

# Cornell AgriTech

New York State Agricultural Experiment Station



Cornell **CALS**

College of Agriculture  
and Life Sciences

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## Winery Wastewater Regulations in New York

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## Craft Beverage Production in NY

- Wastewater generated through (wine, beer, cider) production is considered **industrial waste**.

### New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Water and Materials Management Requirements

#### Frequently Asked Q & A Regarding Wineries, Cideries, Breweries

##### What are my options to dispose of my wastewater?

There are a few options to dispose of wastewater from wineries, cideries and breweries:

- discharge to a **properly permitted** septic system; \*
- discharge to a publicly owned treatment works (the sanitary sewer system to the local wastewater treatment plant); or
- hold in a tank and hire a registered hauler to truck the wastewater to a publicly owned treatment works; or
- land applied to agricultural fields using good farming practices (see Question 5 for more information).

\* on-site

Environmental Conservation Law (§17-0505) requires a **SPDES permit** to make or use a disposal system or point source for the discharge of **industrial waste**, sanitary or other wastes which **may cause or might reasonably be expected to cause pollution to waters of the State (including groundwater)**.

## State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) Permits

- Designed by a licensed engineer; approved by DEC engineers
- Site-specific limits and thresholds established
- Volume-specific monitoring protocols

## Case for a general permit

- Similar operations
- Similar flow composition
- Similar waste-handling system needs



## General Permit Qualifications

...existing and new licensed wineries, breweries, and hard cideries in NYS that discharge process wastewater, **with or without the admixture of sanitary wastewater**, to groundwater from onsite wastewater treatment systems that have a design peak flow of **less than 10,000 gallons per day (GPD)**.

## General Permit Guidelines

- Existing facility:
  - Retain a licensed engineer to “assess their current system(s) and certify that the system is operating correctly and is being properly maintained”

## General Permit Guidelines

- New facility:
  - Retain a licensed engineer to design a system that meets 5 criteria.

## General Permit Guidelines, new and existing systems

- Flow monitoring and regular inspection by owner
- Periodic sampling and analysis
- Recordkeeping and reporting



Full description of proposed general permit conditions can be found at:

[https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water\\_pdf/wbc2018advnotice.pdf](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/wbc2018advnotice.pdf)

**Note: This is a notice of proposed permit (NPP). The next step would be a draft, which may or may not have the same specifications. The draft will also be released for public comment.**

## Reminders:

- Separate waste streams!
  - (properly installed and maintained) sanitary septic systems (<1,000 gallons per day) don't need SPDES permits
  - “Co-mingled” waste cannot be land-applied- see below
- Solid processing waste (e.g., stems, skins, seeds, etc.) can be land-applied without permitting
- Wastewater can be land-applied with the “part 360” permit, which is a one-time registration