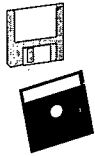
FACILITY MAILING ADDRESS INFORMATION AND LABELS—This product contains primary mailing address information for **all** active permitted facilities (majors and minors) for the most recent year. Information for an EPA Region (**both** majors **and** minors) is available on 3.5" and 5.25" diskettes and gummed labels. Information for the entire Nation (majors **or** minors) is available on 1600 bpi magnetic tape and gummed labels. This data is updated annually. This product contains data from the **PERMIT FACILITY** data type.



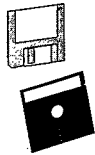
GENERAL FACILITY AND PERMIT INFORMATION—This product contains general facility and permit events (e.g., issuance and expiration dates, etc.) for **all** active permitted facilities for the most recent year. Information for an EPA Region is available on 3.5" and 5.25" diskettes. Information for the entire Nation is available on 1600 bpi magnetic tape. This data is updated annually. This product contains data from the **PERMIT FACILITY** and **PERMIT EVENTS** data types.



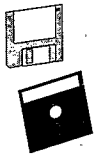
CURRENT EFFLUENT LIMITS—This product contains information describing each outfall for **major** active permitted facilities and the associated outfall permit requirements for the current NPDES permit. Information for an EPA Region is available on 3.5" and 5.25" diskettes. Information for the entire Nation is available on 1600 bpi magnetic tape. This data is updated annually. This product contains data from the **PERMIT FACILITY**, **PIPE-SCHEDULE**, and **PARAMETER LIMITS** data types.



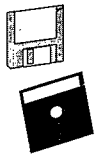
SIGNIFICANT NON-COMPLIANCE (SNC) LIST—This product contains a list of **major** permittees currently in SNC for the most recent quarter. Information for the entire Nation is available on 3.5" and 5.25" diskettes. The SNC list is updated quarterly. This product contains data from the **PERMIT FACILITY** and **COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE VIOLATION** data types.



ENFORCEMENT ACTION INFORMATION—This product contains information regarding actions taken in response to violations of effluent parameter limits, non-receipt of DMR or Compliance Schedule Reports, or compliance schedule milestones for **all** active permitted facilities. This data covers the most recent 2-year period. Information for an EPA Region is available on 3.5" and 5.25" diskettes. This data is updated annually. This product contains data from the **PERMIT FACILITY** and **ENFORCEMENT ACTION** data types.



COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE INFORMATION—This product contains information regarding a set of required compliance events (milestones a permitted facility must accomplish to upgrade the quality of its effluent discharge when such milestones have been established as a condition for granting a permit, or in response to an enforcement action) for **all** active permitted facilities. This data covers the most recent 2-year period. Information for an EPA Region is available on 3.5" and 5.25" diskettes. This data will be updated annually. This product contains data from the **PERMIT FACILITY** and **COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE** data types.



FACILITY INSPECTION INFORMATION—This product contains information regarding inspections for **all** active permitted facilities. This data covers the most recent 2-year period. Information for an EPA Region is available on 3.5" and 5.25" diskettes. This data is updated annually. This product contains data from the **PERMIT FACILITY** and **INSPECTION** data types.



Gummed
Labels (GL)



3.5"
Diskette (3D)



5.25"
Diskette (5D)



Magnetic
Tape (MT)

More About PCS

In addition to maintaining NPDES permit applications and issuance status information, PCS also stores data relating to inspections, effluent limitations, DMR, and enforcement actions. Finally, PCS forecasts due dates for reports related to compliance schedule events, automatically detects effluent and compliance schedule violations, and produces management reports relating to all of the above information. These reports allow regulatory authorities to maintain an overview of the NPDES Program.

What Are Some Common Uses of PCS Data?

There are many different uses of PCS data, from informing newsletter readers of facilities in non-compliance to assisting in citizen suits. Listed below are some of the ways in which PCS data can be used.

- In newsletters, to inform readers of facilities in non-compliance or facilities having enforcement actions taken against them.
 - In citizen suits and enforcement actions, to establish compliance or non-compliance.
 - In performing Phase I environmental assessments for lending institutions, ensuring that facilities are under applicable regulations and investigating the waters surrounding the facility.
 - In data networks, to promote dialogue and provide technical training and information to the environmental community.
 - In public interest groups, to assist in litigation, lobbying, and public and media education through written materials and press conferences.
-

Public access to PCS data is provided through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). In the past, requests for PCS information were taken through the FOIA office, either at the Regional Offices or at Headquarters. Now the most commonly requested data products are available through NTIS. These data products are those listed on pages 6-7.

If you do not find the data to fit your needs listed on these pages, please contact your Regional or Headquarters FOIA representative for information on additional data or specialized requests. The Regions are outlined in the map on page 10. Addresses for the Regional and Headquarters FOIA representatives are provided on the back inside cover.

What is NTIS?

