Winter 2013/2014

NPDES Vessels Program *Quarterly*

NAVIGATING THE EPA REGULATED VESSELS UNIVERSE

United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

THE 2013 VESSEL GENERAL PERMIT (VGP) IS IN EFFECT

Vessel General Permit (VGP) authorizes discharges incidental to the normal discharge of operations of commercial vessels went into effect December 19th 2013.

Below are web links to full versions the following documents.

Final 2013 Vessel General Permit (PDF) (194 pp, 1.6MB)
Final 2013 VGP Fact Sheet (PDF) (198 pp, 1MB)
Final 2013 VGP Economic Analysis (PDF) (190 pp, 1.6MB)
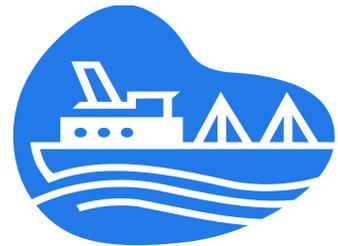
THE 2013 NEW VGP ELECTRONIC NOTICE OF INTENT (eNOI) SYSTEM IS UP & RUNNING!

All vessels covered by the 2013 VGP must submit their eNOIs no later than 7 days prior to discharge into waters subject to the VGP. Below are useful web links for the eNOI system. **Even if you submitted an NOI for the 2008 VGP, you must submit a new NOI for the 2013 VGP to maintain coverage.**

- The eNOI Homepage for information on batch uploads, transfer of ownership, FAQs, and more.
- Click here to submit your 2013 VGP eNOI.
- Click here to access the 2013 VGP eNOI public search tool.
- Click here to access the 2008 VGP eNOI public search tool.

Keep in mind the 2013 VGP requires use of the eNOI system unless the vessel owner/operator obtains a temporary waiver, in writing, from EPA. Paper NOIs must be received 30 days prior to discharge into waters subject to the VGP.

Note: EPA anticipates the electronic Annual Report system will be available in the mid-2014.

To learn more about the NPDES vessels program, please visit http://www.epa.gov/npdes/vessels. For questions or concerns about the VGP, e-mail VGP@epa.gov.

Winter Seminar Series

EPA will hold **two** webinars this winter on 2013 VGP related topics. The target audience for these webinars is owners and operators of vessels covered by the 2013 VGP. EPA wants the vessel community to be informed about the new permit and encourages participation in the Q&A portions of each webinar.

The webinars will cover:

- **Introduction to Sampling and Self-Monitoring (February 6, 2014, 2 3:30pm EST)**
    - **Registration Link: https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/706994202**
- **Environmentally Acceptable Lubricants (EALs) (February 14, 2014) (10– 11:30 am EST)**
    - **Registration Link: https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/879044146**

EPA held two webinars in the fall of 2013. Below are the webinar topics and links to their recordings.

- November 7, 2013 – Overview of the 2013 VGP:
  https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/270861850

- November 14, 2013 – Introduction to the new eNOI system**:**
  https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/547927282
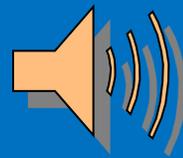
EPA'S VGP ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE POLICY

Some vessel owner/operators have submitted for and received extensions to the US Coast Guard (USCG) implementation schedule for Ballast Water Management Discharge Standards for vessels required to use USCG approved ballast water management systems. It has been a priority of EPA to maximize, as appropriate, the consistency between the United States Coast Guard (USCG)'s ballast water discharge requirements under the National Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act / National Invasive Species Act (NANPCA/NISA) and the EPA requirements under the Clean Water Act's VGP. While the USCG under their authorities have options to grant extension requests on a case-by-case basis, neither the CWA nor its implementing regulations provide EPA with the type of expeditious processes available to the USCG for granting extensions under the VGP. EPA has recently issued a VGP Enforcement Response Policy (4 pp, 147k), which provides a coordinated response and unified approach between the EPA and USCG to address ballast water management issues currently faced by shipowners.
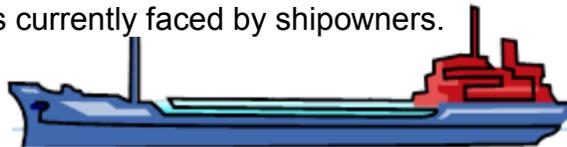
DISTRIBUTION LIST

If you would like to subscribe to the NPDES vessels program distribution list, please e-mail your request to VGP@epa.gov. The purpose of the distribution list is to send out periodic updates on upcoming meetings, publications, and ongoing activities related to the NPDES vessels program.