



2023-2024 General Assembly

SENATE BILL 582: North Carolina Farm Act of 2023, Sec. 14.1: Direct the Environmental Management Commission to Withdraw the 2021 NPDES General Permit for Aquaculture and Revise it to be Substantively Identical to the Previous General Permit

Committee:
Introduced by:
Analysis of: Sec. 14.1 of S.L. 2023-63

Date: November 30, 2023
Prepared by: Chris Saunders
Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: Section 14.1 of S.L. 2023-63 requires the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to reopen and modify National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit NCG530000 issued for discharges from seafood packing and rinsing, aquatic animal operations, and similarly designated wastewaters that took effect on December 1, 2021, to make it substantially similar to the previous general permit issued in 2018. The 2021 permit is more stringent than the 2018 permit in that it (i) requires quarterly, rather than annual monitoring, (ii) requires monitoring of nine parameters rather than four, and (iii) includes enhanced best management practices.

This bill was vetoed by the Governor on June 23, 2023, and that veto was overridden by the General Assembly on June 27, 2023.

This section became effective June 27, 2023, and expires when the EMC revises the permit and notifies the Revisor of Statutes that it has done so.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 14.1 of S.L. 2023-63 requires the EMC and DEQ to reopen and modify NPDES General Permit NCG530000 issued for discharges from seafood packing and rinsing, aquatic animal operations, and similarly designated wastewaters that took effect on December 1, 2021 to make it substantially similar to the previous general permit issued in 2018. The 2021 permit is more stringent than the 2018 permit in that it:

- Requires quarterly, rather than annual effluent monitoring.
- Requires monitoring of nine parameters rather than four. The current permit requires quarterly monitoring of the effluent flow rate, temperature, pH, total ammonia nitrogen, settleable solids, total suspended solids, total phosphorus, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity. The 2018 permit requires annual monitoring of effluent flow rate, settleable solids, total suspended solids, and dissolved oxygen.
- Includes enhanced best management practices.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

Jeffrey Hudson
Director



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Legislative Analysis
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