The National Technical Information Service, a self-supporting component of the Department of Commerce, is the largest single source of public access to federally produced information. Established by Harry S Truman in 1945, its original function was to review all government-generated scientific and technical documents and determine which were fit for public release. NTIS then became a clearinghouse for the distribution of scientific, technical, and engineering information. NTIS's original focus on scientific and technical information has expanded to include business, health, and statistical information.

NTIS sells publications as well as information in electronic formats. Additionally, NTIS offers online access to certain EPA systems by providing an account to EPA's mainframe at NCC. Private companies, corporations, and individuals can make requests for online access directly to NTIS.

NTIS is a unique government agency that receives no appropriated funds and is sustained only by its sales revenues.

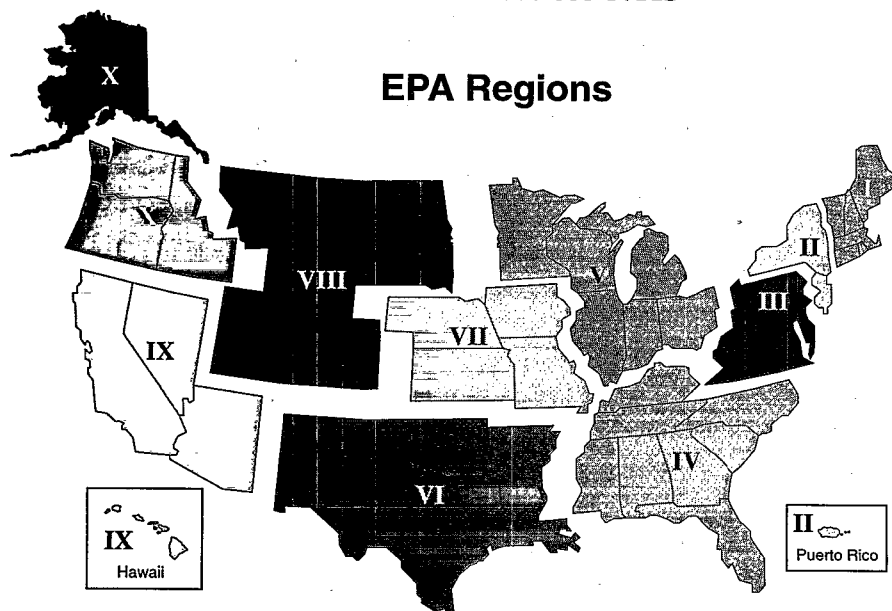
How Can I Order PCS Data Products?

To order PCS data products you may either call NTIS or fill out the order form on pages 11 and 12 and mail it to the NTIS address provided. When filling out the order form please be sure to specify the media on which you would like your data (GL, 3D, 5D, or MT). NTIS order numbers are provided on the insert sheet in this booklet. Refer to pages 6-7 to determine which media types are available for the product(s) you wish to order. Your data product(s) will be accompanied by documentation describing the data product and its data fields. **The NTIS address is as follows:**

U.S. Department of Commerce
Technology Administration
National Technical Information Service
Springfield, Virginia 22161

Phone: 703 487-4650 or FAX the order form: 703 321-8547

For Rush Service—1-800-553-NTIS



Order Form: PCS Data Products

11

Tear or Cut Along Perforation

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Technical Information Service
Technology Administration
Springfield, VA 22161

703-487-4650 or FAX this form to 703-321-8547

For Rush Service—1-800-553-NTIS

Rush service is available for an additional fee by calling the number above. Rush orders are usually shipped next day by overnight courier in the U.S. or by Air Mail outside the U.S. Do not mail rush orders.

Ship to Address

Date: _____ PTIC User's Code: _____

Contract Number: _____
(Last 6 Digits)

Company: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Attention: _____

Telephone: _____

FAX: _____

Signature: _____

Payment:

Charge my NTIS Deposit Account _____

Charge My Visa Mastercard American Express

Account No: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder's Name: _____

Check/money order enclosed for \$ _____
(payable in U.S. Dollars)

Bill me*—Add \$7.50 per order if full payment does not accompany order. Purchase orders only accepted from Government agencies, educational institutions, or corporations in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

Purchase Order No. _____

EPA FOIA Offices

If you do not find the data to fit your needs listed in this booklet, you may contact your Regional or Headquarters Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) representative at the following addresses:

HEADQUARTERS,

FOI Office - A101
U.S. EPA
401 M Street, SW.
Washington, DC 20460

REGION 1

John F. Kennedy Federal Bldg.
Boston, MA 02203

REGION 2

26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278

REGION 3

841 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

REGION 4

345 Courtland Street, NE.
Atlanta, GA 30365

REGION 5

77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

REGION 6

1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

REGION 7

726 Minnesota Avenue
Kansas City, KS 66101

REGION 8

One Denver Place
999 18th Street
Denver, CO 80202-2405

REGION 9

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

REGION 10

1200 6th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101



Office of Wastewater Enforcement and Compliance
401 M Street SW.
Washington, DC 20460